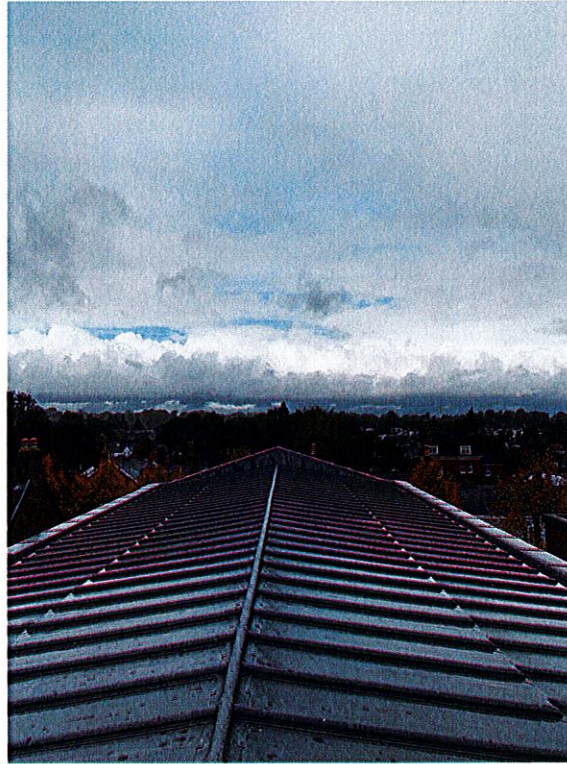


Sunday Message on 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time from Fr Peter



It is a sunny Autumn day as I sit in my study typing this. Yesterday it was raining and I thought it was supposed to today as well !?!? Why is the weather so changeable. Ask a weather forecaster I guess ! When I think of the changeability of the weather it always makes me think of our relationship with God, because, in the way that we chop and change, and our ability to be good and bad, often it seems for little reason, I have a feeling that God sees us a bit like we see the weather! "Oh", says God, "I see Fr Peter is being a bit rainy today, shame, I sent sunshine but Fr Peter seems to have changed it in his life today!"

How grateful I am, always, for God's patience with me – rain or shine. It gives me a spiritual "warm" feeling on every rainy day.

I went up to the Church roof yesterday and the sky was dark, but beautiful, so the person with me took a photo – here it is. It seemed to be just as beautiful as a sunny day, but different. I am glad that God sees me as beautiful even when I am "raining".

Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 9th October 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Fri 10/9/2020 4:51 PM

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

Good afternoon everyone

I hope that you are all well.

Please find attached the Sunday Message for this week from Fr Peter which contains a great photograph taken from the roof of St Joseph's Church. The message can also be found on the news section of our website.

With the long summer evenings now having come to an end and with the crisp autumnal days having seemingly arrived, the sudden yearning for a bowl of chocolate pudding with hot creamy custard became something of a domestic emergency this week! I decided to embark upon finding a recipe in one of my many cookbooks on display, which look fairly impressive, but hide the simple skills of a somewhat average cook with inflated 'bake off' intentions. Flicking through the thumbed culinary pages of Delia, Ainsley, Mrs Beaton, Jamie and not forgetting Nigella, I then came across a cook book that I had helped to create for St Joseph's School many years ago as part of a fundraising activity when on the School Association Committee. It brought back happy memories of sitting very late one night with lovely Denise Matthews, who helped to type up and arrange the recipes, quotes and pictures kindly donated by Children, Teachers and Parents ready for printing. We had contacted Nick Nairns, the Celebrity Chef who kindly sent in his recipe for 'Roasted vegetable flatbread pizza' and we had received a very special and tasty recipe from Canon Eddie RIP, accompanied by a short, personal and delightful note which we added to the book.

Having found the recipe that I was looking for, I started to get out my favourite mixing bowl and old-fashioned weighing scales with little brass weights, when disaster struck. I had run out of butter; my sparse bag of flour was lacking and there was a severe shortage of anything chocolate like in the house! Still craving a sugary blast, in desperation, I pulled out the contents of the back of a cupboard to see if I could find anything as a substitute. Hidden behind a giant bag of pasta shells, there was nothing suitable, but I did locate a square box containing a luxury, mature, boozy Christmas pudding- Bingo! That will do! Luckily it was one of those lazy puddings that rather than having to steam for hours, would easily fit into the microwave and within 8 minutes, the early festive October treat would be done. With my custard gently simmering on the hob, I re-read the front of my now, flattened, recyclable pudding box and to my horror I noticed that the expiry date said, best before 2017! When the microwave went 'ping', I carefully examined the pudding with a courtesy 'sniff test' and with no apparent mold, fluff or weevils present and now accompanied by 100-degree molten custard, decided to test my constitution and eat it(having first served it to my unsuspecting, significant 'taste testing' other, I might add!) Being even more 'mature' than intended, it was actually really tasty, having been safely preserved from the alcohol content within.

Apparently, the oldest Christmas pudding is 120+ years old and originated from the Boer war, having also been found in a family kitchen cupboard back in 2011 and is now on display in a museum in Portsmouth. Another one was reported to have been eaten dated 1969, which did make me feel a little bit better, although my cupboards have now had a thorough inspection with nothing else to report...

