





# The 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*  
Parish Priest: Fr Peter Harris • Assistant Priest: Fr Carlos Quito

Parish Office: Windhill Churches Centre, 1st Floor • 10am - 3pm Monday to Friday  
Postal Address: 3 Windhill, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 2ND  
Tel: 01279 654063 • Email: [bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford>  
Live streaming from St Joseph's: [www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)  
Diocese of Westminster Charity No. 233699

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**

9am Mass Andy Moloney & Joseph Stehl RIP  
11am Mass Barbara Colbenson RIP  
6pm Mass Mary Graham-Watson RIP

**Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth):**

9.00 am Mass – Niall Sweeney RIP

**Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):**

11.15 am Mass – People of the Parish

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Advent feria**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30 am Mass – Teresa O'Hara RIP

11am Funeral Service – James Stanley Attew RIP

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Advent feria**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am- Mass – Special Intention for the Napier Family

1pm – Marriage – Oliver Yao King- Gadekah & Onyebuchi Ijeoma Kenechukwu Alexandra Mottoh

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Advent feria**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am- Mass – Patrick Allen RIP

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December – St Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am- Mass – Betty Bell RIP

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Advent feria**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am- Mass – Mr Octu RIP

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – St John of Kanty, Priest**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

5pm- 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Sacrament of Reconciliation

6pm Mass – Private Thanksgiving



**Mass requests**

**\*MASS INTENTIONS\*** – Please be aware that all weekend and week day Mass intentions have now been booked for the remainder of the year at St Josephs. There is availability at Holy Cross and Most Holy Redeemer.

Please call the office to have your loved one remembered in our Bidding prayers



**ST JOSEPH'S GIVING TREE 2017** -We are supporting the St Francis Catholic Family Centre in East London again this year by providing Christmas presents for the children they support. You will find the 'Giving Tree' on the Magellans' side Altar with all of the information you need on how to help. If you have any queries or offers of help with the organisation please contact Mandy Gregory 07985 111 235

**FOODBANK** - All 3 churches are collecting for the Foodbank from now until New Year. Please leave donations in the cupboard / boxes at the back of the churches where you will also find a list of most wanted items. Thank you.

**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE**-Applicants for Reception Schools in 2018 may like to collect a pink coloured application form for a certificate. Collect from No 3 Windhill or the Parish Office in person. Once completed it should then be posted through the letter box of number 3 Windhill marked for Father Peter's attention **with a stamped addressed envelope please**. The certificate will be posted to you. **St Joseph's School has asked us to inform prospective applicants that the number of places available in Reception for 2018-19 has increased from 45 to 60.**

**DO YOU SUPPORT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

**VINNIE PACKS** -The SVP are distributing **12,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack. Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to 'SVP'. Thank you.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** -The PPC wish to invite you (or even urge you!) to join them at a **'Not the New Year' Gathering on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018 from 7-8.30pm** in the Parish Centre. Drinks and light refreshments will be served so put the date in your diary NOW and come along to find out what's been happening and influence what's planned. Catch up with fellow parishioners and strengthen the connections across our parish community.

*'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice.'*



**YOU CAN HELP** to herald the Christmas Good News ... by volunteering for a Churches Together Christmas card delivery round (approx. 85 letter boxes). The cards list the Christmas services of all the Stortford churches. Simply go to the St Joseph's information area, choose your round and sign for it on the sheet on the counter top, then take the *corresponding* map and card pack (lettered A to K) from the adjacent cardboard box.

**URGENT HELP REQUIRED as Company at Christmas needs a cook!** They have three, but need a fourth – could you or someone you know, help? (Full instructions provided!) Speak to Mione on 656634. We also still need drivers taking out about 45 meals to the housebound, and bringing some 60 elderly people to the hall. Could you spare an hour around midday on Christmas Day, and/or 45 minutes at 5pm, to ensure that the transport for the day goes smoothly? Please speak to Frieda for further details (507138 or [4friedawilson@gmail.com](mailto:4friedawilson@gmail.com)).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE NIGHT SHELTER**- The winter Night Shelter is now open at Holy Trinity Church Hall supported by Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford.. If you feel you might like to volunteer your help, please e-mail [susanmsself@gmail.com](mailto:susanmsself@gmail.com),

**PARISH MAGAZINE** – The Christmas edition is out now on sale for only 30p including a beautiful poem, 'The Invitation' written by Clare Brown, a book review on 'How Bad are Bananas?' by Margaret Moran and lots more interesting articles. Thank you to Astrid our editor and our contributors.

