

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 7th October 2018 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass Andy Moloney & Joseph Stehl RIP
11am Mass Brenda O'Carroll Special Intention
12.30pm Baptism Antonio Jaxon Louis Ballaram
Henry Valentino Hopkinson
6pm Mass Jo Hermitage Intention
Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth):
9.00am Mass Dante Falzone RIP

Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):
11.15am Mass People of the Parish

Monday 8th October - feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Natalie Micallef RIP

Tuesday 9th October – Blessed John Henry Newman, Priest

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Maureen Mills RIP

Wednesday 10th October – St Paulinus of York, Bishop

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – John McTigue RIP

Thursday 11th October – St John XXIII Pope

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Grace Allan RIP

Friday 12th October – St Wilfrid, Bishop

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
NO MASS

Saturday 13th October – St Edward the Confessor, Patron of the

Diocese and of the City of Westminster
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

1pm – Marriage – Stephen Murphy & Michelle Sterling
5pm- 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &
Sacrament of Reconciliation
6pm Mass - Colin Stewart 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.



WELCOME BACK to Fr Peter who has returned from his holiday to a freshly painted St Josephs! We are grateful to Fr Michael Doyle who celebrates Mass with us this weekend whilst Fr Carlos is in Lourdes

ANNUAL DIOCESAN MASS COUNT WEEK 3 – We will be counting the number of attendees at Mass at each Church for 4 weekends.

ST ALBANS CELEBRATE 2018 – 3rd-4th Nov 2018 at Loretto College St Albans. CELEBRATE is a conference for all, young and old with praise, worship, Holy Mass, Youth Ministry, Adoration, Reflection and a place to relax and make friendships. Contact Tim Stevens on 07875 848138 or see <https://www.celebrateconference.org/st-albans/> for more info.

CHRISTIAN AID: Coffee morning at the Methodist Church, South St., Saturday 13th October, 9.30 - 12 noon. Donations of cakes, preserves, bric-à-brac- gratefully received on the day and if there is a kind parishioner or two willing to lend a hand, you would be most welcome. More info from Yvonne, 652060

THE NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR will take place after Mass at St Joseph's on Tuesday 9th October
CHARITY BARN DANCE - 10 NOVEMBER (in aid of Across/Jumbulance) Don't miss out - get your ticket now for this highly-enjoyable social event - ask anyone who came last year! Grab your check-shirt and Stetson and mosey on down to St Joseph's **SCHOOL HALL** with your nibbles and BYO drinks. Pete Skiffins will once again show us all how to kick up our heels and have a good time for just £5 per person; £2.50 under 16s. Call/text Debbie on 07584 623472 or Alison on 07880 946085 for tickets.

A DAY WITH MARY – Saturday 20 October 9.45am – 5.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. A day of instruction, devotion & intercession based on the message given in Fatima in 1917. Bring a packed lunch. Tea and Coffee provided. All welcome.

HOLY CROSS AND ST ANDREWS have a scheme to raise funds for the Church electricity bill by asking people to donate in return for a dedication printed in the Much Hadham Parish magazine and having the Church flood lit on a specific day for **'Light up the Church for Christmas'**. Please contact Ishara Suares at Holy Cross with a minimum donation of a £15 cheque made payable to "Much Hadham PCC" before the 15th of November if interested.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES – The next meeting with Fr Peter will be on Sunday 4th November at 4.30pm in the WCC followed by Mass.

GROVE COTTAGE – Volunteer recruitment morning Saturday 20th October at The Charis Centre 10.30am. For info contact Sue on 01279 656085 or email volunteer@mencapgrovecottage.org



HOLY TRINITY WINTER NIGHT SHELTER provides emergency shelter and supportive services to people who are homeless or at risk and also collaborates for locally driven solutions to end homelessness. This winter time could **YOU** help to give food & water to those going without? Help those treated as strangers feel welcome? Help to provide a safe & warm place to spend the long cold night, help in the day time to open the hall, feed & support those wandering the streets? Please visit Facebook page 'Bishop's Stortford winter night shelter', then register your interest by email to ht.nightshelter@outlook.com & attend a compulsory information day on Sat 17 November AM & PM sessions available at Holy Trinity

