

Parish Message for the 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

Part of my formation for the priesthood involved a time of being an itinerant missionary in the island of Ireland. I became fascinated about Ireland so much, particularly the tense history these islands had in the last 50+ years in conflict known as The Troubles. In fact, reading about this dark period of history (which in my opinion is largely forgotten in Britain and the Western World) moved me to prepare my dissertation concerning religion and violence in Northern Ireland.

But I digress...

This past week, Northern Ireland lost one of the great architects of the Good Friday Agreement, the former SDLP leader John Hume. I am sure you can research him and even read his obituary online or in the Newspapers. Honestly, because of my word limit, I believe that I only mentioned his name once in my dissertation; but reading about him in the past week made me realise that his life and sue for peace reflects the readings of Sunday's Mass.



Elijah saw many massive weather phenomena to see if God was present. Jesus sent the disciples, most probably against their own will, to cross the rough Sea of Galilee. (Since they were fishermen, they knew that sailing in the Sea during the night was not good. I promise you; the Sea of Galilee has a temperamental attitude when it comes to weather.)

John Hume lived through the rough and turbulent waters of The Troubles. There were paths to choose to fight – the gun, the bomb, kidnapping, murder; but he chose one that not many were so eager to choose – peace, dialogue, politics. At times, his decisions were considered controversial, but he persevered. He realised, like Elijah, that God was to be found in a simple breeze. He realised that faith in Christ helped him look for the calm of storm – like Peter who found the brief calm when he looked at Christ.

We may look at our lives, our own 'troubles', and think that the way to resolve may be through some great manifestation of our power and will, which usually ends up in hurt and division. Let us remember, then, that looking into Christ, who invites us to be simple yet firm, peaceful yet in search of the truth, and with great love and sacrifice yet remembering that all we do and strive for is for love of the other, not just for ourselves.

Pray for the peace of the world, Britain, Northern Ireland, and that of our lives and those around us.

Fr. Carlos

Friday Note 7th August 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Carlos for the 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time 9th August 2020

B Bishop's Stortford - St Joseph & The English Martyr
Fri 8/7/2020 2:54 PM
To: Bishop's Stortford - St Joseph & The English Martyr



Message for 19 Sunday of OT...
Saved to OneDrive

Good afternoon everyone

I hope that you are well

Please find attached this weeks Sunday message from Fr Carlos which is a very interesting read, inspired by his time as an itinerant missionary in Ireland as part of his formation for the Priesthood.

This week we have been fully immersed into the 'new way of doing things' at St Joseph's, with track and trace registers, hand gel ablutions and with face coverings, now becoming mandatory in places of worship from this Saturday 8th August 2020. The array of face masks worn so far have been wonderful, my favourite to date in the 'face mask awards' goes to Clare Wright who kindly helped to 'Steward' on Thursday, wearing one adorned with chickens, which was really lovely. The unicorn and rainbow mask worn by a young parishioner did however come a very close second. Identifying parishioners by their eyes and the top of their heads has been fun as we exchange a muffled morning pleasantry and it is really wonderful to see so many people back in the Church. To assist with the identification process and lighten the mood, one very helpful Parishioner (who shall remain nameless) the other morning kindly surrendered his passport at the door of the Church upon entry which must be a first. A frisk search however was not required.. on this occasion...

FACE COVERINGS - Face coverings will be mandatory in Places of Worship from **this Saturday 8th August 2020**. All those who are attending Churches **must** wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so or under the age of 11. This is for the good of all who gather in the Church for Mass as it is an enclosed public space where there are people from differing households who they do not normally meet. Thank you.

HYMNS THIS WEEKEND - Last weekend we once again heard the sound of music in St Josephs, albeit via the live stream, at the 11am Mass with our Organist Duncan Lane and Ann Wocjik from the Choir performing together beautifully - it was a real treat after such a long time. Thank you both. The Hymns for this week are listed below.

Entrance Hymn 301 Holy Spirit Lord of Light

Communion Motet Lead Me Lord

Recessional Hymn 315 Lead us Heavenly Father Lead us OR The Worlds Tempestuous Sea

ZOOM - Our 9am Sunday Zoom session continues this week. Thank you to everyone who so generously gives their time and talents to make this happen each week.

