

*Introducing Fr Antonio Pineda...*

It is unfortunate that I arrived in Bishop's Stortford just a week before the national lockdown kicked in. It meant that I got the chance to meet just a few of the parishioners before, once again, we were told to "stay at home and save lives". But I can at least introduce myself now in the newsletter and on the website.

My name is Fr Antonio Pineda, born a Filipino and bred a Londoner. I moved from the Philippines to England when I was very young and I did most of my "growing up" in Greenford, west London. I had a sense of being called to the priesthood from a very young age but, because I wanted to experience the world first, I did not think seriously about applying to enter seminary until I was in my late 30s. I was sent to Rome for my priestly training and I was there for seven years. I was ordained in July 2018 in my home parish of St George's Church in Sudbury, Wembley. My first parish assignment was Borehamwood where I stayed for two years until Cardinal Vincent sent me here in your lovely parish in Bishop's Stortford.

When I am not doing priestly things like praying or celebrating Mass, I turn to my hobbies to keep me inspired. These include books, both reading and collecting them. I am particularly into the classics and fantasy fiction. I like to escape to Narnia and Middle-Earth now and again! I also love IT. I enjoy using technology to make life easier and/or more enjoyable. I love being creative with my computer by designing websites and publications as well as editing photos and videos.

Before entering seminary, I had media related jobs including a communications officer for the Royal College of Nursing and a website editor for Brunel University.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know all of you and serving the parish. Please be assured of my prayers and I ask that you pray for me too as I begin my ministry in Bishop's Stortford

In Christ,  
*Fr Antonio*

## Parish Note Friday 6th November 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio Pineda

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

Fri 11/6/2020 4:07 PM

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

 2 attachments (101 KB)

Introducing Fr Antonio.docx; 201105 Cardinal's letter - Coronavirus restrictions.pdf;

Good afternoon

Please find attached a lovely welcome message from Fr Antonio Pineda, our new Assistant Priest, which can also be found on the news section of our web site. Fr Antonio comes to us from Borehamwood parish and as you will read, has casually mentioned that his hobbies include IT and creating websites, so, I have wasted no time at all in seeking assistance from him for an upgrade to the format of our current parish website!! The Borehamwood website designed by Fr Antonio is superb, so I am very hopeful for good things ahead..

Also attached is a letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols, as we enter a second lock down, with the unfortunate loss of the communal celebration of Mass.

Yesterday, in the quiet stillness of the late afternoon and with the light gently fading, I installed on the pews of St Joseph's our eight seated Silhouettes from the 'There but not there' WW1 project, representing the eight young men from our parish who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Each silhouette has a remembrance poppy and a glass block engraved with their name. Unlike previous years, having researched the men, I now have a better understanding of who they were, where they lived, how they died and for a few, having a photograph, to see what they actually looked like. It was also wonderful to be in the position to track down their relatives, the first being a member of the Birdseye family, who just happened to watch our live streaming during the first lockdown and contacted us via email, to thank Fr Peter. Our website has since been updated with information on these men( see link below)

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford/parishioners-of-the-past/>

Knowing that we are not currently permitted to attend Mass ourselves, it felt calmly reassuring to know that there would still continue to be a united 'physical' presence within the Church and that our eight past parishioners would once again be representing us...

### UPDATE RE THE NEW LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

Unfortunately, due to the further COVID-19 restrictions and lockdown, we are **no longer able to gather for public worship from Thursday 5th November until 2nd December 2020** however...

Fr Peter and Fr Antonio Mass will continue to celebrate a daily and weekend Parish Mass at St Joseph's behind 'closed doors' albeit without a physical congregation being present. Mass will be live streamed on <http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford> so please do join us 'virtually'. **Regrettably Mass will not be celebrated at Holy Cross or Most Holy Redeemer.**

### Mass Times at St Joseph's via the live streaming

Monday- Friday Mass will be broadcast live at 9.30am

Saturday Vigil Mass will be broadcast live at 6pm

Sunday Mass will be broadcast live at 9am and at 11am with music and Cantor.

All of the Masses will be recorded and can be viewed at any time after the time of broadcast.

We hope to open St Joseph and the English Martyrs Catholic Church and Holy Cross for private prayer, **initially during restricted hours to start with, which may be subject to change.**

A Steward/s will be in attendance to ensure that our Churches continue to remain COVID secure. Please observe the social distancing measures in place, using hand sanitiser and wearing a face covering ( unless exempt) when visiting the Church. We ask you to respect also the capacity limits of 38 individual persons from separate households at any one time at St Josephs and 32 persons at Holy Cross. **Our track and trace measures will continue, but there is no requirement to book a place for private prayer at this time.** We have a QR Code on display already for those with a phone app or we will politely ask for your name and contact details upon arrival, so that individuals can be notified in the event of any suspected Covid-19 case.

