

Parish Message for the 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

I remember that there was a film in 1994 produced by Disney called *Angels in the Outfield*. I actually remembered it because, in those times that you had two VCRs, you were able to record a film from Blockbuster into another tape. (Remember those times we had to press Record and Play to do so?)

Looking back now, I realise that it is truly a film that a child would enjoy, but as an adult you would perhaps question why you did so. I won't say much more just in case you are interested to see it after going through all the box sets on earth.

What is interesting about the film is the protagonist, Roger Bomman, a foster child whose only desire is to be with his father. When his father sarcastically mentions that they will be together if their local baseball team wins the pennant. So, Roger turns to God to help the team win in order to be reunited with his father.

You may think that this is completely ridiculous: How can God help a baseball team in order to help a child and father to be one again? But, were you a young child once? Do you remember when you would ask for something improbable in order to find some happiness? Just as the film uses angels to help this young man's request, so there are angels always to our aid.

This Friday the Church celebrated the memorial of the Guardian Angels. There is so much to believe when it comes to our Guardian Angels. It is not something that we believe as children and then forget as adults. They are there, one assigned to each of us, in order to help us experience God's protection in everything we do or say – fighting to ward off the powers of evil against us and safeguarding us in the path of holiness.

If today, you find yourself in either distress or relief, sorrow or joy, in tribulation or calm, or just need any help, call upon your angel and say to them anything you need – even if it is to wake up on time (I assure you ... I've done that as well).

The Guardian Angels, pray for us!

In Christ,

Fr. Carlos

Parish Note Friday 2nd October 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Carlos

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

Fri 10/2/2020 4:05 PM

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

 1 attachments (15 KB)

Parish Message for the 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time.docx;

Good afternoon everyone

I hope that you are all well.

Please find attached the Sunday Message for this week from Fr Carlos with a wonderful reminder about our own Guardian Angel. Today, the Church celebrates the memorial of 'The Holy Guardian Angels'.

Last weekend, was a trip back down 'memory lane' to Berkhamsted, a town in the south west of Hertfordshire affectionately known to locals as 'Berko' and a place that I called home thirty years ago when I first got married. Even though I am born and bred in 'Stortford', it was really nice to be back, although, the town, like many others, has changed, with lots of apartments having been squeezed onto tiny parcels of land and adorned with elaborate price tags. Returning back to the road where we had really scrimped and scraped every penny to buy a house (at a time when the interest rate was at a high 12%) felt quite strange. We laughed as we recalled how blessed we were to live on a hill, having to daily bump start the 'chuff-mobile', a really decrepit Vauxhall Chevette, which had one silver wing and dreadful leopard skin print covers holding the moth-eaten seats together. We had bought the car for about £50 from 'Del- Boy' and although being road legal, we used to have to drive it with the windows wound fully down in all-weathers to avoid breathing in the oily exhaust fumes which seemed to permeate the car.

We also enjoyed a very long nostalgic walk along the Grand Union Canal, admiring the boats, some with unusual names, navigating the locks and stopped for an impromptu picnic on a conveniently placed bench. Interestingly, Berkhamsted has a 30ft Canadian, red cedar totem pole adjacent to the canal. In the early 1960s, Roger Alsford, a great-grandson of the founder of the town's timber company, went to work at a lumber mill on Vancouver Island. It is said that during a strike, he was rescued from starvation by the local Kwakiutl community. Alsford's brother, visited the island, and in gratitude for the local people's hospitality, commissioned the totem pole from the Canadian First Nations artist Henry Hunt. The completed pole was shipped to Britain and erected at Alsford's Wharf in 1968.

A 'masked' evening walk along the High street ended our day, reminiscing about what shops used to be where, with the 'Blockbuster video store' now long gone along with the insurance agent who would sell you a policy with complimentary Grand national racing tips and the TV rental shop where we used to hire a telly, now a glitzy nail bar. It was comforting to see that the majority of the independent family firms had managed to keep afloat, being a familiar face to many and of course, Sacred Heart Catholic Church had not changed, continuing to be a much loved and integral part of the town..

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS- the family and friends of Derek Austin and Kevin Doherty who very sadly died this week.

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

QR CODE - We now have a 'QR code' displayed at St Joseph's for when you arrive at Mass, so that you can scan in using the NHS COVID-19 app on your mobile telephone. This is to help trace and stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). We will still have a paper copy of everyone who attends Mass which is securely kept for 21 days and then destroyed, as not everyone has a mobile telephone. It also helps us to easily allocate

pews. Places at Mass will still have to be booked by either the ' Events' page on the Parish web site or by calling the Parish Office.

ZAMBIA - following a further donation of £1000 to the St Lawrence Community in Zambia, Eugene and Karin Keddy from Most Holy Redeemer have received an email of thanks from Sister Angela...

Dear People of God.

Imagine, the whole week I was thinking about you, I really wanted to greet you but I was in Malawi where network was a challenge for me.

I remembered you in prayers. I had gone for retreat I have come back today. I am happy to hear from you.

