

Parish Message for the 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am afraid to say that this is the end – it is the last weekend here in the parish.

As I finish tying loose ends in the office and presbytery, I have had the opportunity to reflect in the past three years in Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth, and Much Hadham. I remember coming in, fresh off the Cathedral floor, ruddy behind the ears. I'm sure that you too were worried. You just had Fr. Fortunato serving here for two years, and then, gone. A 27 year-old-priest was on his way.

But then we hit it off altogether. Sure, it took some time. Perhaps I was serious looking and unpredictable; but, as many of you have mentioned, we met each other at ground level. You encountered a priest who can reach to you, can make mistakes, and can have a sense of humour – in short, you found a human priest.

And in discovering this human priest, you encountered one who can approach and speak to. The visitations to your houses were a great resource for me, as I got to know you and your families better. Some of you managed to catch a glimpse of my dance moves at parties. Perhaps you enjoyed 'Soaking the Father' at the Summer Fair, promenading at the Barn Dance last year, or listening me to ask questions during the Quiz Nights.

I often think what constitutes the mission of the priest. Is it the theology he has learned, the liturgy that he practices, or the projects he carries out? Sure, these things make the characteristics of each priest, but that is not the mission. I believe the mission is simple: to be present for his people. To be present does not necessarily mean that he agrees all the time: his duty is to counsel, warn, and even admonish at times; but the presence of a lending ear and union of his formation and experience helps a parishioner know that a priest is not someone who lives on a different plane from everybody else, but lives in the same world as his people do. Speaking with you in the past few weeks, I believe that I have completed my mission of service in the Parish.

As you know very well, no priest is perfect. Therefore, I ask for your forgiveness for my weaknesses, misgivings, or even moments that I have caused you any inconvenience – moments in which I may have not been charitable or just plain old harsh. I hope you have accepted a 30-year-old, hot-blooded, American for who he is.

I think you can agree with me: I did not expect my first three years of ministry to happen the way it did. Obviously, I cannot have served you with the best of my ability with your help. I cannot forget to offer my gratitude firstly to Fr. Peter and to Debbie. Fr. Peter has helped me to embrace the beginnings of priestly ministry – to go all out and enjoy it and to embrace the many pastoral responsibilities that a Parish holds.

Debbie can best be described not only as a fountain of great resources but also a lending ear. I owe my gratitude to them in helping me in these past three years.

The list to thank is exhaustive, but I take an opportunity to offer my gratitude for the many people who have helped in one way or another in the past three years. I thank the Parish Council, Church Committees, and Financial Committee for their support in the development of all three Churches. I thank those who have helped me in the preparation for Baptism, First Reconciliation and Communion, and the RCIA Programmes. Many thanks to those who helped me to reach out the housebound and those in care homes. Thanks to those who help clean the Churches, prepare the flowers, and organise the music and service at the altar. Many thanks to Bishop's Stortford Across for the two pilgrimages we enjoyed and even to those who signed up for the Holy Land Pilgrimage. Many thanks to the staff and students at St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Schools for allowing me to serve their pastoral needs.

Finally, I thank each and every one of you, both present here today and even those who have now gone before us. It has been a pleasure to see those of you who have passed by to say goodbye. Many thanks for the trinkets that you have left behind for me to enjoy. But I ask you for the greatest gift – pray for me that I may continue to be faithful in the Lord's vineyard I set off to pasture's new in Highbury. I am sure that some of you are sore about my new appointment because it is in Gunners' territory... I'll do my best to not to let that interfere with my ministry.

As I now end this message (or should we say, letter), let us all remember the Law that Christ reminds the Pharisee in this Sunday's Gospel: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind ... [and] your neighbour as yourself.'

For the last time:
In Christ,
Fr. Carlos

P.S.: Here are the details of my new parish:
St. Joan of Arc
60 Highbury Park
London
N5 2XH

Landline: 02072 260 257

Parish Note Friday 23rd October 2020 and the last Sunday Message from Fr Carlos

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

Fri 10/23/2020 2:58 PM

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

 1 attachments (17 KB)

Message for 30 Sunday of OT.docx;

Good afternoon everyone.

