

Parish Message for Pentecost

Dear Parishioners,

As I write this message, I sit by my window, seeing the outdoors, remembering a window in my flat in New York. It overlooked two main crossroads. One can see everything that happens there: passers-by, traffic, vendors, street evangelisers, and even the civil authorities at work.

Of course, Windhill is definitely not New York, but the attitude is the same: we can become spectators and critics of the world.

The lockdown has also made us spectators and critics of everything – from how people are finding novel things in life, the sadness of illness and the loss of life because of the coronavirus, the criticism of the lockdown, and even the creative thinking of some politicians. There is something else, however, that our viewing invites us to do – to pray, to be encouraged, to give witness.

Mary and the apostles were waiting in the Cenacle. There weren't many windows, but they knew something was going to happen as well – something that was going to change for them and for the world – the Coming of the Holy Spirit. Until then they really did not understand much; subsequently, they went to give witness of the risen Christ.

Perhaps we too look through our windows and wonder what will happen. The reality, however, is that the world looks at us, waiting for a witness of faith – in family life, in charitable acts, in announcing the Gospel, and many other ways – because we are witnesses to the Resurrection.

This Pentecost, let us pray that the Holy Spirit continues to inspire us, both individually and as Church, in order to continue announce the Resurrected Christ even with our limitations during this lockdown, so that people may hold on to faith, hope, and love as we do this day.

Happy Solemnity of Pentecost.

Fr. Carlos

P.S. Apologies for the Photo taken during the Winter.



Parish Note Friday 29th May 2020 and the Parish Message for Pentecost from Fr Carlos

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

Fri 5/29/2020 5:18 PM

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

 1 attachments (95 KB)

Parish Message for Pentecost.docx;

Good afternoon everyone

I hope that you are all well.

Please find attached this weeks Pentecost Message from Fr Carlos, which contains a lovely photograph of a former view from the window of his flat in New York. The message can also be found on the news section of our [web site](#).

My ramblings for this week have moved on to 'acronyms', following a smashing email and VE Day cartoon that we kindly received from Chris in Manchester, who joins us to celebrate Mass via our live stream. He finished off his email with a three letter, rather cheeky abbreviation, 'KBO', a quote by Sir Winston Churchill, which I personally had never encountered before and made me smile, so I shall leave you to research this for yourselves, if not already aware(!) It then got me thinking about how so many words are shortened.

Apparently, Humans have been using acronyms for centuries. One of the earliest examples can be seen in the Greek word "ichthys" which stands for "Iēsous Christos, Theou Yios, Sōtēr" (or "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour"). This is also the name of one of the Sunday publications for our younger parishioners (Ichthus). Ichthys was adopted as an early Christian secret symbol, having two interconnecting arcs resembling a fish which is still used today. Ancient governments used acronyms, too. The Roman Empire, for example, often referred to itself as SPQR ("Senatus Populusque Romanus").

Government agencies today use them to make their names more easily recognisable, as do organisations e.g RCDOW (Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster, MI5 – Military Intelligence, Section 5 (the counter intelligence service of the UK), HMRC – Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and DVLA – Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and a final one for those who like a quiz ... IKEA, is a shortening of "Ingvar Kamprad Elmtaryd Agunnaryd," the founder's name and the farm he grew up on. I bet you won't remember that one when you need to!

Zoom - Thank you again to John Wright and the St Joseph's 9am Music group for hosting the ' Zoom Mass' . Last Sunday we were joined by both Fr Peter (who is now a Zoom expert) and Fr Carlos, who had ' hot footed' from Mass to join in with the ' virtual tea and coffee' - It was lovely to be able to sing ' Happy Birthday' to a very special young lady, Bella, who was celebrating her 13th birthday in lock down. We hope that she had a wonderful day. John is kindly hosting again this week..

How it works..

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 un-mute 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 31, 2020 08:30 AM London
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89011389898>

Meeting ID: 890 1138 9898

Hymn Numbers - Some Parishioners have requested details of the hymn numbers before Mass so please find below details from Fr Carlos for the Masses that he will be celebrating this weekend which we hope will help.

Here are the hymns for the 11am and 6pm Masses on Sunday:

Entrance Hymn: Come, Holy Ghost, come (296 in the Hymnbook)

Link of music and text: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSsQ8lfgF2M>

11am Mass Setting: Misa de Angelis:

https://www.stclementschurch.ca/df_media/W1siZiIsIjIwMTgyMDIvMjIvMjEvMzMvNDMvNDNjYzA3MjItMDIiNy00Njk2LWUyZTItdMDQ2NTMwN2UwY2Q2L0t5cmllLnBkZiIjXQ/Kyrie.pdf?sha=bec1d778dbe6f3b1

6pm Communion Hymn: Sweet Sacrament Divine

Link of music and text: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ClqWjbltIbk>

Recessional Hymn: Come down, O love divine (303 in the Hymnbook)

Link of music and text: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXO4rgBQOAU>

Pentecost Message - Please see our web site for a video message from Cardinal Vincent and also a prayer video for Pentecost. Fr Stephen Willis, Parish Priest and Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, working in collaboration with the neighbouring parishes of Willesden Green, Stonebridge, and Kensal Rise, has produced a virtual May Procession and Devotion. The Cardinal has also offered a reflection as part of the online Service, with prayers and meditations on the Luminous Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary led by the priests and people of those parishes together for Our Lady's intervention in the fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Most Holy Redeemer Virtual Choir - have created a really beautiful 'Prayer for Pentecost, 'Veni Sanctus Spiritus, Taize', with thanks to the Taize community for their permission to broadcast. This can be found on our web page, Twitter or via the You tube link below. You will want to play it more than once!