It is sad that this virus is still with us. Here the number for the affected is big but the good news is most of the patients have recovered.

Thank you so much for the amount of money which has been sent. We appreciate greatly that during this hard time you have still found something for us. I say thank you May God bless your families.

*I will really put it in good project.
God Bless you abundantly.*

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: October 4 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.

PARISH GARDENING GROUP -Looking for a different form of exercise, socially distanced in the open air? This group meets once a month (March - November) for one hour only, to keep the surrounds of the WCC in reasonable order. The original group of five has been reduced to just three. A few more volunteers (not limited to age) would be most welcome as Cardinal's Walk also needs some attention on a regular basis. Please contact B/S 652060 for more information.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE NEWSPAPER - are offering a 1 yearly digital subscription for £20. Visit their website for more information
<https://thecatholicuniverse.com/>

HELP PROTECT BABIES WITH CLEFT LIP,CLEFT PALATE AND CLUB FOOT - Sadly, abortion is currently available in the UK, right up to birth, for babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot. All of these conditions can be corrected. A cross-party group of MPs from the three largest parties in the UK Parliament have come together

to bring forward the Abortion (Cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot) Bill. The Bill will change the law to clarify that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK.
Can you help with getting your MP to support the Bill? Please visit www.standupandsmile.org.uk to email your MP asking them to support the Bill. It only takes 30 seconds.

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

COMMUNITY MONEY ADVICE CONNECT - Worried about money and debts? Free, friendly and confidential help from trained money mentors for people living in the Bishop's Stortford area. Phone or email for an appointment or more information. Tel: 01279 652523 bsmoneyadvice@ntlworld.com or visit www.bs-money-advice-service.org.uk

CITIZENS ADVICE EAST HERTS -Whether it's advice on employment rights, benefit entitlements, money worries, housing concerns, relationship challenges, access to local support etc - we're here for you. Whilst our office are closed you can contact us for free and confidential advice in a number of ways. Call Message line anytime on 01920 459944 and one of our Advisors will call you back, or call our Herts Advice line(10am -4pm) Mon-Fri on 03444 111444. www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/webadvice or via Facebook Messenger at www.facebook.com/EastHertsCitizensAdvice

NOVENA TO ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI -Last chance to pray this novena during the Season of Creation, based on St Francis of Assisi's beautiful Canticle of the Sun. Our planet needs your prayers!

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Novena-to-St-Francis>

FRATELLI TUTTI- is the title Pope Francis has chosen for his encyclical letter dedicated to "human fraternity" and "social friendship" In English, it can be read as 'All Brothers', 'Brethren all' or 'Brothers and sisters all'. The first words of the new 'circular letter', or encyclical as we know it, come from St Francis of Assisi – whose name Pope Francis chose when he was elected in 2013. It takes its inspiration from St Francis' Admonitions 6 – Of the Imitation of the Lord. " Let us all, brothers, consider the Good Shepherd who to save His sheep bore the suffering of the Cross." When it has been published, some time on or after the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October, you will be able to read the encyclical and summary here.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/the-church/the-pope/pope-francis/fratelli-tutti/>

CENTENARY MASS (4th October) This year Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) is celebrating 100 years of its support to seafarers, fishers, and their families. To mark the beginning of our centenary year we will be holding a live-streamed Mass celebrated by Archbishop Philip Tartaglia of Glasgow. We would be most grateful if you could kindly invite your parishioners, through your parish newsletter and e-newsletter this coming weekend, to join us online to share in this very special celebration on Sunday 4th October 4th at 3pm. The Mass will be streamed live at www.stellamaris.org.uk/centenarymass We hope that you and some of your parishioners can join us online for this historic occasion.

FAMILY FAST DAY ON LINE MASS- Friday 9th October 6pm. You are invited to join CAFOD online this Friday 9th October in prayer for those affected by COVID 19 in developing countries and in thanksgiving for our supporters here in the UK. For further information see our web page <http://cafod.org.uk/fastday>

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week the award has to go to our fantastic team of Catechists along with Fr Carlos who have been working so hard behind the scenes to ensure that our Children will be celebrating their First Holy Communion at St Joseph's next Saturday 10th October.

Huge thanks to Alison Oliver, Anne Connolly, Anne Winship, Anita Forrest, Catherine Self, Clare Wright, Debbie Hourihan Dominic Tisi, Eileen Carling, George Brooks, Jacqui O'Sullivan, Julia Squibb, Kellie O'Dwyer, Lauren Squibb, Marie Pate, Mary Rose McCombes, Patricia Linney, & Sarah Silvester. Thank you! x

To finish for this week, I have added the prayer to our Guardian Angel, which is a really beautiful one...

Dear Guardian Angel, go for me to the Church, there kneel down at Mass for me. At the Offertory, take me to God, and offer Him my service: What I am, what I have, offer as my gift. At the Consecration, with your seraphic strength, adore my Saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me, and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all. During Holy Communion, bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus uniting Him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become His dwelling place. Plead with Him, that through His sacrifice all people throughout the world may be saved. When the Mass ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing. Amen.

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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