

## Parish Message for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Parishioners,

On 8 May this year, we celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. In fact, there are some parishioners who remember that day when the War in Europe came to an end. Winston Churchill marked the day with these words:

Now we have emerged from one deadly struggle – a terrible foe has been cast on the ground and awaits our judgment and our mercy.

But there is another foe who occupies large portions of the British Empire, a foe stained with cruelty and greed – the Japanese.

This Sunday marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the final act of struggle in the Second World War – VJ Day or Victory in the Pacific Day. I believe that there will be some events shown on the television this weekend, and I invite you to take a moment of contemplation and silence to remember those who served in the Forces in the Far East.

As an American, the Second World War began for us after the attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, followed by a declaration of War the following day – the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Although the Solemnity of the Assumption was not established until 1950, it is interesting that the War began and ended on Solemnities that referred to an understanding of the mission of the *Theotokos* (Mother of God). These Solemnities take an insight of the salvation that God has for each of us, a gift of the beauty of life, its disfigurement due to sin, and the redemption and renewal of our human state offered through Christ.

My aim in this message is not to give a theological exposé, but to see how far the extent of destruction can exist when we do not fully take into account the dignity of our redeemed human state. The horrors of the Second World War – the Holocaust and concentration camps, the nuclear bomb, and the torture suffered by many in the War – are evidence of loss of direction in following our human dignity.

On this Assumption Day, let us ask through the intercession of Our Mother, the Queen of Peace, that we may see the beauty of who we are and that one day true peace may dwell on this Earth.

Fr. Carlos

## Parish Note Friday 14th August 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Carlos on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Fri 8/14/2020 4:57 PM

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

📎 2 attachments (457 KB)

Message for the Assumption.docx; BS Community Survey Final.pdf;

Good afternoon everyone

I hope that you are all well and enjoying the slightly cooler weather after the hot and humid spell recently. It was a cool 30.2 degrees in the parish office on Thursday even with a fan on full blast, despite being under the shade of the trees. The dramatic thunder and lightning storms last night however have certainly left their mark, unfortunately, with rainwater pouring through the upper and lower ceilings of the Windhill Churches Centre. This mainly affected the rooms belonging to St Michael's resulting in a false alarm activation in the early hours of this morning and leaving quite a mess to clear up. Thankfully with a team effort, it has now been sorted and the alarm issue rectified. Huge thanks to Chris Brolly who responded and attended the WCC at 2am to help - You are a real star!

Please find attached this weeks Sunday Message from Fr Carlos on the feast day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS** the family and friends of Margaret Smith RIP who very sadly died on Saturday evening.

*Eternal rest grant unto Margaret O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen*

**HYMNS FOR THIS WEEKEND 11AM MASS** - Thank you to Nicola and Duncan for the beautiful music at Mass last Sunday. This weekend Sighle will be singing also accompanied by Duncan.

Entrance Hymn - Tell out my soul- number 880

Recessional Hymn- Hail Queen of Heaven- number 356

**NO MASS** - Apologies but there will be no Mass celebrated on Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th August 2020 at St Joseph's.

**FACE COVERINGS**- Face coverings are now mandatory in Places of Worship and have been since **Saturday 8th August 2020**. All those who are attending Churches **must** wear a face covering please 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.

**ACROSS CHARITY FACE MASKS** available - £5 each ( see our web site for a photo)

100% Cotton

Filtration rate - 70%

Reusable, 3 ply Mask

Breathable

Rubber bound edges and ear loops for a secure fit

Available from Debbie Hourihan on 07584 623472.

You can pay by BACS to:

Account : Across

Sort Code: 800864

Account number: 00101485

and they will be available to collect at the back of St Joseph's, if attending Mass or delivery arranged with Debbie Hourihan

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** - Marriage Encounter are excited to announce a new Online Experience for marriage enrichment. For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment retreats all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, it offers a unique experience to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. During the Coronavirus pandemic our residential retreats have had to be cancelled so we are reaching out to couples who want to deepen their relationship by offering a newly energised video conferenced retreat. The next Marriage Encounter Online Experience is 26 & 27 September 2020, why not find out more at [wwme.org.uk](http://wwme.org.uk) or contact us on 0845 260 2016

**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 16 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 at least 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. **The doors open for Parishioners usually 30 minutes before Mass starts upon the arrival of the Stewards.**

**MORE STEWARDS STILL NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER PLEASE!** - In order to be able to safely open St Joseph's Church for the week day and weekend Masses, we still 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 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.

Even if you can only do ONE session please, it will really help to spread the workload as we have lots of slots to fill!

**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 conduct a full risk assessment with the joint involvement of both Churches. 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. As September approaches and the majority of the fantastic volunteers at Most Holy Redeemer go back to work and university, regrettably, we wish to give you advance notice that it may not be possible to continue to open Most Holy Redeemer for private prayer twice a week after 1st September. Further discussion will take place with Fr Peter upon his return from holiday and a final decision made.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 with booking seats at Mass, First Holy Communion Forms etc, please telephone or email the office ASAP. 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.

**SOCIAL CONNECTION AND INTERNET ACCESS SURVEY** - Councillor Colin Woodward has contacted Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford and asked for the attached survey to be circulated amongst our congregation as part of a Bishop's Stortford Covid-19 recovery plan for social connection and community cohesion should you wish to take part.

**PARISHIONER OF THE WEEK** - This week the award has to go to Gary Thaddeus from Most Holy Redeemer. Gary has been one of our MHR First Holy Communion Catechists for some time, a Eucharistic Minister and a member of the MHR Social Committee. Recently he volunteered his services to help with keeping MHR open for private prayer along with the rest of the really dedicated team. Gary also appeared in the Bishop's Stortford Independent Newspaper last week in celebration of his poetry, the latest poem entitled' Locked down memories'. It is definitely worth a read- Well done Gary!

I hope that you all have 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