

Sunday Message from Fr Peter – 21st June 2020

I was looking at the readings for this Sunday's Mass and, as always, it's the little snippets that shout out at me and stick in my mind.

As you can see from the first reading, Jeremiah is going through a pretty bad time but in the midst of all his fears he says, 'But the Lord is at my side'. Now, that is a nugget worth hanging on to. It is short, simple and direct. There is no misunderstanding it, no quibbling with it – it is simply the bottom line, as far as Jeremiah is concerned.

In the second reading, the letter to the Romans has a short phrase amidst so much, 'divine grace ...came ...as an abundant gift'. Gifts are gifts, they don't have to be earned, they are freely given by the giver, no strings attached. We don't give someone a gift and say you can only do this or that with it, do we? The moment conditions are put on something it ceases really to be a gift.

And, in the Gospel, full of beautiful images, Jesus says, 'Why, every hair on your head has been counted ...So there is no need to be afraid'. God knows us that well, he even knows how many hairs there are on our head; both when it was thick and luxurious and also for those who at this time of their lives are a bit thinner on top! This is about intimacy, about God knowing us through and through, AND still loving every hair on our heads and our whole selves so that we do not need to be afraid.

So, be encouraged, this is the God who is at YOUR side, who gives YOU the abundant gift of grace and who has counted every hair on YOUR head.

As I celebrated my 26th ordination anniversary on Friday it is these kinds of words, these 'snippets', that give me comfort and strengthen me for the years ahead.

I hope they do you too!

Fr Peter

Fw: Parish Note Friday 19th June 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter

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

Fri 6/26/2020 3:22 PM

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

 4 attachments (4 MB)

Sunday Message from Fr Peter 21st June 2020.docx; COVID-19- Guidance for Volunteers..docx; 3. INFO LEAFLET.docx; 2020.06.08 - Safeguarding Advice for Stewards - Guidance on Reopening Ca....pdf;

From: Bishop's Stortford - St Joseph & The English Martyr

Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 4:26 PM

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

Subject: Parish Note Friday 19th June 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter

Good afternoon everyone

I hope that you are keeping well. Lots to tell you this week...

Please find attached the Sunday message for this week from Fr Peter,(who celebrated his 26th anniversary since ordination on Friday or 13,665,600 minutes of service !) which is also available on our website. It is a wonderful read !

This week, we welcomed a brand new co-worker to the parish called 'Carel'. I know that everyone, particularly at St Joseph's will be very pleased to meet Carel and I can guarantee that in return you will be assured of a very 'warm' welcome.

'Carel' is a rather special individual, who I must say, stopped the traffic and turned a few heads when reporting for duty on Tuesday morning, being carried in to work, wearing a designer cardboard jacket, accompanied by quite an entourage. Without wishing to offend, you will definitely recognise Carel, who stands a good 6ft tall, despite having short stumpy legs. Carel is quite well built, but does have attractive, model like,streamlined proportions,with silvery grey highlights and is adorned with a 'Carel' tattoo. Accompanied by an excellent character reference and past working history, along with £1000 annual pocket money for the next 20 years, courtesy of the government, Carel will be a fabulous asset to the parish for many years to come, we hope.

Carel has taken over from ' Olive' who used to work and lived in the basement of the Church, having served the parish very well and was loved by many, but recently had a few performance related issues. Olive had to be coaxed into working several times with a bit of gentle persuasion, luckily, we knew which ' buttons to press' in the mornings, to help motivate and get results. Olive could be quite an intimidating, unpredictable creature with a ferocious roar and just lately had developed a rather anti- social noxious vapour, which was not an attractive quality. Sadly, Olive decided to leave us with not much notice and in a not very dignified fashion, last seen laying in the back of a transit van, believed to be heading out of Stortford, to pastures new. We will miss Olive and are grateful for such a long service, particularly over the cold winter months, but a liquid liking for 1500 litres of oil at a time, was costing quite a bit and with frequent demands of 'service call out pampering', was becoming quite high maintenance.

