



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 11th December 2016 3rd Sunday of Advent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

- 9am Mass Andy Moloney and Joseph Stehl RIP
- 11am Mass James Strang RIP
- 6pm Mass The McLean Family Thanksgiving

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 12th December -Our Lady of Guadalupe

9.30am Mass - Jack Basey RIP

Tuesday 13th December -St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

9.30am Mass - John Treanor RIP

Wednesday 14th December- St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor

9.30am Mass - John O' Connor RIP

Thursday 15th December Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Private Intention Bernie Chaplin

Friday 16th December-Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Michael Fennell RIP

Saturday 17th December- Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

5.15- 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Sacrament of Reconciliation
6pm Mass - RCIA Candidates



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 across the whole 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, 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**

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.
VINNIE PACKS -The St Vincent de Paul Society is distributing 12,000 Vinnie Packs to the homeless over the winter, mostly in the Westminster diocese. See svp.org.uk/node/330 for more information. They cost about £3.20 to produce. Any contribution will be very welcome. Donations can be made by text VIMP33£ [AMOUNT] to 70070 or by cheque made out to SVP and sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, SW1P 9EZ
THE CARDINAL HUME CENTRE -Thank you very to those Parishioners at Holy Cross who have generously contributed towards the Cardinal Hume Centre. So far to date £477.33 has been raised

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.

PARISH 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. All are welcome.

GIVING TREE 2016 -The Giving Tree is set up on the Majellans side altar at St Joseph's. Please support this good cause again this year. All gifts go to the children supported by the St Francis Family Centre in East London. More information and a letter of thanks from the centre is displayed next to the tree.

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 from our 3 churches to get together and celebrate Christmas. Any questions please email David at wilkinsondavid@mac.com

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.

THE PARISH CONFIRMATION GROUP meets for the first time next Saturday (17th) evening, beginning with the 6pm evening mass at St Joseph's and then moving to the Parish Centre. Fr Peter is expecting the Candidates and one or both parents to attend this first session. If you feel you are unable to attend you must tell the Parish Office a.s.a.p. or Fr Peter will presume that you no longer wish to be part of the Confirmation course this year.

PARISH MAGAZINE - look out for the Parish wide Magazine this week available at the back of the Church for only 30p!

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say Rejoice"



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 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 2 from 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

LIVE STREAMING Our Live streaming has become part of life at St Joseph's. Many parishioners use it, both those who are housebound and those who are not. People report back from watching it when they are on holiday, often in places where there is no nearby Catholic Church to attend Mass. But, most of all, it is our Sick and Housebound who treasure it most. However, you may not know but it is not just our parishioners or people in our Diocese who watch it. Each day the Parish Office receives an email giving details of where the streaming has been watched and by how many people. At the end of each month we are given the total, So, November.....

Total Number of Viewers: 5,211
Number who watched our Church ONLY: 1,956
Total time viewed: 2,267 hours
(1 hour or more: 473)
Examples of individual Countries:
UK 1,231
Ireland: 336
USA 213
Romania 25



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 3th & 4th December 2016
St Josephs and the English Martyrs:
Collection: £1472.79 Standing Orders: £1358
Holy Cross:
Collection: £70.23 Standing Orders: £195
Most Holy Redeemer:
Collection: £167.92 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*