

A Message from Fr Peter

It's one of those things in life that we sometimes find difficult – “new beginnings”.

Often we feel that we've only just got used to something new and we have to change again – Cardinal St John Henry Newman said something to the effect that “*to change is to grow, to change often is to mature*”. When we look back we can see the different changes in our lives and sometimes find ourselves evaluating a past experience quite differently to how we thought at the time, hopefully for the better.

Change happens in Parishes as much as anywhere else in our lives so I have to announce that Fr Carlos is now leaving us after 3 years of being here. He will move to the parish of Highbury in north London at the end of October.

We are going to be joined by Fr Antonio Pineda who was ordained in 2018 and has been the assistant at Boreham Wood parish up till now.

I shall be sorry to lose Fr Carlos but am also excited that Fr Antonio will be coming to us.

Sadly, in the present situation, we will not be able to give Fr Carlos the usual Bishop's Stortford send off, but perhaps next year we might be able to celebrate with him. It may be that some of you would like to present Fr Carlos with a gift and, since he is away at the moment I can say this openly, we will be happy to receive any contributions towards such a gift. Please hand them in at the Sacristy or at church or to the Parish office or through the door at No 3 Windhill, and simply address them to “Fr Peter” with the letter ‘H’ after my name, thus - **Fr Peter H** that will be our secret code !!

Things this week have tightened up again with new government regulations – the government have recognized that churches are already Covid compliant and so we are allowed mostly to continue as we are, but it may have repercussions for our celebrations of First Holy Communion later this year – we are waiting for specific instructions from the Diocese and will let families know as soon as we receive news. There is no doubt that we must all continue to be vigilant and take our responsibilities to do so seriously.

And perhaps this is a good time to remind ourselves to keep all those who have the virus across the world very much in our prayers.

God bless,
Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 11th September 2020 and the Sunday Message on the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time from Fr Peter

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

Fri 9/11/2020 3:55 PM

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

 1 attachments (15 KB)

Sunday Message from Fr Peter on 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time.docx;

Good afternoon everyone

I hope that you are all well.

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Peter, which brings the news that very sadly, Fr Carlos will be leaving us at the end of October to become the Assistant Parish Priest in Highbury, North London. We have been very blessed indeed to have Fr Carlos in our parish for 3 years and will miss him very much. His vibrant sense of fun, his energy and strong work ethic entwined with pure kindness, love and faith is a truly winning combination. He also makes an excellent cup of tea! Having met Fr Antonio Pineda recently, who will be joining us from Borehamwood and who is an absolute delight, I know that we remain in very safe hands and that he will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Tea, has been a common theme for me this week, having been fortunate enough to spend a very nice afternoon at the Ritz in London last weekend in celebration of my daughter's 21st birthday. It was my second only visit there in 52 years and we were not disappointed. There were 18 different types of tea to choose from and we also enjoyed the precisely cut sandwiches and dainty cakes, not forgetting the sumptuous scones with cream and jam. The surroundings were beautiful and I could quite get used to supping my daily cuppa being accompanied by a harpist. It was a real treat! I have always enjoyed drinking tea and one of my earliest memories is of a rather snazzy green and silver tea caddy mounted on Mother's kitchen wall, surrounded by 1960's orange flowery wallpaper. Unfortunately, the space rocket shaped caddy used to drop loose tea leaves over our sleeping dog in her basket, if the button got stuck in, which it did quite often! In my last career, working 24/7 shifts, tea was routinely consumed by the gallon throughout the day and night. The newest member of the team had the laborious task of making the tea for the entire shift in a variety of assorted mugs and cups for a 6am start, with some colleagues being very particular about the strength of their tea and one even going to the extreme of supplying a Dulux paint chart to achieve the perfect brew. It could however be a hazardous job. One particular morning, I recall dramatically descending a whole flight of slippery, stone steps on my back, whilst carrying a heavy tea tray in front of the large crowd. Somehow and rather surprisingly, I managed not to spill a single drop or scald myself, being simply reminded by my nonchalant colleagues, that I had forgotten the biscuits!

NO MASS - There will unfortunately be no Mass on Monday 14th September 2020 at St Joseph's as Fr Peter, being Dean of the Lea Valley, will be at the Chrism Mass in Westminster Cathedral. The Mass which starts at 11.30am will be live streamed via www.churchservices.tv/westminster

HAND CRAFTED NATIVITY SET - We have kindly been sent the most wonderful hand knitted Nativity set created by a Lady called Jo from St Leonards on Sea, who is one of our 'On line' parishioners, for a charitable cause. The set will be donated to 'Across' so that valuable funds can be raised for their charity. A photo of the set can be found on our web site.

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 Tuesday

22nd September 2020 at 7.30pm and lasts approximately 1 hour. This is a change of date from 21st September as originally advertised.

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

MARRIED SINGLES LIFESTYLE –The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are living more like roommates. 'Retrouvaille' teaches couples how to survive times like these in their marriages. This programme has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulty at all levels of marital distress from disillusionment to deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work

For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 12th -15th Nov 2020, Call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 or Email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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 12 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!

CAFOD online meeting Saturday 19th Sept at 10am. All are welcome to join CAFOD online next Saturday 19th Sept from 1030 to 12. During the meeting you will hear from Maria Gonzales, head of international development. Maria will update you on how your support of CAFOD is helping poor communities overseas tackle even more challenges in light of the Coronavirus Crisis.

Email Tony Sheen: tsheen@cafod.org.uk for details of how to register. Please continue to pray for the communities we are working alongside overseas.

PARISHIONER OF THE WEEK - This week the award has to go to the very lovely Anita Forrest, one of our First Holy Communion Catechists and a very talented lady, who gave the most wonderful tribute at the Requiem Mass for Hahn Tran RIP on Tuesday. It was very heart felt and moving and beautifully read with such sincerity and love for the friendship and faith that their families shared together. Anita is always one of the first to offer her assistance and supported by her husband Darren, they are a fantastic team. Thank you, for everything that you do! x

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

email: bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford/>

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