

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 Fortunato Pantisano

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 4th December 2016 2nd Sunday of Advent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass Thanksgiving for Friendship
11am Mass Patricia Richards RIP
6pm Mass Derek and Eileen Main RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth):
9.00am Mass People of the Parish

Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):
11.15am Mass People of the Parish

Monday 5th December - Advent feria

9.30am Mass - Sheila Tideswell RIP

Tuesday 6th December - St Nicholas, Bishop

9.30am Mass - William Frost RIP

Wednesday 7th December - St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

9.30am Mass - Patrick and Joan Lewis RIP

Thursday 8th December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass - Bridget Flynn RIP

Friday 9th December - St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass - Intention for the 40 days of Life

Saturday 10th December - Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
5.15- 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &
Sacrament of Reconciliation
6pm Mass - Tony Watson RIP



Mass requests

Please fill in the envelope provided, the date & time you would like the Mass with a contact number/ E-mail address and hand in to the Sacristy, Parish Office or 3 Windhill with your donation.
Thank you very much.

SAFEGUARDING IN THE PARISH

The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of the Church's mission and requires us all to play an important part. There is no place in the Church, or indeed society, for abuse, a grievous crime which can affect people for their entire lives. The Holy Father said that he wants to encourage and promote the Church's commitment to protection and care "at every level" We are currently carrying out a full audit on all of our Safeguarding procedures and records in the Parish to ensure that we are fully compliant with legislation and policies adopted by the Diocese. The Parish has 3 voluntary Safeguarding representatives - Tracey Duhig at Holy Cross, Eugene Keddy at Most Holy Redeemer and Debbie Jackson at St Josephs, having just taken over from Keith Irvine, this past week, who we thank for his service. Some Parishioners have already been contacted and requested to kindly either complete a new DBS check or update an existing one(due every 3 years) as well as submit various other Diocesan paperwork required to cover their current or new voluntary role in the Church. If you have any questions about Safeguarding or are concerned about a child or adult at risk then please contact the Safeguarding Team or **if you believe a child or adult at risk is in immediate danger then please contact the emergency services on 999**

ENCOUNTER meet next Fri.9 Dec at the WCC 'Wake up and stand ready! Are we looking forward with great expectation?' Talk & discussion on how we 'do' Advent. **10am** coffee 10.30 meeting opens 12.30 Advent Lunch: Bring seasonal food to share 2pm day ends. All welcome for all or part of the day. Enquiries: B/S 652060
RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The initial enquiry period (pre-catechumenate) for our parish's group of candidates will be moving into its second stage. On **Sat 17th Dec 2016 at St Joseph's 6pm Vigil Mass.** we will be celebrating the *Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens* with those not baptised. The first phase of the journey of initiation has been a time for them to hear the mystery of God proclaimed. They have consciously and freely sought the living God and entered the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. We ask you please to pray for the new catechumens to be. We, as a parish, will journey with them as they discover what it means to follow Christ as a Roman Catholic.
TUESDAY GROUP meeting at 10.15 am on Tuesday 6 December in the Upper Room in the WCC to discuss our future programme. Anyone interested in any aspect of continuing education and formation of adults is cordially invited.
POP UP CHRISTMAS SHOP - a local parishioner has opened 'Squires on the hill' at the Old carpet shop, Chapel Hill Stansted & for every Christmas tree purchased will be donating 5% to the Church.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

Applicants for St Joseph's School 2017 may wish to obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice. A lilac coloured application form for a certificate can be collected from No 3 Windhill or the Parish Office, in person. 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 be posted to you. The School deadline for admissions is 15 January 2017.

FOODBANK COLLECTION All three Churches will be collecting again for the Foodbank from now on until the end of December. Most wanted items are instant coffee, long-life juice, drinking chocolate, squash, rice pudding, sponge puddings, instant mash, tinned meat & tomatoes and chocolate bars. Please leave donations in the cupboard below the bookshelves at the back of St Joseph's or just inside the door at the other Churches and kindly ensure that all items are in date. Many thanks.