ST MARY'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2019 – An application for admission must be made by the parents / carers of a child in Year 6 to the Local Education Authority in which they live. Hertfordshire residents must use the form supplied by Hertfordshire County Council available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions Essex residents must use the form supplied by Essex County Council. **The deadline for these applications is 31 October 2018.** A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) should be completed and returned to the Admissions Officer, Mrs M Gravenor – by email m.gravenor@stmarys.net or by post, no later than 31 October 2018. **This year NO CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE IS REQUIRED for St Mary's applications**

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL RECEPTION APPLICATIONS will open on 5/11/2018 and close on 15/1/2019. We have been advised that a **Certificate of Catholic Practice IS REQUIRED** as part of the St Joseph's reception application process. The process for Nursery applications will be advised in due course.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE – Applicants for St Joseph's School for **RECEPTION** places in 2019 should collect a white 'embossed' application form for a certificate from No 3 Windhill, the Sacristy 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 then be posted to you. The School deadline is 15/1/2019

SCRIPTURE EVENINGS – In response to Pope Francis' call to *'Be constantly nourished by the Word of God'*, this October there will be three **Scripture Evenings** which hopefully will help to encourage more active exploration of the Bible through prayer and study. **Monday 8th October, 7.30pm – 9.15pm** at St Matthew's Parish Centre, 32 Hallowell Rd, Northwood HA6 1DW
Wednesday 10th October, 7.45pm-9.30pm at St Augustine's Parish Centre, 1 Esdaile Lane, Hoddesdon EN11 8DS
Wednesday 24th October, 7.30pm-9.15p at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN Refreshments provided To register for a Scripture Evening please e-mail Warren Brown at catadmin@rcdow.org.uk or Tel: 0207 798 9152

"With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption"

STREET PASTORS – On Sunday 14 October after Mass the Street Pastors will be in the WCC to talk about their role in the community, and are also looking to recruit more volunteers. If you are interested in making a real difference, please do come along. The youngest Street Pastor is currently 26 years and the oldest is 87 years. The team in Bishop's Stortford who go out on the streets most Fridays from 10pm – 2am are supported in prayer back at the base by a Prayer Pastor. Full training will be given.

AUTUMN LUNCH – The Justice & Peace Group is holding a soup lunch on Friday 26th October in the Parish Centre at 12 noon. All most welcome - donations please towards the Penny Collection for the St. Lawrence community in Zambia
POST-SYNOD REFLECTION WITH THE CARDINAL – Following on from the Pre-Synod meetings between the Cardinal, Bishops and young people, there will be additional opportunities for dialogue. The first evening will be hosted by the Cardinal and will include a reflection on the Synod on Youth. It will take place on Tuesday, 30th October from 7pm to 8.30pm in the Throne Room at Archbishop's House. The event is open to all young people aged 18 to 30 years. The event is free to attend, but registration is required by emailing youth@rcdow.org.uk

ARMISTICE 100 – The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Support have set up a website listing Armistice Day celebrations in this centenary year of the end of the First World War at <http://www.armistice100.org.uk/>. Events will include Masses, concerts, local exhibitions, talks, taking place on or around 11th November. All events will appear on their interactive map to enable visitors to find an event near them
'TRAIN TO TEACH' drop in event hosted by St Albans Catholic Academy and Essex Teacher training who are seeking to encourage Catholic graduates (or those in their final year) into the wonderful vocation of teaching. Please join us at Harlow Study Centre, Netteswellbury Farm, Harlow CM18 6BW October 13th 2018, 1pm – 6pm. Find out everything you need to know about training to be a teacher. Contact Anne-Marie Black on 01279 423499 or email: black@ourladyoffatimatrust.essex.sch.uk

PARISH MAGAZINE – Now on sale at only 30p containing some wonderful articles written by our Parishioners. Thank you as always to Astrid, the Editor who so generously gives her time. A special tribute is paid to Louise Boruch RIP who was also involved with the magazine since 1981 and sent out copies to previous Parish Priests, Sisters and Parishioners.



Parish Administrator – Debbie Jackson

Parish Office: 01279 654063 (9am-3pm Mon - Fri)

Parish Centre Bookings and All Enquiries:
bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

Safeguarding enquiries only

bishopsstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk



Collections 29/30 September 2018 Loose Coin & Envelopes

St Josephs and the English Martyrs:

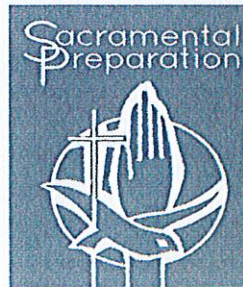
Collection: £ 1432.70 August S/ Order £7421.34

Holy Cross

Collection: £ 49.95 August S/Order £955.00

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: £136.50 August S/Order £655.33



Baptism: Forms and information are available from the Parish Office.