Please find attached the very last Sunday message from Fr Carlos, who we shall miss very much. He has been a joyous, faithful ray of sunshine and I know that he will make a very big impression on the Parish of Highbury. Father leaves this Sunday after Mass, so if you have not yet managed to say 'Goodbye' to him, he will be outside St Joseph's Church after the 9am Mass (between 9.30am - 10.30am). We send our sincere love and prayers to Fr Carlos and hope very much to welcome him back to Bishop's Stortford for a ' proper' farewell party, when we are once again permitted to do so.

We shall present Father with a gift from the whole Parish at the end of the Sunday 9am Mass. The Parishioners at Most Holy Redeemer have created a rendition of ' New York, New York' aka ' Carlos, Carlos', organised by Alan and Clare Hodgson and edited beautifully by their son John. Considering that every track was recorded individually, with not even the piano and drums being played together in the same room; it really is an excellent result!

Please click on the link below and enjoy, ' Carlos, Carlos'.. so much better than the original version!

<https://youtu.be/ppS-VYtDiJY>

With the official end of the British Summer Time, the clocks go back this Sunday at 2am and it's always one of those times in the year when I find myself saying, 'Spring forward, fall back' to remind myself that I'm going in the right direction. It's one of the good changes however, as you supposedly 'gain' an extra hour in bed, but if you are an early bird like me, it feels quite nice to smugly get up and make good use of an additional 60 minutes. Having worked over 25 years' worth of night shifts in my former career, it was always a teeny bit annoying if your shift pattern fell on this date, as you had to rewind the clock and re- work the extra hour, with my early shift colleagues coming in bright and breezy and refreshed from their additional hour of 'shut eye'. There was however always at least one person, often the same person every year, who despite the countless reminders, had forgotten to set their clock and so came in the extra hour early, much to their annoyance and the amusement of all. It's also the time of year when I have to remember how to reset the digital clock on my cooker and also the one in the car without having to either find or re 'download' the lengthy instruction manual from the internet in order to do so!

My online research tells me that the idea of summer time or daylight-saving time was mentioned in 1784 by Benjamin Franklin, the American inventor, scientist and statesman. However, it wasn't until 1907 that a serious proposal for daylight saving time was made in Britain by William Willett. Angry at the waste of daylight during summer mornings, he self-published a pamphlet called "The Waste of Daylight".

In 1916, a year after Willett's death, Germany became the first country to adopt daylight saving time. The UK did the same a few weeks later, along with many other nations involved in the First World War. During the Second World War, British Double Summer Time - two hours in advance of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) - was temporarily introduced for the period when ordinary daylight saving would be in force. During the winter, clocks were kept one hour in advance of GMT to increase productivity.

Within a few years of its introduction, many countries across the world adopted Daylight Saving Time. However, the benefits of it have been an ongoing debate since it was first introduced.

So, what could you do with your extra hour this weekend.? after all, time is very precious and every second counts..

CONGRATULATIONS- to Juliette and Robert who will be marrying at St Joseph's tomorrow. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they embark upon their new married life together. They are the first of our couples to marry under the new COVID-19 restrictions which has reduced guest numbers at a wedding to only 15 people including the Bride and Groom. They are a delightful couple who despite so many enforced changes have taken everything calmly in their stride. We wish them every happiness and hope that they have a wonderful day.

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**.

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 and Holy Cross 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 25 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.

THE BIBLE TIMELINE COURSE - an online version of the course will be running from 4th November. It's free, and will be presented by London-based evangelist Mauro Iannicelli. Further details and registration can be found here: <https://comeandsee.org>

NOVEMBER LIST - This year, for the month of Holy Souls in November, we will still intend to have a Parish Remembrance book at St Joseph's, however this year we will scan all of the pages and upload to our web site for view. If you would like the names of your deceased relatives added, please email your list of names to bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk or alternatively drop a note containing the names of your loved ones through the door of 3, Windhill please.