Your details will be securely kept for 21 days to enable us to provide details to the trace & test system should an outbreak occur.

Full details of the Privacy Notice can be found at <http://www.rcdow.org.uk/privacy-policy>.

#### **PRIVATE PRAYER TIME AT HOLY CROSS**

Sunday 8th November between 2.30pm – 4.30pm

#### **PRIVATE PRAYER TIME AT ST JOSEPH'S**

Monday 9th November- 10am -10.30am

Tuesday 10th November- 8.30am-9am

Wednesday 11th November- 8.30am-9am

Thursday 12th November -8.30am-9am

Friday 13th November- 10am -10.30am

**Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church is NOT open for private prayer currently**

Thank you for your patience, prayers and understanding at this time.

**WELCOME** - We are very pleased indeed to announce that Sophie Sullivan has been employed as a Catechetical Coordinator for the parish. Sophie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this role and will be working



closely with our Catechists. It is great to have her back in the parish with her lovely family, having recently returned from their stay in Zimbabwe.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS** - the family and friends of Peter Fernandes RIP who sadly died on Wednesday.

*Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen*

**NOVEMBER LIST** - This year, for the month of Holy Souls in November, we still 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](mailto: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** -This 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 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 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 donate online via <https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/sick-and-retired-priests-fund/>

Please continue to pray for all our clergy: active, retired or ill. Thank you.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021 MEETING** - Unfortunately, there will be a delay to the start of the programme until January due to the new lockdown, so, the date of the First Holy Communion session is currently planned for Saturday 9th January 2021

**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 still continues this week . Thank you to everyone who continues to generously give 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 8 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>

**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](http://www.stmarys.net) for more information

**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](mailto: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](http://www.cathchild.org.uk)

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** - Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian international relief organisation. Our mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own



communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We ship these simple gifts outside the United Kingdom to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>

This year, alternatively, you can pack and pay for an 'online shoebox' via the samaritans purse web site and they will fill it on your behalf.

**FOOD BANK REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR** - I'm sure many of you will have heard about a 'reverse advent calendar' – where you donate an item to a charity or a Foodbank in the lead up to Christmas. This is something the Food bank are really excited about doing...however they are going to start this from 1st November.

There are a few reasons for this...

1. If you collect all your wonderful donations throughout December and then come to donate to them on Christmas Eve...they won't be there and they wouldn't want all your hard work to go to waste.
2. They actually need your donations at the beginning of December, allowing time to sort, organise and donate them to who they need to go to.

So, with this in mind, they have put together a plan for November! This is just to give you a rough idea of the kind of items that they would love to receive. You do not need to stick to this list at all. So, grab a box and each day over the next month see if you can fill it with 24 items. See our web site for more details or visit the Foodbank Facebook page.

They will be putting a reminder out every day of what could be put in the Reverse Advent Calendar on their Facebook page <https://m.facebook.com/bsfoodbank/photos/a.1322254567921267/2361008490712531/?type=3&source=57>

**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](mailto:bsmoneyadvice@ntlworld.com) or visit [www.bs-money-advice-service.org.uk](http://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](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/webadvice) or via Facebook Messenger at [www.facebook.com/EastHertsCitizensAdvi](https://www.facebook.com/EastHertsCitizensAdvi)

**PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK** - This week we remember and give thanks for all past Priests and Parishioners from our three Churches, some, whom we may never have met, but who lived their faith despite facing adversity and restrictions. We also remember past loved ones and friends, being grateful for the positive difference that they continue to make in our own lives today.

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

The last word this week actually goes to dear Fr Michael McGreevy CSSR, who wrote the editorial for issue number 20 of the Parish magazine back in November 1984 ( thank you to Astrid Davies, our former Editor, for kindly giving me a pile of magazines for safe keeping in the archives - they will be well looked after and re-visited!)

*'November can be a bit depressing sometimes, with the damp days and shorter evenings and the news as bad as ever.. maybe worse. So, it is good to look forward to Advent and Christmas just round the corner. And the Church makes sure we start cheerfully with the Feast of All Saints - when you are feeling low, all you have to do is think of this great family you belong to and there is sure to be somebody there to cheer you up. God is very good'.*

Michael A McGreevy C.S.S.R  
The Monastery

I hope that you 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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Holy Cross, at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham  
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*<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford/>*

*Follow our Live streaming on [www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)*

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