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Message for 19 Sunday of OT.docx;

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ZOOM - Our 9am Sunday Zoom session continues this week. Thank you to everyone who so generously gives their time and talents to make this happen each week.

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

Time: Aug 9 2020 08:30 AM London

<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.

BOOKING is now OPEN - It is now possible to book 'seats' for Mass a week in advance, 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 and for those unable to book via the computer, 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.

MORE STEWARDS NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER 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 for the new rota in September. Thank you to everyone who has kindly helped to date. It is much appreciated.

We require 2 Stewards during the week (Mon, Tues,Wed, Thurs, Fri) during September 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/ Sunday 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.

WINDHILL CHURCHES CENTRE - At the current time the WCC still 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 and conduct a full risk assessment. We apologise for this. Anyone who has made a booking and paid a deposit or in full, will receive a full refund.

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/>

MOST HOLY REDEEMER AND HOLY CROSS- Thank you to our brilliant team of volunteers who are helping to keep the Church open for private prayer

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

ADVANCED NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE - Debbie will be taking 5 days off from Monday 24th August to Friday 28th August 2020 inclusive. The office will also be closed on the Bank holiday Monday (31st) If you require any assistance before this time please telephone or email the office. Thank 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. Thank you.

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST -Sponsored Bike and Hike Event- 12th September 2020. The Bike and Hike Organisers, with the support of the Trustees, have decided to proceed with this September's Bike and Hike event, albeit in a somewhat different format. The one thing we are asking you to do is to try and find at least one person in your parish to take part and get sponsorship. The Bike 'n Hike is open to everyone, whether church-goer or not, bikers, hikers and other visitors, whether by car, mobility scooter or horse. The objective for participants is still to visit as many churches and chapels as they can to obtain sponsorship for their efforts. However, because of the Covid-19 pandemic

- We are not asking for churches to be open
- We are not asking for someone to be there to welcome
- There cannot be any refreshments
- We realise toilets may not be available
- There will be no Register of Visitors
- Participants will sign their own sponsorship forms
- We are also asking participants to: Follow Government guidance on Covid-19, extant at the time . If a church is open and they go inside, touch as little as possible .Have hand sanitiser with them . Bring their own refreshments

Sponsorship packs are available for anyone interested - please contact the Parish office for further details.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED - <https://acnuk.org/>

An emergency help of £226,000 is to be rushed out to Beirut by ACN in the wake of the huge explosion (4th August).

At least 100 people were killed and 4,000 others were injured when 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored in a warehouse exploded.

Speaking from Beirut, ACN project partner Father Raymond Abdo told the charity: "The explosion felt like an atomic bomb with red smoke everywhere and huge damage." ACN Lebanon expert Father Samer Nassif, said

that the Christian zone of Beirut was “completely devastated”, with at least 10 churches destroyed, 300,000 people homeless and many others suffering, with livelihoods “totally destroyed” by the blast.

He said: “Yesterday in one second, more damage to the Christian quarter of Beirut was done than throughout the long years of the civil war.

“We have to build it again from the ground up.”

Aid to the Church in Need is appealing for prayer for the victims and their families.

PARISHIONER OF THE WEEK- A very long overdue award this week to our much loved and well respected Christopher Deane-Bowers (aka CDB) who is our very experienced 'Parish M.C Extraordinaire' at St Joseph's. Christopher kindly devotes SO much of his time to the Church and is a dedicated fountain of liturgical knowledge on all sorts. Training new Altar servers, looking after the Eucharistic Minister and Reader rota as well as all of his other extensive voluntary duties are always performed diligently and with careful attention to detail. During lockdown Christopher has continued to keep in touch, maintaining a ' virtual eye' over St Joseph's. Thank you very much for everything that you have done and continue to do. We miss you! Next weekend Christopher and his beautiful wife Diane will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary and so we extend our love and prayers to them both on this special occasion. Many Congratulations!

Wishing you all 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

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