

# Sunday Message for the Seventh Sunday of Easter from Fr Peter

Today is a sunny Friday but yesterday they had forecast thunder storms. In a way I was looking forward to them since the garden needs a good dousing of rain, but, it was not to be. It has set me thinking about disappointment... I'm probably not alone in being the kind of person who sees things ready in the distance and then awaits them. The question in my mind is what do I do if it doesn't happen as I expected ?

We often talk about having 'Plan B', but I don't think that the Christian is a 'Plan B' kind of person. You see 'Plan B' doesn't centre itself on the promise of 'Plan A', and for the Christian, 'Plan A' does actually always happen. Of course the truth is that it doesn't always happen in the way we were expecting, or in the time that we were expecting. We heard Christ's promise to us at the end of the Gospel on Ascension Thursday this week:

"And know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time."

You see God's time is the one that really matters, and God's time is synchronised with the very being of each and every one of us. It is a personal time that he knows is best for each of us and that is the time that God always chooses for us.

God chose to send us the gift of the Holy Spirit and next Sunday we celebrate that in the great Feast of Pentecost.

It is the hinge moment in the birth of the Church and the event that leads us forward in our Christian vocation. Please pray this coming week, as I shall, that we be open to God's Spirit and have that share of divine courage to act with it, because God's time is always right !

*Fr Peter*

## A Note from the Parish Office 22nd May 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

Bishop's Stortford - St Joseph & The English Martyr <bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk>  
Fri 5/22/2020 4:59 PM

To: Bishop's Stortford - St Joseph & The English Martyr <bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk>

 1 attachments (14 KB)

Sunday Message for the Seventh Sunday of Easter - Fr Peter.docx;

Good afternoon everyone

I hope that you are well.

Please find attached the Sunday message from Fr Peter, for this, the seventh Sunday of Easter, which has also been added to the news section of our website.

This week, at home, I came across a really lovely note book, which I had kindly been given by a friend some time ago. It was the type of note book that I had been saving to use for something special, and one that deserved to have time spent on it to ensure that it contained really neat hand writing and not my normal illegible scribble. As I thumbed through the pages, I noticed that some of them were printed with inspirational quotes, one of which caught my eye, ' No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted'.

This past week has been Mental Health awareness week and the theme has been all about kindness. Kindness, as well as faith, has the power to create community, support and hope. We have seen kindness in abundance in our parish throughout the COVID-19 crisis from offers of practical help and prayer to support and friendship to those who are isolated. Showing kindness makes a real difference, as many people can already be 'fighting a battle' that you know nothing about.

Looking at my calendar, on Tuesday 26th May 2020, I have been the Parish administrator for exactly 5 years, which simply seems to have flown by. I can remember my first day very well. I arrived at the front door of 'Number 3' and was welcomed in by Meg Hardy with the most beautiful, gentle smile, kind face, sense of calm and who made me a lovely cup of tea(!) I was led into the small, but industrious looking 'parish office' containing organised piles of neatly stacked papers, located just off the kitchen, which looked out on to the beautiful garden. It was a hot day and there was building work still going on at that time too (!) with a new telephone system being installed. I had a two day hand over with Meg and was then let 'loose' on the parish, moving into the WCC, feeling excited, but a tiny bit apprehensive at the same time(!) Meg was very kind and supportive to me and so were many of you too, something which I shall never forget - so, Thank you!

**Zoom** - Many thanks to John and the Music Group for kindly continuing to host the Sunday 9am Zoom session. Their invitation is below..

The 9am Music Group bring you hymns via Zoom before and after the parish Live Streaming of Mass.

How it works:

- \* Different members of the 9am Music Group will lead different hymns before and after Mass.
- \* We will start the Meeting about 8:40am to allow people to join and get technology working.
- \* Our hymns will start about 8:50am. At the end of Mass we will play a Communion and Exit Hymn.
- \* We ask everyone to stay muted during the Mass otherwise your audio will affect others ability to hear the priest.



\* Feel free to join with or without video! But if you are on video, we ask that you be appropriately dressed!

\* After the hymns at the end of Mass we will unmute everyone so you can say hello and have a chat about your week.

Thanks everyone and we hope you enjoy a brief sense of community while things are in lock-down.

God bless x  
9am Music Group

Topic: Sunday 9am Mass via Zoom during lock-down  
Time: May 24, 2020 08:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81529470925>

Meeting ID: 815 2947 0925

**Alison Gornall RIP** -The funeral service for Alison will take place on Wednesday 27th May 2020 at 2.30pm at the Chapel at Parndon Wood crematorium. Alison's family acknowledge that many who wish to attend the service are unfortunately not permitted access to the Chapel because of the current Government restrictions, but may like to join via the crematorium live stream using the below link, Login and password. There will be a 9.30am Mass intention for Alison at St Joseph's on the morning Mass of 27th May also.