**PENNY COLLECTION** – Following the announcement in last week's newsletter, a very kind donation of £400 from one Parishioner was given towards 'Just Water' allowing us to send a cheque, beating our target of £1k for £1,060.01. Thank you all for supporting the Penny Collection.

**SAVE THE DATE- QUIZ NIGHT Saturday, 20 January**- The Parish Social Committee invites you to attend this fund-raising event towards our Parish pilgrimage to Lourdes. Tickets and more information will be available shortly. The Parish Social Committee would like to thank all its supporters and volunteers who have helped ensure the success of all our social events over the past year. We look forward to seeing you at our events in 2018  
**VACANCIES AT ST MARYS** – Current vacancies include Teacher of Science, Learning Support Assistant and a Cleaner. See [www.stmarys.net](http://www.stmarys.net) for full details.



**APOLOGIES** to our Parishioners at Holy Cross, for having to cancel the Mass last Sunday due to the inclement weather and dangerous road conditions. Thank you to the Parishioners at Most Holy Redeemer who helped push Fr Carlos' car in the snow and for Fr Carlos himself who used his 'New Yorker expert snow shoveling skills' to clear the path outside the front of St Joseph's Church !!



**Baptism:** Forms and information are available from the Parish Office.

**Marriage:** enquiries call the Parish Office or email RCIA : Applications open 17/4/17 Course starts Sept.

**First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion** Applications Closed

**Confirmation:** Applications now closed

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTERS!!!!**



Do please take one of the free posters and put it in your window to encourage others to remember what Christmas is really about !!!

**TALKS ON THE CATHOLIC FAITH** - Starting on 8 January 2018, we will begin a series of talks on topics concerning our Catholic faith. These talks have a RCIA tune. Since, however, there are no RCIA candidates preparing for Baptism, we wish to open this to anyone who wishes to know more about the faith. They will take place on Mondays at 8pm in the Windhill Churches Centre. There is no need to sign up or obliged to attend all of them. The Sessions will continue until July. Please come along!

**NATIVITY PLAY** -Although the world stops celebrating Christmas on 26 December, we continue our feasting! We will do so with a Parish-wide Children's Nativity Play on 6 January 2018 at Most Holy Redeemer, Sawbridgeworth (**Time: TBC**). We need children to participate in the play and adults to volunteer with the preparations, especially with costumes. There will also be some mystery guests with some mystery delights!! Please contact Fr. Carlos if you would like to help. Please help continue the Christmas Spirit.

**ADVENT REFLECTION TALKS AT HOLY CROSS**



**Wednesday 20th December 7.45pm – 9.30pm**

Bruce Kent & Valerie Flessati

(Pax Christi, CND, Movement for the Abolition of War)

**'The coming of the Prince of Peace'**

All across the Parish are invited to attend a series of talks and discussion in preparation for Christmas at St Andrews and Holy Cross Church, Church Lane, Much Hadham SG10 6EW.

**Refreshments on arrival.**



Parish Administrator – Debbie Jackson

Parish Office: 01279 654063 (9am-3pm Mon - Fri)

Parish Centre Bookings and All Enquiries:  
[bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk)

Safeguarding

[bishopsstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:bishopsstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

*Thank you*

Collections 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December 2017 Loose Coin & Envelopes

**St Josephs and the English Martyrs:**

Collection: £927.38 D/Debit for November - £7,852.34

**Holy Cross**

**No Collection due to weather** D/Debit for November - £1,035

**Most Holy Redeemer:**

Collection: £180.70 D/Debit for November -£655.33

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear:  
Rejoice, rejoice ! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*