





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

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass Stephen Ryan RIP  
11am Mass Mary and Tom Ryan RIP  
6pm Mass Marlene Harris 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 28<sup>th</sup> November - Advent feria  
9.30am Mass - Geoffrey Bramall RIP

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November - Advent feria  
9.30am Mass - Joan Brindle RIP

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November - St Andrew, Patron of Scotland  
9.30am Mass - Ann Morrissey RIP

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December Advent feria  
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:  
9.30am Mass - Appa and Anma Arulanandam RIP

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - Advent feria  
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:  
9.30am Mass - James Joseph Conroy RIP  
11.30am - 3pm - St Mary's Catholic School Feast Day

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - St Francis Xavier, Priest  
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:  
5.15- 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &  
Sacrament of Reconciliation  
6pm Mass - Ernest Workman 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.

## INVITATION TO CAROLS AT ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL Wednesday 7 December 2016

The chaplaincy team of St Joseph's School, supported by the singing club, invite parishioners especially those retired, to a carol service at the school, followed by refreshments, on 7<sup>th</sup> December from 2.00-3.30 p.m. Transport is available.

Places are limited to 25. If you would like to attend please call Marie Rhodes (01279 656482) (e-mail [m.j.rhodes@btinternet.com](mailto:m.j.rhodes@btinternet.com)) by 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016

**ALTAR SERVERS at ST JOSEPH'S** - We will be recruiting new Altar Servers at St Joseph's from November. If you have received your First Holy Communion, regularly attend Mass and are interested please speak with Fr Fortunato. A sign-up sheet is now available in the Sacristy.

**BON VOYAGE!** Sophie and Mike Sullivan will soon be leaving the Parish to start an exciting new chapter in their lives in Zimbabwe with their family. They have both been an integral part of parish life and will be known to many of you through their Baptism courses, Magellans, the Parish Council and so much more! Next week (Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Dec) after the 9am Mass in the WCC they will be hosting the Teas and Coffee with cake! So please join us to wish them 'Au revoir' and a safe passage. We thank them for their friendship, love, kindness and commitment over the years and will keep them all in our prayers.

**PARISH MAGAZINE DEADLINE** for the Christmas issue of the Parish Magazine is Friday, 2nd December. Seasonal items welcome but not compulsory! Kindly e-mail to [astriddavies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:astriddavies@hotmail.co.uk) or leave with Debbie in the Parish office.

**REPOSITORY** at the back of St Joseph's church is now stocked with Advent Calendars; 'Advent Extra' (£2) a magazine for all the family; Christmas cards, books, cribs & much more! Take a look after Mass; enquiries: B/S 653713

**SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY CONSULTATION POLICY** - The Admissions Authority of St. Mary's Catholic School have decided to consult on our admission arrangements for September 2018. The consultation runs from 14/11 to 23/12. They invite responses to the admissions policy and paperwork which can be found at: <http://www.stmarys.net/admissions/consultation-september-2018/>

**THE SALVATION ARMY COMMUNITY CAROL CONCERT** Sat 3 Dec at 7pm in Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church. A collection will be taken for Essex-Herts Air Ambulance.

**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.

## 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.

**LOVE IN ACTION LAUNCH** - On Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, Caritas Westminster will be launching Love in Action, an engagement programme based on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, which enables you to start your own social action projects. The launch begins at 6:30pm at Our Lady of Victories Church Hall, Kensington. For more details or to RSVP please email [caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk). Refreshments provided.

**FOODBANK COLLECTION** St. Joseph's 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 church and kindly ensure that all items are in date. Many thanks for your support.

**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.

**PENNY COLLECTION** - Total so far for **Aid to the Church in Need** is £875.00. Please be generous over these last few weeks of the year to see if we can reach our target of £1,000. You will find the Penny Collection jar at the back of the church, above the hymn books, at weekend Masses.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to deliver Churches Together Christmas cards. 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](mailto:tonydavies234@hotmail.co.uk)

**GIVING TREE 2016** The Giving Tree will be set up on the Majellans side altar next week Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

*'There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength'* Philippians 4: 13



## Advent

- a new Year begins in the family of the Church  
**Fr Peter writes.....**

The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the Church's Year and brings us to start our preparation for Christmas. The world of commerce is already bursting with Christmas in shops and so many other places but the Christian knows that time is needed to prepare ourselves, partly in the desert, before we can cope with all the glitz of commercial Christmas, so, stay strong and stay in Advent until Christmas really does arrive on the night of Christmas Eve!

As a Parish we are invited to join with St Elizabeth's Centre for their special **Advent Service of Reflection at 4pm on the afternoon of Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov** - the First Sunday of Advent - St Elizabeth's hold this Service each year and this year we are particularly invited to begin our Advent with them as a Parish. Please see the poster in each Church. "Each year at St Elizabeth's at the beginning of Advent we pause for an hour to consider the real meaning of Advent. We set aside a time of quiet reflection to prepare ourselves for Christmas. During the service there is an opportunity to light a candle perhaps to remember those who will not be with us this Christmas."

There will also be an **Advent Series of Meetings to "Wait on Scripture"**. These are 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 will take place at the home of one of the congregation. The address is: Berakah, Larkins Lane, off Kettle Green Lane, Much Hadham on **Mondays Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and Tues Dec 20<sup>th</sup>**. The meetings are based on Dr Paula Goodier's book "The Meaning of Waiting". Each meeting will last an hour from **2pm to 3pm** (which enables parents with children to attend). There will be an introduction, a chance to discuss, and a time of prayer and a cup of tea! We hope it will help you to prepare for the best Christmas ever!

Please let Mark or Sue Stephens know if you can attend: **01279 843167** or email - [stephens341@btinternet.com](mailto:stephens341@btinternet.com)

*May Mary, the most merciful Mother of God, kindest comforter of those who mourn, commend to her Son the souls of his servants who have departed this life, that through her intercessions they may quickly reach their longed for home in the heavenly kingdom and live for ever and ever. Amen*



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



Collections 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
St Josephs and the English Martyrs:  
Collection: £1420.55 Standing Orders: £1358  
Holy Cross:  
Collection: £76.95 Standing Orders: £195  
Most Holy Redeemer:  
Collection: £ 224.00 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.