HOLY CROSS - This Sunday 25th October 2020 at 5pm Mass will again be celebrated at Holy Cross. There are only 32 single seats (16 pews holding 2 persons socially distanced) available and booking is therefore required. This can be done either by calling the Parish Office (Mon- Fri 9am -3pm) or visiting the ' Events' page on our web site where you can book up to 2 seats. For Families of more than 2 persons, please call the Office and you will be allocated a whole pew for your family where possible. Mass dates are bookable 10 days in advance.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY and this year, more than ever, Catholics are being encouraged to pray for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary to bring a strengthening of faith to our lands in the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Several Catholic churches and cathedrals across England and Wales are taking part in a national rosary mission titled 'Rosary Whirlwind British Isles'. Our Lady's Shrine in Walsingham, the national shrine, is one of the co-hosts. You can pray the rosary online every evening in October at 8pm – broadcast live by a different Marian Shrine, cathedral or parish. Visit Walsingham's website for further details: <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/>

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales are leading from the front by taking part in a unique 12-hour prayer event on All Hallows Eve, 31 October, called the 'National Rosary Relay Rally'. From 9am to 9pm, many of our bishops are praying a Rosary Holy Hour for their dioceses – either from their Cathedrals or private chapels.

Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us.

THANK YOU - to our fabulous team of volunteer Stewards and Cleaners who continue to daily help to keep our Churches clean and safe for our Parishioners attending Mass. We have just invested in a new fogging machine for sanitising the Church which should hopefully arrive soon and make cleaning a little easier.

PROPERTY AVAILABLE - A 3 Bedroom detached caretaker's house, fully refurbished over the summer, is available now on the St Ignatius School Site in Enfield to let to a keyworker with a DBS. Located on Turkey Street, EN1 4NP for £1600 pcm with car parking space available. For further information, contact Jackie O'Brien at 01992 717835

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

PARTTIME JOB OPPORTUNITY AT SVP NATIONAL OFFICE Working Hours =15 hours per week. Contract = One-year initial fixed term Salary = £23,827 FTE (pro rata, 15 hours per week) excl. London Weighting Benefits Package = 33 days holiday (pro rata), pension scheme, birthday day off. Closing Date for Applications: 5pm on 6th November
If you have any further questions please contact Mark Warwick on 07774 255251

JOURNEYING WITH THE BIBLE - Now online, Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz PhD and Sr Monica Cardona PhD are running a series of talks for the Year of the Word on the Bible. The next date and topic is Poetry & Wisdom in the Bible on 10th November from 7pm to 8.30pm. Please register at catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

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

A SMALL ORGAN AND TWO ELECTRIC PIANOS available to good homes in exchange for a donation to St James Church Thorley. Buyer to arrange own transport to collect.
Contact Pippa Roy-Chowdhury philippa_roychowdhury@hotmail.com

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

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/>

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week the award has to go to our lovely RCIA Candidates Anisia, Anabela, Laura and Steven who were received and confirmed into the Catholic faith on Thursday, with due credit also to be given to their families, who have supported them along their journey of faith with our Catechists and Fr Carlos. We thank you for your commitment and warmly welcome you to the parish!

The last word goes to Fr Carlos.. Thank you for simply being 'YOU'. You are a wonderful Priest who we love very much. We shall miss your Homilies, your singing (!), your dance moves, your mischievous sense of fun, your friendship, your tea making skills, your time keeping(!), your youthful energy, your knowledge, your kindness, your flags(!), your faithful inspiration, your pastoral leadership and devoted commitment to serving God and each and every one of us here in the Parish and beyond. Thank you, Fr Carlos. We shall keep you very much in our thoughts and prayers and look forward to welcoming you back for a 'proper' farewell party. May God bless you and keep you safe.

P.S. Don't forget to put your clock back! xx

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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