

Parish Message for the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

It is unusual for Clergymen to offer a suggestion for a film; but in light of this weekend's Gospel – the Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Beautiful Pearl – I thought I might be brave and offer you one.

The film is called *Ushpizin* (a Hebrew word meaning a guest). The film presents a couple who have returned to living as strict Orthodox Jews; but their life is not easy. They are childless, poor, and really do not know how to get out of this situation. Moreover, it is the Feast of Succoth – a time when the People of Israel remember that they lived in tents for 40 years in the desert, a moment of great feast to witness the providence of God.

And just as things are getting worse, a miracle occurs, but not in the way they expect it...

I don't wish to go into further details in order not to spoil the film for you, but it does manifest how often we do not see the obvious treasure of faith (and its fruits) that God can provide for us, even if they are situations we do not like. But in all this, the most important element in our relationship with God is our Prayer.

Happy Treasure Hunting!

Fr. Carlos

P.S.: Here are a few details on the 'treasure map'.

The trailer can be found on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I98QNhD8TQo>

There is film available on Youtube, but in a poor quality, but it has English Subtitles:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z2EKpVWGL4>

I'm not sure if you can find it through the streaming services.

Parish Note Friday 24th July 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Carlos Sunday 26th July 2020

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

Fri 7/24/2020 4:34 PM

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

📎 4 attachments (4 MB)

3. INFO LEAFLET (1).docx; 2020.06.08 - Safeguarding Advice for Stewards - Guidance on Reopening Ca... (1).pdf; COVID-19-Guidance for Volunteers. (2).docx; Message for 17 Sunday of OT.docx;

Good afternoon Everyone

I hope that you are well.

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Carlos this week, which includes a recommendation for a film called '*Ushpizin*'. Both the link to the film and Father's Sunday message can be found on our web site under the news section.

If you passed by St Joseph's Church at the beginning of this week, you might have thought that we were 'digging for treasure', as the power company started to excavate a long trench, which spanned the width of both the Church and part of the Town Council Offices. The newly dug pavement furrow was to house the new electricity cables for the Church connecting us to a 3 Phase power supply. The journey to get to this stage for all, has been rather eventful to say the least and has required a great deal of patience, negotiation, creativity, faith and a large pinch of tenacity. My urge to personally jump in the hole and dig out the remaining cable which was only 'slightly stuck' on the Church side, 'preventing' the Power company to simply 'go any further' just to get the job done, was spared, as two of the Church workmen came to assist me. Our newly formed informal 'task force trio' involved firstly abstracting electricity from the Presbytery, by running an extension lead from and connecting to a power drill, via a transformer. Drilling then began for the removal of the final length of offending old cable caught up on a root, with shouts of 'Can you see it yet', accompanied by a socially distanced game of 'tug o war', all the while hoping that it wouldn't 'trip' the electrics at number 3. Thankfully all went well.

Whilst standing guard over the 'hole,' I was pleasantly surprised to meet a lady from Bedford, followed by a separate group of Parents with their Children who were all on a local 'treasure hunt' around the town, armed with a printed sheet of clues. Their enthusiasm and excitement was infectious! Two of the questions were actually about our Church, which was a lovely surprise and a welcome distraction. The first clue to solve was, to find the year inscribed in Roman numerals over the porch (and above the trench!), being MCMVI and the second question was, 'What can be found here?' and the answer beautifully adorned on the exterior of the Church, simply reads, '*In this place thou shalt find peace*' What a wonderful treasure that is indeed!

Zoom - Goodness, the time has flown and Zoom has become a regular feature each weekend connecting Parishioners with each other and celebrating the Mass together with music during lock down. Thank you to John and the 9am Music Group for hosting and sharing their talents and gifts of friendship each week.

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

Time: Jun 26, 2020 08:30 AM London

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

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 from Fr Carlos

Please find the Hymns for the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Entrance Hymn: 910 - Christ Be Beside Me

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

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

Communion Hymns - 608 - Take My Hands

Words and Melody - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2NxOdYGIyc>

Recessional Hymn - 820 - Seek Ye First the Kingdom

Words and Melody - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LMQfOp9w8k>

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the family and friends of Joanna Bubien RIP who sadly died this week, only a short time after her beloved husband Ted RIP.