**Crematorium web site:** [www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view](http://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view)

**Login/Order ID:** 31488

**Password:** wcetcrzj

An order of service has been printed and is available as a PDF document. Should you wish to receive a copy of the PDF so that you can follow and join in with Alison's service via the live stream, please send an email request to the Parish Office before midday on Wednesday 27th May and one will be sent to you electronically.

Alison's family have advised that "*well wishers are welcome **at a social distance**, outside Daniel Robinson's on South Street at 1.45pm as Alison leaves Bishop's Stortford or to welcome her near the car park before she is taken into the Chapel at Parndon Wood Crematorium at 2.20pm"*

Donations, if desired may be made payable to 'Across' and sent c/o Daniel Robinson & Sons, 79/81 South Street, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, CM23 3AL or by using the In memory pages at [www.drobinson.co.uk](http://www.drobinson.co.uk)

**Please also keep in your thoughts and prayers** - the family and friends of Paul Sexton RIP who recently died in the parish and those who are currently sick.

*Eternal rest grant unto Paul O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

**Church Underfloor Heating** - Fr Peter has taken photographs of the progress of the works to date which have been uploaded to the web site so that we can keep you all updated. A 'Buyer' has been found for the old parquet flooring which will be recycled whilst raising valuable funds at the same time. Many thanks to Alison Jones for arranging this!

**Pause for Faith** - This is a really great series on Youtube. Visit 'Pause for Faith' a Catholic Life and conversation live streaming and video library with Fr Stephen Wang from the Diocese. Join Fr Stephen each day for conversation, prayer, and reflection on the incredible treasures of the Christian faith. He will dip into Catholic history, the lives of the Saints, Christian belief, spiritual traditions, practical tips for everyday life, and some Q&A.

Don't be alone. The whole point of Pause for Faith is not just to click on a video but to join a community of viewers who are watching and praying together!

**Zambia Society Trust** - Gretta Hudson, one of our long standing Parishioners at St Josephs is a hard working board member of the Zambia Society Trust, a UK-based charity devoted to the relief of poverty, disability and sickness, the promotion of good health and the advancement of education in Zambia. Run entirely by volunteers, the Trust has been working for over 50 years to improve the lives and prospects of as many people in Zambia as possible, with a particular focus on children and young people. The Trust have assisted many projects over the years, one of which includes the St Lawrence School in Lusaka, who are already directly and individually supported by many Parishioners at Most Holy Redeemer, the specific fund raising efforts of which are led by Karin and Eugene Keddy who work tirelessly to benefit the pupils there.

If you would like to learn more about the Zambia Society Trust or support them please visit <https://www.zambiasocietytrust.org.uk/> or if you wish to donate specifically to the St Lawrence school, please contact the parish office for more information.

**Website** - The news section of the web site is being kept updated almost daily, so please do visit. This week we have uploaded an article issued on the 'Guidelines for Catholics on Organ Donation' following the recent change in the law', information and links to 'Thy Kingdom Come', Laudato Si' and a message from Cardinal Vincent on Pentecost. Please also see the page on 'Parishioners of the Past' as we now have another photograph of one of our WW1 Parishioners, Alfred Kitchener, having traced a living relative, who also happens to be related to Walter and Frederick Robinson, another two of our past parishioners who died in WW1.

**CAFOD Coronavirus Emergency Appeal** - CAFOD partners overseas are now scaling up to prepare for the Corona virus pandemic to hit poor countries particularly in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East which are starting to see a rise in cases. Unfortunately, this is going to have catastrophic effects on communities who live in places with no option for social distancing, clean water and very little food or work opportunities. CAFOD has launched an emergency appeal to help support our work in poor communities across the world. CAFOD are also asking everyone to sign their on line petition asking the Prime Minister to ensure that the most vulnerable people are the priority in the UK's international efforts as well as at home.

How to donate: <https://cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal>

CAFOD Coronavirus Petition to Prime Minister: <https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1>

**Parishioner of the Week award** - This week, Helen Gay, has been brought to our attention, as having shown care and kindness to two Parishioners in particular. Since lock down, Helen has been regularly telephoning two ladies, who she met after Mass one day and who she did not know very well before, sharing friendship and offering support. This has meant a great deal to those ladies, so thank you Helen! Also nominated is Monica Jacobs, who voluntarily runs the Parish Senior Parish Art Group. Monica has continued to share her talent, faith and offer friendship, guidance, prayers and support to members of the group throughout lock down, as well as to other parishioners. Thank you Monica!

And to finish off this note with the beautiful words of St Therese of Lisieux on kindness...



Kindness is my only guiding star. In its light, I sail a straight route,  
I have my motto written on my sail: "To live in love."

– St. Therese of Lisieux

Fr Peter and Fr Carlos, as always, keep you all very much in their thoughts and prayers

I hope that you have a happy, holy and healthy weekend and an enjoyable Bank holiday.

God bless

Best wishes  
Debbie

### **Parish Administrator**

*(Mon- Fri 9am - 3pm)*

### **Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs, Bishop's Stortford  
Holy Cross, at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham  
Most Holy Redeemer, Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth*

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*Follow our Live streaming on [www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)*

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