FR CARLOS - As we are sadly unable to give Fr Carlos a proper 'Farewell party' due to the current restrictions, Fr Carlos will be making himself available to say a socially distanced 'Cheerio' to Parishioners who may wish to individually drop by to speak with him at the following times and dates:

Saturday 17th October - Between 11am- 12pm - Most Holy Redeemer Church Car Park, Sawbridgeworth

Sunday 18th October - Between 3-4pm Holy Cross Church Yard, Much Hadham

Monday 19th October - Between 3pm-5pm at 3 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford

Thursday 22nd October - Between 3.30pm - 5.30pm at 3 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford

Fr Carlos leaves us on Sunday 25th October. We hope that we will be able to invite Father back for a 'proper' farewell next year, all being well.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2021-22 - If your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, you can apply for a Primary School place to start in September 2021. The application process opens **2nd November 2020** and closes on the **15th January 2021**. The school will be hosting an Open Day for parents applying for a Reception 2021 school place on Friday 23rd October, as well as remote meetings for prospective parents. To register for the Open Day or remote meeting, please see the school website or copy this link into your browser- <https://tinyurl.com/y6ybwgv7>

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE- Applicants for St Joseph's School for RECEPTION places in 2021/22 should download an application for a Certificate of Catholic Practice which can be found on our Parish website. Once completed it should then be posted through the letter box of No 3 Windhill marked for Fr Peter's attention **with a stamped addressed envelope please**. The Certificate will then be posted to you. No personal collection of the certificate is permitted. The School deadline is 15/1/2021

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 please by either the 'Events' page on the Parish web site or by calling the Parish Office.

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 11 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.

SCHOOL ESTATE OFFICER VACANCY AT ST MARY'S - Hay Scale M2 POINT 37 – 40 (£40,876 - £43,857)Full-time. We seek applications from those of the Catholic faith, all faiths and of no faith but who are supportive of our Christian values and ethos. The Governors of St Mary's Catholic School are looking for a highly skilled person to take the lead on all site matters. The successful candidate will line-manage the premises team and report to the Deputy Headteacher, Headteacher and Governors. This is an important role which includes responsibility for all premises, health and safety and site compliance and management. Closing date: Monday 9th November 2020 at 10 am.Interviews: Week Beginning 16th November 2020
Visit www.stmarys.net for more information

PRISONS WEEK - A week of Prayer 11- 17 October. United in lockdown and united in prayer www.prisonsworld.org

OCTOBER DEVOTION at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden. Sunday 11th October 7pm, Rosary, Homily – Br. Andrew Brookes OP, & Benediction. Music sung by the Shrine Singers: Ave Verum & Tantum Ergo – Faure, Laudate Dominum- Perosi, Salve Regina- Solemn Tone. Livestream on parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesden or on Facebook: Willesden Shrine.

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

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY- This week is CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at cafod.org.uk/give

You can also give easily via text. Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10. Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085.

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

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."

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/the-church/the-pope/pope-francis/fratelli-tutti/fratelli-tutti-long-summary-of-pope-franciss-social-encyclical/>

TIDY UP STORTFORD 'TUBS' - We are a group of volunteers who want to make Bishop's Stortford a tidier place. We provide volunteers with pickers, gloves and high vis jackets. Our next meeting is Saturday 7th November 2020 at the Meads and Sworders Field. Further info available from Ian Hudson on 07817 778870 <http://tubs.yolasite.com/>

SUNDAY WALKS - Bishop's Stortford and District Footpath Association - Departing at 10am 4/5/6 miles on 18th October 2020 from Thremhall Park, Start Hill BS CM27 7WE www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week the award has to go to our wonderful First Holy Communion Children. They have been so well behaved and patient whilst awaiting to receive the Blessed Sacrament for the very first time. Despite the restrictions and through the hard work, guidance and devotion of the Catechists, Fr Carlos and their Parents, they are ready to take this next step in their faith journey. We send our love and sincere prayers to each and every one of you and know that you will have a really joyful experience creating many lasting and wonderful memories on this special day.

The last words this week go to dearest Canon Eddie RIP and his recipe from the St Joseph's School cook book which he personally entitled, 'The Canon's Concluding Concoction' and humbly said, 'I am really rather better at putting a Waitrose curry in the microwave and opening a bottle of wine!'

'The Canon's Concluding Concoction'

4 small slices of white bread
1 bunch of watercress
2 ripe pears
6oz (175g) of Stilton cheese
freshly ground black pepper

Toast the slices of bread, trim off the crusts and put them in 4 individual ovenproof dishes.

Spread some watercress evenly over each slice.

Peel and core the pears, cut them in thin slices and arrange them on top of the watercress.

Slice the Stilton and cover the pears with it.

Put the savouries into a moderate oven (350F, 180C, mark 4) and cook for about 5 minutes until the cheese has melted.

Grind a little black pepper and serve hot.

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

email: bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

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

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

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