

Parish Message for the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

'Who do you say I am?'

This is the question Jesus puts before to his disciples at Caesarea Philippi in this Sunday's Gospel. It seems to be a simple question. It can even be responded differently.

Obviously, the question really provokes us to ponder who we really consider Christ to truly be for us. We can listen from our parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends about Christ. For some, it has led one to consider accepting God in one's life. Ultimately, however, we each need to recognise that Christ is the Son of God because we have seen the power he has in our life.

I give you an example. I can describe to you what a cake is: the texture, ingredients, and its baking instructions. You may have an idea of a cake, but you cannot say that you know about a cake until you take a piece of it and taste it.

The same is about Christ. We know him by his impact of our own lives – we need to taste Christ.

But how does he reveal himself to us as the Son of God? Well, the Gospel next week will give us a hint.

Fr. Carlos

Friday Note 21st August 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Carlos on the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

Fri 8/21/2020 4:54 PM

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

 1 attachments (15 KB)

Message for 21 Sunday of OT.docx;

Good afternoon All

I hope that you are all well.

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Carlos which can also be found on our web site under the news and newsletter section.

This past week I celebrated a birthday, being ' The big one plus 2' or alternatively, ' The next big one minus 8'. It was a quiet affair, being at work, but I was very blessed and grateful to receive so many lovely messages, cards and wonderful gifts including wine, chocolates, flowers, a rather glamorous face mask and a cheeky one with a big grin on it (!). One of the nicest gifts I received was from my children, being a beautiful, sentimental, handmade scrapbook of photographs packed with memories of our beloved cat, Tommy, who sadly died a week ago. He was a beautiful, lovable boy and a real character who has left a big hole in family life, upstaging many a Zoom call during the height of lock down! In the scrap book were some thoughtful hand written prayers to St Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of animals (and my chosen Confirmation name) which were really special. Next week I shall not be in the office, but on a road trip to the Highlands of Scotland, hopefully not accompanied by too many rain storms and midges... The message from Fr Carlos for next weekend will therefore just appear on the website alone.

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

Entrance Hymn - No. 706 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

Recessional Hymn- No 876 thy hand, O God, has guided they flock from age to age

NO MASS - Apologies but there will be no Mass celebrated on Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th or Friday 28th August 2020 at St Joseph's as Fr Carlos is not available. **If you need help booking a seat at Mass please call Fr Carlos in Debbie's absence next week.**

HOLY CROSS - Thank you to our brilliant team of volunteers who are helping with the Anglicans to keep the Church open for private prayer. As the Anglican community is returning to celebrate their public liturgies, we need to assess how we can continue the possibility of private prayer at Holy Cross. Because it requires a Diocesan Risk assessment completed by Fr Peter, we are unable to provide the opportunity for private prayer until further notice. We will keep you updated on this situation.

MOST HOLY REDEEMER - Thank you to our fabulous team of volunteers who are helping to keep the Church open for private prayer. As September approaches and the majority of our 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.

BAPTISM ZOOM COURSE - Fr Carlos will be offering a Baptism Zoom Course for Parents who wish to have their Child baptised. Please email the office should you wish to sign up. The Zoom course will be on Monday 21st September 2020 at 7.30pm and lasts approximately 1 hour.

EMERGENCY PRIEST COVER - Fr Charles Cahill from the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Joseph in Ware will cover for Fr Carlos on Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th and Friday 28th August 2020 should you require a Priest in case of an emergency. Fr Charles can be contacted on 01920 462140. If there is no reply please leave a message.

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

ACROSS - need to raise £150,000 to be able to sustain them through the pandemic, having lost 78% of their annual income and are reaching out to the Catholic community asking for 1,000 gifts of £150 to achieve their target. Could you be one of the 1,000? If you are able to help please visit the Across web site. Thank you www.across.org.uk

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 conference retreat. The next Marriage Encounter Online Experience is 26 & 27 September 2020, why not find out more at wwme.org.uk or contact us on 0845 260 2016

MARRIAGE PREPARATION -Instead of the next Engaged Encounter weekend which has been cancelled because of the Covid 19 situation, there will be a 'virtual' online course run over four Saturdays online and anyone looking for marriage preparation is welcome. The dates of the four Saturdays will be October 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. For further info please visit:

engaged-encounter.org.uk

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 23rd and 30th August 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.

MORE STEWARDS STILL NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER PLEASE! - In order to be able to continue 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 and 6pm Mass (Stewards arrive by 8.30am and 5.30pm respectively), we need 3 Volunteers please. If you can help, please contact the office via email 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/>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021 - Applications are still 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 with booking seats at Mass, First Holy Communion Forms etc, please telephone the office to speak with Fr Carlos 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.

PARISHIONER OF THE WEEK - This week the award has to go to the very lovely Ewa Szafranska. Ewa works full time shifts, but has been become a regular and very welcome Steward at St Josephs. She also helped to clean the Church during the 'Big clean up' and has attended Mass almost daily since we re-opened to help to keep the Church COVID-19 secure and Parishioners safe. Wearing a mask during the hot weather and cleaning the whole Church, sanitising each pew thoroughly every day is a really important task and without the Stewards

help, we could not keep any of our Churches open. Thank you SO much Ewa for your dedication, care and commitment. You're FAB! x

I hope that you have a really 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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