<https://youtu.be/eR4WCXHHygw>

Friends of Westminster Cathedral Quiz -Take part in the Friends of Westminster Cathedral Lock down Online Quiz on Tuesday 2 June at 6.30pm on the Friends of Westminster Cathedral Facebook Page. The quiz is free to enter but we are asking if you might make a £5 per head donation. All monies raised will help to support Westminster Cathedral. Parish virtual teams are welcome and may communicate using Zoom, Microsoft Teams, What's App etc.

For more details and to enter email christinawhite@rcdow.org.uk Please note that the Friends page is private and you will need to join the page in advance to take part in the quiz.

Thank you very much - to everyone who attended South Street on Wednesday to pay their respects to Alison Gornall RIP. Thank you also to Alison's Family who kindly allowed us to join her beautiful funeral service led by Fr Peter, via the live stream, which included some wonderful family tributes, readings and personal poems. We shall all miss Alison very much and will remember her with great love and affection. May she rest in peace.

From Nick, Katie and Hannah Gornall

As we end a very challenging week I simply wanted to send you a note to express my thanks for the help you all gave to my family in making the arrangements for Alison. We are so proud of her and wanted to give her the very best send off and the arrangements all ran smoothly and as planned - your involvement was fantastic thank you. We express our heartfelt thanks too to all the people who supported us on Wednesday, both on South Street and outside the Chapel - we were blown away by the love for a wonderful wife and mother who we shall miss so much..

Please also keep in your thoughts and prayers- the family and friends of John Dennis Russell, Raphael Silver and Delia Fruci who died recently.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen

Virtual Holiday Bible Week - Unfortunately we are not able to run the usual HBW event this summer because of uncertainties around the Coronavirus. But because we had such fun developing the theme for this year, we have created 'Virtual HBW'. The theme for this year is '20/20 Vision', and for each day we will have a Bible Story, a Fun Sheet and an Activity Pack. The Bible Story will be provided as a PowerPoint slideshow, with links to videos and songs about the theme. The Fun Sheets and the Activity Packs will be provided as pdf files. Viewers for these are widely available. Search for 'PowerPoint Viewer' or 'PDF viewer' if you cannot already view the files.

You can access all the material by following this link: <https://holidaybibleweek.co.uk/news/>

All material is available now. You can use the material over May half term, or at any time until the end of summer. Please feel free to share this material with anyone who is interested, even if they have not registered for HBW.

Please pray for all those who use this material, that it will help them to have a clearer vision of God and of Jesus. We hope you enjoy Virtual HBW!

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School - will have two vacancies for Foundation Governors from September 2020. These Governors cannot have children in the school now or in the foreseeable future. E-mail enquiries to governors@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk. We are currently holding meetings virtually. We would welcome enquiries as soon as possible as applications to the Diocese can take several months to complete if you are interested.

Reflections - David Morson, a Parishioner at St Theresa of Lisieux in Stansted (and who now is a regular 9am Zoom Mass member!) has very kindly provided a link to some reflections which have been included on our web site under the 'Resource section'. Please do take a look. Thank you David!

Donations - Fr Peter would like to thank everyone for their continued generosity at this time. If you don't already and would like to contribute to our collection, there are several ways to do this, 'online donations' are particularly very welcome. This can either be done via setting up a regular Standing Order through your own bank, sending a cheque through the post to number 3 Windhill, made payable to 'WRCDD Bishop's Stortford' or by making a direct online donation using our web site with a debit card. Every penny will help. Thank you very much.

All of our banking details can be found on the link below.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford/donate/>

Underfloor Heating Work in St Joseph's - We officially have no floor (!) . Please look at the photos taken by Fr Peter on our web site to see the progress being made.

Parishioner of the week award - A joint award again this week for two very special and hard working people. The first award is to the lovely Debbie Hourihan, who is not only a very supportive friend to many, she works tirelessly for ' Across', a charity that takes sick and disabled people (VIP's) to Lourdes. Because of the COVID-19 ,charities have been hit very hard and pilgrimages cancelled. She is also the chair of the St Joseph's parish social committee, a First Holy Communion Catechist and is always the first to help to organise and volunteer at every parish event, fully supported by her family. She is a one woman, faithful and caring whirlwind of compassion, energy and fun! The second award goes to Nick Meyer who has been working tirelessly with his family and dedicated care team to look after the residents and staff at Conewood manor during the pandemic. Nick is also a Eucharistic Minister at St Josephs and again, like Debbie, has so much energy, is always smiling, helps at parish events and cares so much about other people. May God bless you both for everything that you are currently doing to help support others - You're FAB!

Congratulations - to Maggie and Roger Drew from Most Holy Redeemer who celebrate their Golden wedding anniversary this weekend. We also extend our love and prayers to all those parishioners who were due to attend the Cardinal's Thanksgiving Mass for Matrimony this Saturday at the Cathedral.

I will finish this week with some creative Christian acronyms which I found..

ASAP - Always stop and pray

FAITH - Forwarding all issues to Heaven

GOSPEL - God's only Son provides everlasting life

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

Have a happy, holy and healthy weekend and enjoy meeting ' safely' with your family and friends from Monday!

Best wishes

Debbie

PS - PTL ' Praise the Lord!'

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