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

BOOKING is now OPEN - It is now possible to book 'seats' for Mass for Saturday 2nd August - Friday 6th August inclusive, by visiting the 'Events' page on our web site. You will be asked for your name and a contact number for 'Track and Trace' purposes and will be able to book up to 2 seats. For booking of 3 seats and above, please contact the Office. We have held back several pews as 'Household benches' so that more than 2 people from a household can sit together without social distancing, thus allowing more people to attend Mass. If any one has any problems, please contact the office and we shall do our best to help you. Thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

Date of the BIG Clean Up has changed - Work has not quite finished yet in the Church. As the company are still to do their own 'industrial clean' to remove the majority of the dust using a high tower, it has been decided that we should therefore postpone our own 'Big Clean up' from Monday 27th July to **Wednesday 29th July at 11am**. We will still meet outside the WCC where PPE will be issued to everyone so that we can begin the task of cleaning St Joseph's. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered.

More Stewards needed please! - In order to be able to safely open St Joseph's Church for the week day and weekend Masses, we need more volunteer Stewards please.

We require 2 Stewards during the week (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri) during August from 9am -10.30am to welcome Parishioners for the 9.30am Mass into the Church via the main doors, ensure that hands are sanitised, allocate seating, ensure the safe egress of Parishioners after receiving the Blessed sacrament via the One way system and assisting with the cleaning of the Church afterwards (sanitising pews, kneelers, door handles, washing floor etc).

For the weekend Masses open to Parishioners (Saturday 6pm Mass - Stewards to arrive by 5.30pm) and Sunday 9am Mass (Stewards arrive by 8.30am), we need 3 Volunteers please. If you can help, please contact the office with the **exact days/ dates that you are able to assist** and we shall add your details to the rota. Thank you very much. I have attached the Diocesan guidance for Stewards and Cleaners to this email for your information. It can also be found on the website.

Windhill Churches Centre - At the current time the WCC remains closed to the Parishioners of both St Michaels and the Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford, for use by individuals and Groups, whilst we await guidance from our respective Diocesan Health and Safety departments.

For Marriages in trouble 'Marriage Care' Counselling Services – Marriage Care, offers support from trained counsellors to couples and families who need help in coping with the pressures of 'Lockdown'.
<https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/news/marriage-care-at-75---we-are-here-for-you/>

'Retrouvaille' – a lifeline for married couples – offers a Virtual Programme to help couples under pressure, commencing with a Retrouvaille Weekend: Thurs 30th & Fri 31st July (evenings) and Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd August (days). For further information, please call in confidence and without obligation 0788 729 6983. Website: www.retrouvaille.org.uk Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

Gift Aid - Good news ! Today we are expecting a Gift Aid payment of £33,605.97 into the bank account, courtesy of HMRC. If you are a Tax payer and donate regularly via Standing Order or envelopes, please consider registering for Gift Aid. It only takes a moment of your time. The government will top up your gift by 25 percent, meaning a £20 offering becomes £25, at no cost to you.

The quickest and easiest way to do Gift Aid now is to send an email to giftaid@rcdow.org.uk with the following information:

- Your parish name
- Your title, first name and surname
- Your address and postcode
- The date of your gift, or start date of Standing Order
- The amount
- Please add the line: 'Please Gift Aid my donations'

The Diocese Gift Aid office will add your declaration immediately, on behalf of your parish, and email you a confirmation. Alternatively a Gift Aid form can be found on the 'Planned Giving' Page of our web site or if you contact the office a form can be sent to you.

Envelopes - If you were unable to collect your donation envelopes before lock down and wish to do so, please contact the office to arrange a day/ time to collect them. For those Parishioners at Most Holy Redeemer, I shall arrange for these to be delivered to you personally next week, all being well.

News from Zimbabwe - Sophie and Mike Sullivan recently contacted us to thank everyone for the monies raised for the Hymn book and building project at their local Church, Christ the King in Bulawayo. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, like us, they too have not been permitted singing or the use of Hymn books. Their Priest, Fr Similio has formerly written to ask them if the monies gratefully raised could therefore be put towards the

use of a parish laptop on which they can project the prayers and assist them with a live stream facility as at the current time they only have the Priest's mobile phone. Sophie said;

'Mike and I have spoken personally to Fr Similo and feel confident that this is an appropriate use of funds and would be a great way to make use of the donation, to develop their projection of hymns and their live-streaming capabilities.

So, on your behalf, we would like to affirm their suggestions in the letter. It will help the parish move forward in their capabilities, which is something they would not be able to do without this generous donation.

Please feel free to let the parish know that their funds will be being put to good use in this way.

As for our other pot of donations, which we were going to put towards the building project at Petra College, the children's school here, we have not released that money as yet. As you can imagine, the lockdown and economic implications of this have been somewhat set back! We are keen to ensure funds are only released once we know the school have the capacity to make use of the funds without them losing value. It is different from the hymn books donation, because there have to be a number of elements coming together before further building is possible. So we anticipate that funds may stay in the bank until 2021 or until such time as things here get back to some sort of "normal"!

