

Sunday Message from Fr Peter on 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“It is Friday 4th September as I sit here writing this. Now, you may ask, ‘so what’? Aha! I tell you, it is in fact the date on which I complete my 8th year here in the Catholic Parish of Bishop’s Stortford!

People say ‘time goes so fast’, and ‘I don’t know where it’s gone’. I have also heard people say., ‘it goes faster the older you get!’ Well I don’t know about this but I have a hunch that the more you feel settled the less time drags! And that is how I feel, settled.

Now where does such a feeling or ‘state’ come from ? I think it comes from feeling at ease with yourself and your surroundings, and I have certainly felt that since I arrived. Not, of course, that I have not felt it before in other places... but I was 61 when I arrived here and next year I will hit 70 – THAT is the thing that seems strangest to me!!

Have I become wiser ? I hope so and do sense something of that; have I become kinder, I sincerely hope so, for that to me has always been the key to Priesthood; not the easiest one, I know.

But, of course, the question always is, how have I managed, where have I got the strength from ? Like all of us, it is from my relationships with others and, especially for the Priest, the very source of all that lies in my relationship with God; sometimes calm, sometimes rocky, sometimes deafening, sometimes too silent... but, as the prophet Jeremiah reminded us during the week, the presence of God burns in our very bones.

So, my prayer for all of us this week is that we remember to thank God every day for our life, our loves and all the gifts he offers us each day and that we might recognize more of those gifts each day than the few we usually manage to !”

Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 4th September 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter

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

Fri 9/4/2020 5:56 PM

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

 1 attachments (15 KB)

Sunday Message from Fr Peter on 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.docx;

Good afternoon Everyone

I hope that you are all keeping well.

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Peter, who we warmly welcome back to the parish following his summer break and who celebrates 8 years of being our wonderful Parish Priest today! This weekend we say 'Au Revoir' and send our love and prayers to Fr Carlos who embarks on his holiday. We hope that he has a really relaxing break and a safe return.

Last week, I had a tour of the Scottish Highlands, somewhere where I had never been before. The scenery was absolutely stunning with gorgeous purple heather covering the craggy glens and with small waterfalls trickling down the hillside. The weather thankfully held off on the days when we were walking and the midges were also kind to us. On the journey up, we took a whistle stop detour to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, a few miles off the Northumberland coast and linked to the mainland by a long causeway. Twice each day the tide sweeps in from the North Sea and covers the road. Unfortunately, we hadn't timed it quite right, so had a super-fast visit and then back across before we were destined to be cut off for 4 hours. My trip was a reminder of how little things really do please me, like, the excitement of when the speedometer of 'Betsy' clicked on to a full 28,000 miles accompanied by a great cheer in the car, re-discovering the simple fun of 'helicopters' aka Sycamore seeds on a walk around Stirling Castle and nefariously tossing a large heavy stone into Loch Ness whilst my husband was peacefully admiring the calm, stillness of the water on an informal 'Nessie watch'. The resulting 'monster sized plop' and very pleasing loud 'splosh' created quite a reaction, much to my amusement(!)

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.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS - the family and friends of well-loved parishioners Hahn Tran from St Joseph's and Peter Finlay from Most Holy Redeemer who very sadly died recently.

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

MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM - On Saturday 12th September 2020, Cardinal Vincent Nichols will celebrate Mass at 3:00 pm in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham at Westminster Cathedral in place of the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Watch the livestream on the day at www.westminstercathedral.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:

www.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: September 6 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.

STEWARDS NEEDED FOR OCTOBER PLEASE - In order to be able to continue to safely open St Joseph's Church for the week day and weekend Masses, we need volunteer Stewards please for the new rota in October. 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 October 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!

CRAFT MATERIALS FROM THE SALVATION ARMY - A large selection of craft and card-making materials has been donated to the Salvation Army and is available for individuals or groups in the local Churches to come and take what they like for a small donation to Bishop's Stortford Salvation Army (where appropriate). They have quite an assortment of:

Paper and cards (A4, A5, square, various sizes) - plain, coloured, patterned
Envelopes
Embellishments
Card Toppers
Decoupage sets
Card Making Kits
Confetti
Stamps
Embossing Folders
Glitter / Embossing powder
Some tools
Scrapbook materials
Adhesives

Much of which is new!!

If you are in anyway interested please contact Captain Megan Kervin. It is currently all boxed up in an outbuilding and so you can come and look under COVID guidelines!

My contact details are:

megan.kervin@salvationarmy.org.uk or 01279 507464 (please leave a message if we are not in!)

PARISHIONER OF THE WEEK - This week the award has to go to the very charming Eugene Keddy and his wonderful wife Karin, both well loved and respected parishioners from Most Holy Redeemer. Karin and Eugene have worked tirelessly in the parish over many years and have taken an active role on many committees and supported countless parish activities. They continue to proactively raise funds for the St Lawrence community in Zambia supporting the children there and making a positive difference in their lives. This afternoon Eugene delivered a further £495 which will be banked and sent on to Zambia. Thank you, Eugene and Karin, for everything that you do! You are both fantastic! x

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

Best wishes

Debbie

Parish Administrator

(Mon- Fri 9am - 3pm)

Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford

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