

The Sunday Message from Fr Peter for All Saints Day – Sunday 1st November 2020

Fr Antonio has just arrived, luckily with others to carry his things up to the second floor! It made me reflect on new beginnings....

I THINK I remember starting secondary school. I do remember that for the first year we had to wear shorts, 'cos we were the juniors!



Then it was long trousers.... A blazer and a cap made us smart we thought.

I remember going for my first job interview – and I got the job.. in publishing, in a Company on the edge of the old Covent Garden. I thought I was the bee's knees; my Mum bought me a suit and a hat (with a tiny feather in the hat band) – all from Dunne and Co... Out of my £10 a week I paid my daily train fares up and down to Waterloo from Epsom, bought lunch in the tiny subsidized canteen and paid my Mum £5. The wages came round every Friday in little brown envelopes with a pay slip, all in cash.

I remember starting my first teaching job – I loved it and made great friends amongst the teaching staff; and then a few years later applying for a Head of Dept at another school and thinking how much I would miss my friends, (just like going from junior to senior school...)
Of course it was the same when I became a priest and found myself moving Parishes on each of the four times I have done so...

AND YET.... each time the good Lord looked after me and each time I was very sad moving on. Let's all pray that just the same is true for Fr Antonio now that he is amongst us, and lets have a sneaking aspiration that when he does come to move on, he'll miss us more than the others !!!

Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 30th October 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter for Sunday 1st November - All Saints Day

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

Fri 10/30/2020 4:53 PM

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

 2 attachments (110 KB)

Update on Parish Finances.docx; The Sunday Message from Fr Peter for All Saints Day.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Peter which has the most delightful photograph of Father in his younger days, although he does not appear to have changed much! This can also be found on our web site under the 'News' section. This weekend we are very blessed and thankful to warmly welcome Fr Antonio Pineda to the parish, as our new Assistant Priest. Please keep Fr Antonio in your prayers as he finds his way around and starts his ministry with us and also Fr Peter who continues to work tirelessly to support and guide us at this time.

Over the past few days in particular, it has been wonderful to see the changing colours of the leaves on the trees, with their beautiful golden, russet and orange tones, gently dropping to create a sumptuous carpet underfoot. This time of year, strangely enough, when the clocks have gone back and with the darker evenings drawing in, always makes me happily reminisce about.. 'Tortoises'!

In the early 1970's as a young child, I have a very vivid memory of being on a train with my Mother, travelling on the line from London to Cambridge and standing in the Guards carriage. This was due to the fact that Mum had a cargo of my then, baby sister who was asleep in her large Silver cross pram. It had enormous wheels and a bouncy suspension, being the 'monster truck' of perambulators at that time. The train came to an abrupt sudden halt and the guard opened the door and jumped out, jogging up the train track. We didn't know what had happened, but a few minutes later, he came back, a little puffed out, carrying a big wad of crumpled up newspaper, which he proceeded to unceremoniously plonk onto the top of the prized pram, saying 'Here you are Missus!' I recall my Mother not being too impressed at the time about the inky package bestowed upon her and trying to politely decline the kind offer, as upon closer inspection, it contained, a tortoise! Apparently, it had been walking up the train track when the driver spotted it. The 'pester power' of said child, then came in to play and so my Mother with two children and a tortoise now in tow, having failed to find the rightful owner, despite several later attempts, allowed us to eventually keep him.

We named him 'Smiley' as he had a huge, wide, grinning mouth which could devour a gem lettuce in a couple of gulps and adorable, happy, twinkly button eyes. As the weather got colder and with the leaves falling, Smiley would hibernate, in a special box which we would fill with hay (and a dolls blanket!) accompanied by a kiss goodnight, a comforting pat of his shell and off to sleep he would go at the back of the warm cupboard until springtime.

Tortoises are the longest-living land animals in the world, although the longest-living species of tortoise is a matter of debate. Galápagos tortoises are noted to live over 150 years. In general, most tortoise species can live 80–150 years. 'Timothy', a female spur-thighed tortoise, lived to be about 165 years old and for 38 years, she was carried as a mascot aboard various ships in Britain's Royal Navy. Up to the time of her death in 2004, she was believed to be the United Kingdom's oldest resident!

The COVID-19 lockdown restrictions have caused an enforced physical 'human hibernation' to a certain degree, with many of those in at risk categories and in level 3 areas still being confined to the safety of their 'homely shells'. Some people have been fortunate and able to venture out, despite feeling anxious and it has

therefore been really wonderful to especially welcome back those Parishioners for Mass, some for the first time in many months. Our Volunteers work really hard to keep our Churches a safe place with stringent daily cleaning, track and trace, hand sanitisers, masks and allocation of seating. We are also blessed to have a live stream facility which keeps those physically unable to attend, connected. In the face of adversity and despite real difficulty, our Catholic faith is something which has not and will not be put into 'spiritual hibernation'... in fact, it only becomes stronger.

