

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 18th December 2016 4th Sunday of Advent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass John Mc Tigue RIP
 11am Mass Margaret Harrison RIP
 6pm Mass John Greer 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 Patrick O'Reilly RIP

Monday 19th December - Advent feria

9.30am Mass - Private Intention of Polina
 2pm - Funeral service - Keith Christopher George Foulser RIP

Tuesday 20th December - Advent feria

9.30am Mass - Patricia Richards RIP

Wednesday 21st December - St Peter Canisius Priest and Doctor

9.30am Mass - Dominic Donaghue RIP

Thursday 22nd December Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am Mass - Mary Sullivan RIP

Friday 23rd December - St John of Kanty, Priest

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am Mass - The Conroy and Loftus Family intention

Saturday 24th December - Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 6pm Mass Mary Mahon intention
 8pm Mass People of the Parish
 11.30pm Carols and Readings
 Midnight Mass People of the Parish

Sunday 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord

9am Mass - Mary and Harry Matthews RIP
 11am Mass - Linda and Ken Blackledge RIP
Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham)
 11.15am - People of the Parish

Monday 26th December - St Stephen, The First Martyr

10am Mass - Nigel Ernest Frederick Wells RIP



Fr Peter and Fr Fortunato and the Pastoral Council and Committees of our three Churches, send you their thanks for the past year and every prayer and good wish for a Happy, Blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

GIVING TREE 2016 - St Joseph's. All gifts should be returned by Sunday 18th and left in the Sacristy please. If you have taken a tag but haven't returned the gift yet please contact Mandy Gregory on 07985 111 235 to arrange collection. Gifts are been sent to the Children's Centre on Tuesday 20th December. Thank you for your support



PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

25th December Christmas day - Closed
 26th December - St Stephens day - Closed
 27th December - Closed
 28th December - 8am to 1pm
 29th December - Closed
 30th December - Closed
 2nd January - Closed



#TEAM HERTS VOLUNTEERING East Herts Council are promoting a project which aims to be the one stop shop for all the residents of Hertfordshire to find out information about volunteering. As part of this they are running an 'Introduction to Volunteering session' for people who may be interested in learning a bit more before they start looking for a role at Charringtons House, The Causeway, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2ER on Thursday 26th January 2017 11:00am - 12.30pm.

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. Our own SVP have already donated 20 packs to the Night Shelter which have been very gratefully received

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

WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOKS available now from the office £5 each.

YEMEN CRISIS - Advent is a time of prayer and reflection as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ. We especially ask over the coming weeks that you remember the people of Yemen. The civil war between the Houthi ethnic group and supporters of Yemen's government is now into its second year. The UN estimates that the conflict has killed more than 10,000 people, with 6,000 people killed this year alone. More than 7 million in Yemen do not know where their next meal will come from. CAFOD's partner in Yemen is providing humanitarian assistance in the form of food, water, medical care and shelter. You can find updates on the situation on the CAFOD website and you can donate online or send in donations to CAFOD, which will be used towards responding to this crisis.

"I shall break the bow and the sword and warfare, and banish them from the country, and I will let them sleep secure." Hosea 2:20

CHRISTMAS POSTERS FOR YOUR WINDOW - courtesy of the *Knights of St Columba* - available at the back of all three Churches - do take one and display it to encourage people to remember to put CHRIST into CHRISTmas!

Christmas Eve Masses



at Most Holy Redeemer at Sawbridgeworth
 Carols and Readings 7.30pm - Vigil Mass at 8.00pm

at St Joseph's, Bishop's Stortford
 6pm...Mass especially for families with younger children,
our children are invited to come dressed as Shepherds or Angels.

8pm 2nd Vigil Mass of Christmas (*priority seating for older parishioners*)

11.30pm Carols and Readings followed by
 MIDNIGHT MASS at **Midnight!** - Come early to get a seat!



Christmas Day Masses

St Joseph's at Bishop's Stortford at 9am and 11am
Holy Cross at Much Hadham at 11.15am
Most Holy Redeemer at Sawbridgeworth will be open for prayer
and for visits to the Crib from 9-10am on Christmas morning.

Monday 26th - St Stephen's Day
St Joseph's at Bishop's Stortford at 10am

Christmas week, Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th
NO MASS

*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 our death.
 Amen*



Parish Administrator - Debbie Jackson
 Parish Office: 01279 654063 (10am-3pm Mon - Fri)
 Parish Centre Bookings:
bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk
 Safeguarding
bishopsstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk



Collections 10th & 11th December 2016
St Josephs and the English Martyrs:
 Collection: £1285.66 Standing Orders: £1358
Holy Cross:
 Collection: £92.35 Standing Orders: £195
Most Holy Redeemer:
 Collection: £207.54 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.