WED. AFTERNOON GROUP- Final call for lunch on Dec. 14.... Please ring Doreen on 325326 or Jill on 657575 before the end of Monday this week if you are joining us for lunch at the Star in Bridge Street. Menu choices and deposits (£5) must be given to the pub by Nov. 30. Everyone is welcome.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to deliver Churches Together Christmas cards in Bishop's Stortford. Volunteers each deliver approximately 90 cards (into letter boxes, no ringing/knocking) to each house in a single street or neighbouring small streets. The purpose of the cards is to welcome recipients to a Christmas service at a church of their choice; all the Christian churches in the town including St Joseph's list their service times in the card. If you can do a delivery round, please sign up on the list now in the sacristy and take the corresponding pack of cards with map of your streets. Enquiries to Tony Davies 01279 465200; tonydavies234@hotmail.co.uk
GIVING TREE 2016 The Giving Tree will be set up on the Majellans side altar at St Joseph's next week Sunday 3rd December. For more details please see the poster displayed next to the tree. Many thanks for your continued support and generosity for this good cause.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY -The Parish Dad's group are running their annual Family Christmas party on Saturday 17 December from 3pm to 6pm in the Parish Centre at St Joseph's. There will be hot dogs, mince pies, singing and a family friendly film all at no cost. It is a great opportunity for parish families to get together and celebrate Christmas. Any questions please email David at wilkinsondavid@mac.com

SVP COFFEE MORNING- Tues 6th Dec 10.00-11.30 in the Windhill Parish Centre. Come along for tea/coffee/cakes and friendly company - all most welcome. For a lift please call Jill on 657575 or Astrid on 465200

FOUND PROPERTY - There is a box at the back of St Josephs containing a large number of items found in the Church, mainly toys. **Please check it if you have lost anything.** There is also a Found property box in the Windhill Churches Centre. Items not claimed will eventually be donated to Charity.

CONGRATULATIONS to the congregation at Most Holy Redeemer...



Mass was celebrated for the first time in the "new" church on Dec 2nd 1956, so this is the 60th Anniversary!!! Mass was first said for the Irish Workmen in a newly built RAF "Nissen" hut in July 1940. A regular Mass was said after that but in a variety of places. Soon Fr Bernard Griffin CSsR was appointed "Padre" to the RAF and a Catholic chapel was built alongside an assembly Hall and Gymnasium, nearly opposite New House Farm. The first Mass at the White Lion was celebrated at 9am on Nov 5th 1950 by Fr Vincent Young CSsR with a congregation of 18 including children. From Jan 1953 Masses were celebrated in the newly-built War Memorial Hall



Advent

Still time to join the **Advent Series of Meetings: "Wait on Scripture"** organised by the Ecumenical partnership of St Andrews C of E and Holy Cross RC who share the Church of St Andrew at Much Hadham. They are taking place at the home of one of the congregation. The address is: Berakah, Larkins Lane, off Kettle Green Lane, Much Hadham on **Mondays, Dec 5th and 12th and Tues Dec 20th.** Each meeting will last an hour from **2pm to 3pm** (which enables parents with children to attend) Please let Mark or Sue Stephens know if you can attend: 01279 843167 or email - stephens341@btinternet.com

A JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM at St Andrew's and Holy Cross Saturday 17th December 2016 10.30am to 11.30am - Primary school aged children are warmly invited to celebrate with carols, the Christmas story and craft. Rev Steve Bate and Father Peter will jointly lead a short service followed by craft and cake. Children are invited to bring along a donation for the parish food bank. See poster for details. RSVP- bethlehemjourney@mail.com



Parish Administrator - Debbie Jackson
Parish Office: 01279 654063 (10am-3pm)
Parish Centre Bookings:
bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk
Safeguarding
bishopsstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
SVP (St Joseph's): 0750 409 9571



Collections 26th & 27th November 2016
St Josephs and the English Martyrs:
Collection: £1677.76 Standing Orders: £1358
Holy Cross:
Collection: £100.55 Standing Orders: £195
Most Holy Redeemer:
Collection: £170.89 Standing Orders: £82



Baptism: Forms and information are available from the Parish Office.
Marriage: enquiries call the Parish Office or email
First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion
Now closed for 2016/7
Confirmation: Applications for 2017 are now Closed.

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art though 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 thy death.
Amen*