Most Holy Redeemer - Most Holy Redeemer will continue be open on Tuesday and Thursday between 12pm -1pm. Thank you to our brilliant team of volunteers who are helping to make this happen.

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 fncstjosephs@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

Mercy Ships needs you! -It takes a crew to run a hospital ship, both abroad and at home. Will you help eradicate diseases of poverty? You do not need any medical training. Only 50% of our volunteers are medics. No matter your skills we have a place for you. Have you ever wondered what volunteering with Mercy Ships is like? Now you can discover how your skills can bring hope and healing and hear from current crew onboard and alumni, as we take a look at what volunteering with Mercy Ships is like in a brand new webinar series.

The first one is taking place Monday 25th July at 5 pm. They are open to anyone who is interested in volunteering with Mercy Ships and should last an hour.

During the webinar, you will hear from Captain Taylor Perez, who has recently returned home after captaining the Africa Mercy; Daniela Cruz Ontiveros, who is currently the Chief Steward onboard the Africa Mercy (she will be joining live from the ship); and Kirstie Randall, who you may remember from our BBC Radio 4 appeal. She has a real wealth of information and stories.

We have limited spots, so if you are interested then please register by clicking the button below. We can't wait to see you there!

https://www.bigmarker.com/mercy-ships/Volunteering-with-Mercy-Ships?utm_bmc_source=MSUK_cffmngfb001&fbclid=IwAR0TPAa4Mh_2JK3YULJB7vmlKjy1I1lnRmUudDzdcVvVHN16LLiwpWUyn4

More Good News- On Monday, Fr Peter and I received a surprise visit from 'Jeanette' and her husband who both live locally. Jeanette suffered a cardiac arrest near to the front of St Joseph's a few weeks ago and was given immediate first aid. She was the first person to benefit from the use of our defibrillator, before the arrival of the Paramedics and Air Ambulance. It was absolutely amazing to see Jeanette looking so well. She is now home with her family and looking forward to celebrating her son's birthday. We also received this follow up email.

'As we know the fantastic work done by all who assisted Jeanette that morning undoubtedly saved her life but, as they told us at Princess Alexandra Hospital, without the use of the defibrillator so quickly, the outcome would have been very different'

Thank you to everyone who supported the funding of our defibrillator- you made a real difference! and also to those who have attended our training courses. When we are able to, we will be running more.

Congratulations - to the wonderful Liz and Alan Basey and Maggie and Roger Drew, both couples are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversaries this coming week. We extend our love, prayers and best wishes to you all.

Parishioners of the week- This week and well over due for recognition are our 'Parish treasures', Astrid and Tony Davies, who sadly for us, are due to move away to pastures new. Thank you to Yvonne Fordyce for filling in some of the details over the past 44 years that they have been Parishioners and who has kindly supplied me with the following information.

'Over the years, Astrid started with joining the Magellans; later playing the violin in the folk group led by Liz Sweetman. She was part of the RCIA group led by Kate Barrance.'

Tony & Astrid both took part in the annual Parish Musicals, directed by Sister Judith. They have both been Eucharistic Ministers & were currently Readers. The SVP was in both of their diaries, with Astrid also a willing volunteer with the 'Wednesday Group' and a regular 'Counter' of the weekly offertory collection.

Astrid was the founder of the Parish Justice and Peace group & Chairperson up to the current time. They were part of the APF, Missionary collection & for the past 10 years (at least). Astrid has edited the Parish Magazine with great skill & creativity. A gifted gardener, she happily agreed to help out with a small group in keeping the garden around the WCC in good order.

Tony was Chairman of Governors at St Mary's School & also was connected with an initiative through Churches Together offering Financial advice to the local community. Tony is currently St Josephs representative on 'Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford'. He was involved with Parish Catechetics at a time when Catholic children unable to get into St Joseph's School, were taught religious instruction weekly.

Latterly, Astrid became a bell-ringer at St Michael's, showing great skill in this area.

All in all, a commendable four decades of dedicated voluntary work not only for the community of St Joseph's Catholic Church, but the town community and world wide missionary work'.

Thank you VERY much Astrid and Tony! We wish you much love and every happiness in your new venture and will keep you very much in our thoughts and prayers. We will miss you both very much. We hope that the devoted voluntary roles that you reluctantly leave behind will hopefully be filled by new parishioners, showing just as much care, dedication, love and commitment to the parish as you have both kindly shown over so many years. You have been and are quite amazing! x

To finish, Pope Francis said,

" Guard the treasure that God has given us in the Gospel. The best means to guard it is God's grace. So, I ask you to keep praying, for his grace to come and enable you to guard this treasure. Let us continue, then, to let others see this treasure which God freely gave us and which we must freely offer to others'

Wishing you a very happy and healthy week.

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