FR CARLOS - Last weekend , we said ' Farewell' to Fr Carlos and presented him with cards and gifts from the Parish as he left for St Joan of Arc in Highbury. This particular Church also has 'livestreaming recording of Mass', so, I am certain that Fr Carlos will continue to be 'monitored' via a variety of different iPads and laptops by many. Thank you to everyone who contributed. A wonderful photograph was taken by Bernadette Laws of the presentation at Mass, which she has kindly shared with us and can be found on our website. Please continue to keep Fr Carlos in your prayers.

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.

SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION -Next weekend is the annual collection for sick and retired priests in the Diocese of Westminster. There are more than 80 sick and retired priests who receive support after a lifetime of service to their parishes. By 2025 the number of priests in retirement is set to double.

Most priests offer their resignation as a parish priest at the age of 75, but many continue to serve in our parishes, schools, hospices, and hospitals. At this time, they are dependent on the Diocese for their care – for essentials like housing, any health needs and other essentials.

These priests have baptised us. They have welcomed us, and our families, into the Church. They have counselled us at times of crisis, sat with us through grief and sorrow, and shared in times of joy. They have given to us all and now, in their old age or sickness, they need us to give back.

By giving to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can ensure our priests are cared for. You can take a donation envelope as you leave Church today, but the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online, reducing the risks to everyone of handling cash or touching the envelopes. Please continue to pray for all our clergy: active, retired or ill. Thank you.

ALL SOULS CAFOD MEMORIAL MASS – online Monday 2 November, 6pm-7pm. This year's CAFOD Memorial Mass for deceased supporters can be joined online on Monday 2nd November at 6pm. Mass will be celebrated by CAFOD's Chair of Trustees, Bishop John Arnold, with music, readings and prayers from CAFOD staff and supporters from around the world.

Register at <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021 REMINDER MEETING - For those Parents who have already registered their Child and received an email from the First Holy Communion Catechist Leader Marie Pate, the first session on the 14th November 2020 at 10am and 11.30am in St Joseph's Church will be to introduce you and your child to our team of Catechists, to start off the programme and will give you the opportunity to ask any questions. We look forward to going on this journey with you and your child.

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

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: November 1 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>

HOLY CROSS -This Sunday 1st November 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. It has been great to see so many Parishioners back at Mass- we have missed you!

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

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE - A meeting was held on 27th October 2020 to discuss the Parish finances. An update report has been attached to this email from Mike Carroll, our Finance Chair for your 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/>

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES -There will be no 'Cards for Good Causes' presence in Bishop's Stortford this year. The Water Lane United Reformed Church has reached the difficult decision that they could not offer the space again this year. St Joseph's J & P group are normally part of the volunteer group which help with this charity, through Christian Aid. Gifts and cards can be purchased online
<https://www.cardsforcharity.co.uk>

REDEMPTORIST PUBLICATION ADVENT EXTRA MAGAZINE - The distribution of the Advent Extra magazine cannot be sold from Churches this year. Copies can be bought from Redemptorist Publication online.

CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL - Each December our Supporters generously donate food and Christmas gifts which we distribute to disadvantaged families. This year we would be very grateful if you could donate gift vouchers instead. This will ensure we can continue to provide this vital support for children who would otherwise go without at Christmas. www.cathchild.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 is 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 Pip Jones, a valued and committed member of our Parish Finance Committee, who, with a long career in banking, is a great asset to the team. Pip is a regular collection 'counter' and has been on hand every week, even at short notice to give her time and help balance the books. Pip is a much-loved member of the Choir at St Joseph's and she also makes an excellent carrot cake! Thank you very much Pip especially for your help and support over the past few months - You are a star! x

The final word this week goes to the very talented Veronica Taylor, who kindly sent in a wonderful, uplifting poem entitled ' Autumn', having been inspired by Fr Peter's recent Homily.. Thank you, Veronica!

Autumn

*Season of shopping lists and fellow helpfulness
The season has changed and autumn is here
The days grow shorter and the darkness draws near
The invisible foe is still out there too
Restricting our freedom in all that we do
Let's not descend though into a mood of despair
There is plenty of light we can shine everywhere
A shopping trip, an email, a phone call or two
A hello to a neighbour or a what can I do ?
So, while the light is dimming and the leaves are carpeting the ground
We must keep our candle burning and shine some light all around
To everything there is a season and each season has its hue
So, radiate the light, it will bring autumn joy to you*

Veronica Taylor

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

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

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