



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 10th December 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass John Peter & PJ Loftus RIP
 11am Mass Bridget & Matthews Carlton RIP
 6pm Mass James Strang RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth):

9.00 am Mass – Fr Colin Watling RIP

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

11.15 am Mass – People of the Parish

Monday 11th December – St Damasus I, Pope

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30 am Mass – Albert Garrett RIP

11am Requiem Mass – Anna Marie Graveson RIP

Tuesday 12th December – Our Lady of Guadalupe

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am- Mass – Jack Basey RIP

Wednesday 13th December – St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am- Mass – John & Kathleen Treanor Special Intention

7pm – St Mary's School Advent Service

Thursday 14th December – St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am- Mass – Rita & Breda Treanor Special Intention

11am Requiem Mass- Edward Moon RIP

Friday 15th December – Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am- Mass – Protection of 8th Amendment to the Irish Constitution

Saturday 16th December – Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

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

6pm Mass – Bernadette Loughlin & Doris Staunton 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

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.

THANKYOU – to our fabulous Parish Social Committee and all those who helped to organise, drive, cook, serve & wash up and not forgetting our talented musicians and Choir who entertained our guests at the Winter lunch last week

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.

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 www.stmarys.net
THANKYOU to Parishioners at Holy Cross who raised £100.11 for the Cardinal Hume Centre



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).

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

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. Contact Giovanna Sutton-Long on 01279 833780 (answerphone)

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.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – Saturday 13th January 2018 7pm – 8.30pm Join the Parish Pastoral Committee (PPC) for a 'Not the New Year Gathering' and light refreshments in the Windhill Churches Centre to find out what is happening and influence what is planned in the Parish.

ADVANCED NOTICE -CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT Saturday 20th January 2018 in the WCC– Tickets will be on sale from 6 January at £5 each. All funds raised will go towards the Parish pilgrimage to Lourdes – more info to follow....

CAROL SINGING – Churches Together – Jackson Square, B/ Stortford Friday 15th December 4pm – 6pm. Meet at the top of the traveller. All welcome to join and help swell St Joseph's presence. Collection for the Night Shelter
PENNY COLLECTION – Ideally we would like to have £1000 to give to the charity 'Just Water' at the end of the year from our Penny Collection at St Josephs. So far we are up to £660.01. Please help us make up the difference by donating your spare change in the tub after Mass. Thank you.

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 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.



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 2nd/ 3rd December 2017 Loose Coin & Envelopes

St Josephs and the English Martyrs:

Collection: £1,613.95 D/Debit for November - £7,852.34

Holy Cross

Collection: £37.00 D/Debit for November - £1,035

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: £114.60 D/Debit for November -£655.33

Sacramental Preparation



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

*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*