



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 28th February 2016 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9am Mass – Martin and Mary Mc Givern Special Intention
 11am Mass – Philip Andrews RIP
 6pm Mass – Mark Goodfield RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth):
 9.00am Mass
 Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):
 11.15am Mass

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

Monday 29th February – Lent feria

9.15am Morning Prayer
 9.30am Mass – People of the Parish

Tuesday 1st March – St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales

9.15am Morning Prayer
 9.30am Mass – The Sick and all those who care for them
 12.30 Mass at Most Holy Redeemer, S'worth

Wednesday 2nd March – Lent feria

9.15am Morning Prayer
 9.30am Mass – Michael Glynn RIP

Thursday 3rd March – Lent feria

6.30 AM Mass – The Needy and Hungry of the World
 9.15am Morning Prayer
 9.30am Mass – The intentions of St Elizabeth's

Friday 4th March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.15am Morning Prayer
 9.30am Mass – Women's World Day of Prayer

Saturday 5th March – Lent feria

5.15 – 5.45pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &
 Sacrament of Reconciliation
 6pm Mass Frances Williams RIP

Mass requests

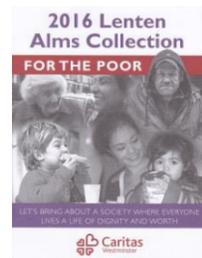
Please fill in the envelope provided, the date & time you would like the Mass with a contact number/ E-mail address and hand in to the Sacristy, Parish Office or 3 Windhill.
 Thank you very much.

LENT INITIATIVES

There are a number of opportunities for members of the Parish to be involved in the different "pillars" of Lent. There is the **CAFOD annual Lenten Fast Day** - envelopes are available at the back of our Churches.



There is also **the annual Lenten Collection for the Diocese** which the Cardinal has asked this year to go to Caritas, the Diocesan agency that works so hard with those who are poor, in many different ways, in the Diocese. There are envelopes for this also available.



So, these are both opportunities that you might like to take up if you are still looking for something that involves "Almsgiving".

Penance is also an important part of our Lenten observance and we have a tradition of a **Lenten Penitential Service** at St Joseph's open to all of the Parish. It will take place at 7.30pm on Friday 11th March - **please take one of the special cards to remind you of the date.** We hope that as in previous years we will have 8 priests to hear confessions around the Church at the end of the Service.



"Fr Peter used this short meditation in his homilies last weekend and many people have asked to have a copy of it."

I know you. I created you. I am creating you. I have loved you from your mother's womb. You have fled - as you now know - from my love. But I love you nevertheless and not-the-less and, however far you flee, it is I who sustain your very power of fleeing, and I will never finally let you go. I accept you as you are. You are forgiven. I know all your sufferings. I have always known them. For beyond your understanding, when you suffer, I suffer. I also know all of the little tricks by which you try to hide the ugliness you have made of your life from yourself and others. But you are beautiful. You are beautiful more deeply within than you can see. You are beautiful because you yourself, in the unique one that only you are, reflect already something of the beauty of my holiness in a way which shall never end. You are beautiful also because I, and I alone, see the beauty you shall become. Through the transforming power of my love you shall become perfectly beautiful. You shall become perfectly beautiful in a uniquely irreplaceable way, which neither you nor I will work out alone. For we shall work it out together.

Charles K. Robinson

Thank you to the MHR parish from Theresa for all the generous donations they make every week for the Foodbank.

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 4th March 2016 - All are welcome at the St. Barnabas Centre St. James, Thorley, at 10-30 am on Fri 4th March or at Great St Mary's Sawbridgeworth 10am

Charity Golf day on Friday 8th April 1pm at the Manor of Groves Golf Club organised by St Joseph's Fundraising Committee to raise funds for the Parish. Entry forms are at the back of all Churches. For info contact Angela Tyson 655316

Open Mic Sign-up sheet is now at the back of St Joseph's Church and will close 28 Feb. Donations for tombola prizes can be left in the Sacristy or Parish Office. For info call Kate 508595

SVP Coffee Morning - Tuesday 1st March, 10- 11.30am in the Parish Centre. Come along for refreshment and friendly company - all are most welcome. Call Jill on 657575 or Astrid on 465200 for a lift.

Patrick Lewis' Retirement from "active service" !!!-

A **Massive** 'Thank you' to Patrick who for the last 20 years has selflessly dedicated his time to the Parish in all matters financial, from counting and banking the weekly collections, balancing the books, allocating budgets and steering the Finance committee along the right path. We are extremely grateful to him not only for his dutiful service but his friendship, guidance and patience along the way. We wish him every good health and happiness for his '2nd' retirement. And a few financial thoughts.....

Planned Giving Envelopes for Tax Year starting 6th April 2016: The new Planned Giving Envelopes will be available for you to collect (from the old information area at the back of the church) on the weekend of 19th and 20th March. Your new envelopes will have the same number as before, and the boxes will be arranged in numerical order. The new envelopes must NOT be used until the weekend of 9/10 April.

Gift Aid: The Tax Year ends on 5th April and we will be submitting our Gift Aid Claim for 2015/16 soon after that. If you are registered for Gift Aid but are no longer eligible because you will have stopped paying UK Income Tax before 5th April 2016 it is important that you let us know immediately, with the date that you stopped paying tax. You can let us know by email at bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk, a note to No 3, or phone 01279 654063 (10am to 3pm) & leave a message.

Planned Giving: Our weekly Offertory Collections are currently 10% lower than a year ago. So that we can maximise our income and help to pay for the daily running of the Church and Parish we would encourage those of you who are not already members of our Planned Giving scheme to join - application cards are available at the back of the church. Contributions can be made using weekly envelopes or by Standing Order - which is more efficient for both the donor and the parish. Standing Order Forms are also available at the back of the church. If you are a UK Tax Payer and not already registered for Gift Aid, we would urge you to do so. This will enable the parish to obtain an additional 25p for every £1 that you contribute - with no cost to yourself. Last year St. Joseph's parish claimed back over £26,000 in Gift Aid. To register you will need to complete a Gift Aid Declaration Form, available from the back of the church.

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy; hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.



Parish Administrator – Debbie Jackson
 Parish Office: 01279 654063 (10am-3pm)
 Parish Centre Bookings:
bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk
 Child Protection: Keith Irvine
safeguardstjoes@virginmedia.com
 SVP (St Joseph's): 0750 409 9571



Collections 20/21st February 2016
 St Josephs and the English Martyrs
 Collection: £ 1515.83 Standing Orders: £1278
 Holy Cross
 Collection: £128.30 Standing Orders: £220
 Most Holy Redeemer
 Collection: £228.36 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 - Recruiting now completed at the 3 Churches
Confirmation: now closed for 2016