Carel will be working and living outside, based at the back of the Sacristy and facing the Monastery gardens, being quite a green friendly being, who loves the environment. Fr Peter will be providing a uniform' foliage jacket' for protection and being quite shy, an attractive camouflage covering, hiding from those who pass by.

Carel has however made a few requests. The floor in the Church wasn't quite to Carel's liking, so it has now gone and demands have been made for access to a new 3 phase electricity meter to aid an efficient performance, along with a new ethernet cable. This will mean digging up part of the pavement and having a visit from the electricity provider, but will all be worth it, just to keep Carel happy, creating that warm cosy feeling underfoot, for when we are eventually allowed back in the Church. Gone are the days of us all having to choose a pew closest to the radiator on chilly mornings! For those interested, there is a photo of Carel on our web site as well as several photographs of the progress to date of the work at St Joseph's.

Zoom- Thank you John and the 9am Music group who have continued to host our Zoom Mass for at least the past 13 weeks now.. The code for the meeting has been kept the same for the next few weeks.

Topic: Family Mass via Zoom during lock-down (music starting at 8:45am)

Time: Jun 14, 2020 08:30 AM London

Every week on Sun, until Jul 26, 2020, 7 occurrence(s)

Jun 21, 2020 08:30 AM

Jun 28, 2020 08:30 AM

Jul 5, 2020 08:30 AM

Jul 12, 2020 08:30 AM

Jul 19, 2020 08:30 AM

Jul 26, 2020 08:30 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89508074176>

Meeting ID: 895 0807 4176

Link to Calendar invite is parishioners want to add it to their diary.

One tap mobile:

+442030512874,,89508074176# United Kingdom

Dial-in by phone:

0203 051 2874

The numbers are standard rate numbers (not free unless you have inclusive minutes), but they are not premium numbers.

Hymns for this weekend - from Fr Carlos

Please find the Hymns for the Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time (6pm Sat and 9am Sun Masses):

Entrance Hymn: 825 - Church of God, Elect and Glorious

Lyrics: https://www.jubilate.co.uk/songs/church_of_god_elect_and_glorious

Melody (That of Alleluia! Sing to Jesus): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3bW9KHBqFo>

Communion Hymn: 910 - Christ Be Beside Me

Lyrics: http://www.know-britain.com/hymns/christ_be_beside_me.html

Melody: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GX7vmw6MvJs>

Recessional Hymn: 960 - Guide me, O thou Great Redeemer

Lyrics and Melody: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofp6rdAgRrY>

Most Holy Redeemer - We are very pleased to announce that we hope to open Most Holy Redeemer for private prayer on a Tuesday and Thursday from 12pm -1pm starting from Thursday 25th June 2020 from 12pm - 1pm. This has involved a number of separate actions including a detailed risk assessment and

sourcing the supply of PPE equipment. Thank you VERY much to those Parishioners at Most Holy Redeemer including Ana Bruton, Clare Hodgson, John Hodgson, Colette Kerins, Paul Kerins, Mary-Ann Lawson, Sheila Martin, Mairi Martin, Jennifer Stott and Gary Thaddeus who have kindly volunteered their services to help as Stewards and Cleaners and also to Alan Hodgson who has helped enormously in the co-ordination effort to get the Church open.

We have had to implement a signed one way system around the Church and pews have been moved to enable a safe distance for private prayer. The Church has to be cleaned and pews, door handles etc sanitised regularly to help keep everyone safe. Toilets will not be opened and there will be no votive candles permitted. Stewards and Cleaners will be provided with disposable gloves, face masks and disposable aprons as well as an individual COVID-19 guidance and safe guarding sheet. Visitors to the Church will be asked to sanitise their hands upon entry and exit with hand gel, which will be provided and to follow the guidance of the Stewards please. Attached to this email are 3 separate documents which include the COVID-19 and Safeguarding guidance leaflet for Volunteers and an information sheet for parishioners attending the Church. These will also be added to our web site and on display at the Church.