Marriage: enquiries call the Parish Office or email

RCIA: Applications open

First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion
Applications closed for 2019

Confirmation: Applications closed for 2019

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.

7 OCTOBER 2018 Sunday Message 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness
surpass the merits and the desires of those
who entreat you,
pour out your mercy upon us
to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Genesis 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate." So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

"This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman
for this was taken from man."

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 127

Response:

May the Lord bless us
all the days of our life.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace! (R.)

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:9-11

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 10:2-16

(For Shorter Form, read between > <)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

>Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" "Moses allowed us," they said, "to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce." Then Jesus said to them, "It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide." Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, "The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too." <

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was

indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray,
the sacrifices instituted by your commands
and, through the sacred mysteries,
which we celebrate with dutiful service,
graciously complete the sanctifying work
by which you are pleased to redeem us.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, almighty God,
that we may be refreshed and nourished
by the Sacrament which we have received,
so as to be transformed into what we
consume.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE WORD

**DIVORCE:
YES OR NO?**
(MARK 10:2-16)

The Gospel story presents us with several incidents in which Jesus is asked a question which will put him on the spot. Very often the issue concerns the observance of the Sabbath or a point about the interpretation of the Law.

In today's episode the subject is divorce. Mark sets the scene with some Pharisees asking Jesus whether divorce is permissible under the Law. However, it is clear that this is not a neutral question but one asked with hostile intent by characters who already know that the answer is yes. As with most aspects of Jewish life, there were different interpretations of the Law. Generally, Jesus would be on the more lenient side of these views, but in the case of divorce, he is more demanding even than those who would adopt a strict opinion on the matter. He forces his opponents to modify Moses' command in the event of the breakdown of marriage, to a concession given in view of people's "hardness of heart" in blinding themselves to God's original vision of unity and mutuality as set forth in Genesis.

The background to this controversy is that divorce was a common occurrence in the society and culture of Jesus' day. Under Roman law, a woman could divorce her husband, a detail which occurs in Jesus' explanation to his disciples. ■

REFLECT

There are many aspects to this question of divorce and Jesus' attitude to it. One would be the nature of the male-dominated society of the day and the place of women within it. Marriages were arranged between the fathers of the couple and had the appearance more of a contract than anything else. Some of the grounds suggested for divorce were ridiculously flimsy.

The idea of marriage as a contract has given way in recent years to that of a covenant of life and love between the partners. The model for this is the relationship between Christ and the Church, which in turn is based on the Covenant between God and Israel in the Hebrew scriptures. In this understanding, the Covenant cannot be so much broken as betrayed. Hence the attitude of the Church that it is possible, despite appearances to the contrary, that a marriage never really existed and so can be declared null.

However, we might keep in mind that when Jesus is actually faced with someone in an irregular marriage situation, he does not tell her off or enter into a discussion on the nature of marriage itself. As a result of the manner in which he treats the Samaritan woman, not only does she herself come to faith in him, but she then acts as an apostle to her townsfolk who similarly come to believe. The list of Jesus' ancestors, given to us by Matthew, mentions four women whose relationships with the fathers of their children is questionable in the extreme. So while Jesus presents us with the ideal, with which probably no one would disagree, the Bible also presents us with the picture of God working through situations which fall short of this vision. When it comes to pastoral practice, the best should not be the enemy of the good. ■

SAY

With the Lord there is
mercy, and fullness of
redemption.

DO

Look at plants growing. Any relationship has to grow or it dies. The Covenant reveals God's way of relating to human beings and is the model for the way Christians should understand marriage. Take some time to reflect on this.



LEARN

Divorce seems to have been taken for granted at the time of Jesus.

There was no one school of thought in interpreting the Law among the Pharisees (later the rabbis).

The principal pair of teachers at the time of Jesus was Shammai, who represented the strict interpretation, and Hillel, who was of a more moderate opinion.

Jesus' teaching was closer to that of Hillel, except in the matter of divorce.