



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 • Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford>
Live streaming from St Joseph's: www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford
Diocese of Westminster Charity No. 233699

Sunday 3rd December 2017

1st Sunday of Advent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass Ernest Workman RIP
11am Mass Trevor and Pauline Duhig Special Intention
6pm Mass Derek and Eileen Main RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth):

9.00 am Mass – People of the Parish

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

11.15 am Mass – People of the Parish

Monday 4th December – St John Damascene, Priest and Doctor

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30 am Mass – William Frost RIP

Tuesday 5th December – Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am- Mass –Special Intention James Morris

Wednesday 6th December –St Nicholas, Bishop

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am- Mass –Special Intention Fr Bob Styles

Thursday 7th December – St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am- Mass – Private Special Intention

Friday 8th December –The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am- Mass –John Sharkey RIP

10.45am – Requiem Mass- Marjorie Swallow RIP

Saturday 9th December –St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

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

6pm Mass – Patrick Coleman RIP



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

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.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to join a small team making refreshments and generally helping with the Majellans Toddler Group on Monday mornings 9.30-11.30, term time only in the Parish Centre. This could be on a long term/short term/temporary or ad hoc basis, as suits you. It is a lively and fun group and the parents, carers look forward to being tended to in their busy lives so please help if you can. Please contact Giovanna Sutton-Long on 01279 833780 (answerphone)

ADVENT FAYRE – This Sunday 3rd Dec. after 9am Mass at **Most Holy Redeemer**. Cake and Gift Stalls plus 'Theresa's Fabulous Jewellery' Proceeds shared between the Cardinal Hume Centre and St. Lawrence's School, Zambia.

ENCOUNTER meet next Fri 8 Dec at St Theresa's, Stansted for the film, "Summer in the Forest featuring the work of Jean Vannier and the L'Arche Community. 10am Coffee 10.30 am Meeting begins 12.30pm Buffet style Advent Lunch: please bring a plate of food to share 2pm Day ends. (Daily Mass at 9.30am in St Theresa's.. All welcome for all or part of the day. Enquiries: 01279 652060}

SVP Christmas Coffee Morning Tuesday 5th December, 10.00-11.30 in the Parish Centre. Hot drinks, mince pies & time to chat. All most welcome. Please contact Jill on 657575 for a lift.

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.

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.

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.

LOST GOLD WEDDING RING last seen at St Joseph's Church- plain rounded gold ring with a crack in it. If you find it please contact the office. Thank you.

ECUMENICAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE with Carols & Candlelight .Join Fr Carlos at an uplifting Service of Remembrance with a choir and light refreshments on Sunday 10th December at 3.30 p.m. (arrivals from 3 p.m.) **at St Michael's Church**, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford To register for free Tickets please contact Daniel Robinson & Sons Funeral Directors 01279 655477 Mon-Fri, 9am - 5 pm. You will be able to hang your own message on the remembrance tree & light a candle in memory of a loved one.

INVITATION TO A CAROL SERVICE at St Joseph's School **Friday 15th December 2017. Change of Date** The pupil chaplaincy team, supported by the singing club, invite senior parishioners to a carol service at the school, followed by refreshments, on 15th December from 10.15-11.30 am If you would like to attend please call the school office (01279 652576) by 11th December and mention if you need transport or can offer some-one a lift

VACANCY AT ST MARY'S for a Term time Cleaner – see www.stmarys.net
THANK YOU to everyone who very kindly contributed towards the World day for the poor. We raised a combined **£1,830.00** to help the Night Shelter. Thank you also to Parishioners at Holy Cross/ St Andrews who raised £121.25 for CAFOD following their Harvest lunch.

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 susan.self@btinternet.com

SERVICE OF REFLECTION at St Elizabeth's centre, Perry Green Sunday 3rd December at 4pm in the Chapel. Mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

BEFRIENDING TRAINING COURSE will be held on **Tuesday 5th December at 7.30pm at St Augustine's Church, Hoddesdon** in the crypt. All welcome, particularly those who visit the elderly /housebound. Contact Janet Lampard on 01992-428490 for more information.

"THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"

A 'Religiously coded' catechism song when Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. The "True Love" one hears in the song is Jesus Christ. The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life to protect its young.

The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments
The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love
The four calling birds - Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
The five golden rings - the first five books of the Old Testament, describing man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Saviour.

The six geese a-laying - the six days of creation.
Seven swans a-swimming - gifts of the Holy Spirit-Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes
Nine ladies dancing - the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Chastity

The ten Lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
The eleven pipers piping - the eleven faithful Apostles.
The twelve drummers drumming- the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

ADVENT REFLECTION TALKS AT HOLY CROSS



Wednesday 6th December – 7.45pm – 9.30pm

Very Rev Dr. Jeffrey John

(Dean of St Albans Cathedral)

'Advent - The end of the world and the end of us'

Wednesday 13th December 7.45pm – 9.30pm

Bishop Paul McAleenan

(Auxiliary Bishop in the RC Diocese of Westminster)

'The Lord is coming and all His churches rejoice!'

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.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us
sinners, now and at the hour of our death.
Amen*



Parish Administrator – Debbie Jackson
Parish Office: 01279 654063 (9am-3pm Mon - Fri)
Parish Centre Bookings:
bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk
Safeguarding
bishopsstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk



Collections 25/26th November 2017 Loose Coin & Envelopes
(Direct debit donations for Nov will be reported hopefully next week)

St Josephs and the English Martyrs:

Collection: £1,406.12

Holy Cross

Collection: £52.00

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: £137.30



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