St Theresa's in Stansted - is also open for private prayer Two of the slots, Monday and Thursday 11am-12pm noon are set aside for those who are shielding (those over 70 and/or those with underlying medical conditions).

These will be strictly limited in numbers of attendance at any one time for obvious reasons, please do leave these slots available for those who need them, as all the others time slots are available to everyone.

See St Theresa's web site for more info..

Monday: 11-12noon

Tuesday: 1pm-3pm

Wednesday: 1pm-3pm

Thursday: 11-12noon

Friday: 1pm-3pm

Saturday: 1pm-3pm

Sunday: 1pm-3pm

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the family and friends of Philomena Barrett RIP from the parish who sadly died recently. *Eternal rest grant unto Philomena O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

First Holy Communion 2021 - Applications are now open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2021 for those Children who live in the parish, which will take place on Saturday 8th May 2021 at St Joseph and the English Martyrs and on Sunday 9th May 2021 at Most Holy Redeemer and Holy Cross. The preparation programme is only for those children who will be receiving the Sacrament within the parish and not elsewhere. It will start between November 2020 - May 2021 and will consist of 10 separate sessions. There will 3-4 sessions for Parents. The Children are expected to attend each session and the 9am Mass that Sunday. **Children should be 8 years old on or before 31 August 2021.**

What do I need to do to register my Child for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2021?

- Firstly check that your Child qualifies under the above conditions i.e. they will be 8 years old on or before 31st August 2021, that you live in the parish and your Child will be receiving the Sacrament in the parish and not elsewhere.
- Email the parish office on bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk requesting a First Holy Communion application form **for your child only** giving the **FULL NAME** and **DATE of BIRTH of your CHILD**.
- A personalised application form containing your Child's name and date of birth will then be emailed to you as a PDF document.
- Please print off the PDF form, fill in the remaining details requested on both sides of the form, sign and post back the hard copy in an envelope to 3, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 2ND

- When you have submitted the 'hard copy' of the form, please then email fhcstjosephs@gmail.com so that the First Holy Communion Catechist can send you an acknowledgment email and keep you updated of proposed sessions.
- The Cut off date for the hard copy of all forms to have been received at 3, Windhill is **Tuesday 1st September 2020 with no exceptions..**
- If your Child has any special needs, requirements, medical conditions or needs additional support, please ensure that your form is submitted as soon as possible. This is to ensure that we can contact you early and have plenty of time to better understand what support may be required and also make any necessary arrangements.
- If you have any questions re the application process please contact the Parish office - Thank you

Job Vacancy at the Foodbank -Would you like to join the friendly Food Bank team in Bishop's Stortford? We are expanding and adapting to meet the demands of the Coronavirus situation, and are hoping to employ a Part Time Administrative Assistant/Secretary to help us in our work.

As Administrative Assistant, you would be based at the Methodist Church in Bishop's Stortford, where you will provide administrative support for the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank Co-ordinator. In addition, you will act as Secretary to the Food Bank Trustees, attending trustee meetings and taking notes.

This is a paid post (£10 per hour), and is for 9 hours a week (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10am – 1pm), with a possibility of further hours as agreed. You would also be paid for the time required to attend trustee meetings (which usually take place in the evening) approximately four times a year. The post is fixed term for a 6 month period, to assist the Food Bank through this challenging period.

For further details of the position, please see the attached job specification. If you feel that you are the right person for this role, please contact bsfoodbank.coordinator@gmail.com for an application form. Visits to the Food Bank prior to interview would be warmly welcomed. If you would like to call us for more information, please ring Jane Towns on 07747 181813. Please visit our website www.bishopsstortfordfoodbank.com

Vacancy at Thirst Youth Cafe, Bishop's Stortford for a part time Youth worker. Please see the below link for more details

<https://www.thirstcafe.com/wearehiring?fbclid=IwAR0WLELXJC8XtOP3gCp-9SaHivzunOUaLqkckvV-cnOdk96LC74vpmDiXwQ>

Free to a Good home - A 3 seater and a 2 seater settee in very good clean condition, gold and light gold in colour with a regency stripe pattern. The settees would need to be collected from Sawbridgeworth. Please contact the office if you are interested and your details will be passed on.

An Appeal from CAFOD - These are difficult times. Many of us here in the UK have suffered terribly because of coronavirus, coping with grief, anxiety and hardship. In the world's poorest countries, health care systems are not coping with the coronavirus and families are going hungry because people cannot go out to earn money. CAFOD is helping protect and improve the lives of our sisters and brothers during this global emergency. If you are in a position to support our Coronavirus Appeal, you can donate at www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirus Thank you

Defibrillator - On Wednesday 17th June 2020, our 'St Joseph's public access defibrillator' was used by two of our workmen at the Church and a couple working on a house opposite, to assist a local lady who had collapsed outside of the Town Council Office, just before the Paramedics and Air Ambulance arrived. The workers did a fantastic job in trying to help to save her life. If you personally do not know how to use CPR or a Defibrillator, please just spend a little time looking at our website where we have clear guidance and videos showing you what to do in the event of an emergency. Please keep the lady and her family in your thoughts

and prayers. Having a little knowledge and the confidence to help someone in need can make all the difference and the worst thing that you can do, is to do 'nothing'. Even if you are not physically capable of performing CPR yourself, you could guide and support someone who is able to. When things start to return to 'normal' Debbie will be running more CPR and defibrillator courses in the parish free of charge to anyone who would like to learn.

On Friday 19th June we received the below email from the family of the lady concerned..

To everyone at the Church,

This post comes with the upmost thanks from everyone in my family. My mum, Jeanette collapsed outside on Wednesday and without the intervention from passers by and the defibrillator we would very much be in a different situation. Mum is still in a very critical condition but stable in intensive care. She has shown signs of coming round so hoping in the next few days she will be woken but we have still a long way to go.

Please keep us in your prayers.

Justice and Peace Events

20th June: World Refugee Day - People Not Walls Virtual Rally, 10am to 11.30am, People Not Walls is the Anglo-French initiative which brings together organisations on both sides of the Channel for migrant rights. This event, focusing on the plight of unaccompanied minors experiencing human rights abuses near the French coast and embarking upon perilous Channel crossing attempts in small boats. The rally will end with a switch to the live Memorial Service at Dover. Free registration in advance. Keep Children From Danger Online Rally

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/keep-children-from-danger-online-rally-tickets-107546307902?utm_campaign=post

20th June: World Refugee Day - Livestreamed Memorial Service 11.30am, for 58 dead young Chinese migrants discovered in a sealed container at Dover docks during the night of 18 June 2000, twenty years ago. Dr Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, will lead a small gathering on Dover seafront to remember these deaths and all the others occurring as people try to reach the UK. <https://kentpahirestreaming.co.uk/>

21st June: Day for Life - <http://www.dayforlife.org/>

Parishioners of the week - There are numerous people to mention this week from the fantastic Team at MHR who have offered to help to get the Church open again, to the dedicated members of the Holy Cross Committee who have been busy working behind the scenes to help everyone in Much Hadham and the very lovely Yvonne Fordyce and Maureen Evans, who kindly and quietly appeared to do some social distance gardening at the WCC this week. Thank you to EVERYONE for everything that you have done and continue to do. It really is much appreciated!

Fr Peter and Fr Carlos continue keep you in their thoughts and prayers and we pray for them too.

'Carel' (the brand name of our new cold air heat exchanger for the underfloor heating system) looks forward to serving you and Olive (the Oil boiler) bids you farewell - we await a postcard!

We wish all Fathers and Fathers 'to be' a very 'Happy Fathers day' on Sunday, whilst also remembering those who have sadly lost their Fathers recently and those who have no Father. May they be inspired, guided and supported by kind and generous father-like figures through the course of their life.

I hope that you all have a happy and healthy week.

Many thanks

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*

3 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 2ND
Telephone: 01279 654063

email: bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford/>

Follow our Live streaming on www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford

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