

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 2nd December 2018 – 1st Sunday of Advent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - People of the Parish
11am Mass - James Conroy RIP
6pm Mass - Ernest Workman RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth):
9.00am Mass - Arthur Hudson RIP

Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):
11.15am Mass - John Clarke RIP

Monday 3rd December – St Francis Xavier, Priest

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Trevor and Pauline Duhig Special Intention

Tuesday 4th December – St John Damascene, Priest and Doctor

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – William Frost RIP

Wednesday 5th December – Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – James Morris Special Intention

Thursday 6th December – St Nicholas, Bishop

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Fr Bob Styles SJ Special Intention

Friday 7th December – St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Barrie Randall RIP

Saturday 8th December – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

5pm- 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &
Sacrament of Reconciliation
6pm Mass - John Sharkey 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.



THE GIVING TREE 2018

Giving Tree 2018 – Providing Christmas presents for under privileged children

As you will see the Giving Tree is now displayed in St Joseph's Church. Please only take one tag per family and spend no more than £10. If you take a gift tag **please** ensure you also take an information leaflet which will have all the details you need. All gifts must be returned no later than Sunday 16th December. Thank you so much for your support. *The St Francis Family Centre is based in Tower Hamlets. All the families they work with are on very low incomes and often feel isolated by their deprived circumstances. The centre is a real hub of the local community and provides families with a number of important services. For more information visit: www.cathchild.org.uk*

HELP - to herald the Christmas Good News ... by volunteering for a Churches Together Christmas card delivery round (approx. 85 letter boxes). The cards list the Christmas services of all the Stortford churches. Simply go to the St Joseph's information area, choose your round and sign for it on the sheet on the counter top, then take the *corresponding* map and card pack (lettered A to K).
FOODBANK COLLECTIONS - St. Joseph's will be collecting for the Foodbank from now until New Year. Please leave donations in the cupboard at the back of the church where there is a list of most wanted items, e.g. tinned tomatoes, long life juice/milk, sponge/rice pudding, instant mash, toilet rolls. It helps if the use by dates are as long as possible - Thank you

RESTORATION OF THE BELLS – The Bishop of St Albans will visit St Andrew's / Holy Cross on Saturday 15 December at 4 pm to bless the newly restored bells. There are 8 bells, two of which date from the reign of Elizabeth I (1595), one from 1654, two from 1738, one from 1759 and two treble bells from 1947 and 1949. The cost to restore the bells has been funded by voluntary contributions and monies raised by the efforts of the bell ringers.

PARISH NATIVITY PLAY – Most Holy Redeemer Saturday 5th January 2019 at 1pm. There will be a rehearsal on Saturday 8th December at 1pm at MHR. All Children in the parish are invited to take part. Please let Emily Jones know by 6th December if you will be attending on 07731 986601 or email emilypatriciajones@hotmail.co.uk. Parents are asked to stay with their children for the duration of the rehearsal please.

PARISH MAGAZINE- Deadline extended until Friday 7th December - Christmas stories/puzzles/poems/jokes all most welcome. Please e-mail items to astriddavies@hotmail.co.uk or leave with the Parish Office

WELCOME AND THANK YOU to Fr. Lorenzo Andreini from Redemptoris Mater House of Formation in Marylebone who kindly joins us to celebrate Mass this weekend.

NO FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH - Advent is a season to prepare for Christmas, when Christ's first coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is a period of devout and joyful expectation. During Advent the floral decoration of the altar should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing in anticipation the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord. We are very grateful to those Parishioners and visitors who regularly and kindly leave floral tributes in the Church during the year but would politely request please that no flowers are left on any of the altars during this time. Thank you very much.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN YOUTH MASS – Saturday 8th December at 3pm St Dominic's Priory, Southampton Road, London, NW5 4LB The music for Mass will be provided by Edwin Fawcett and his music ministry scholars.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD MONEY ADVICE SERVICE helps set people free from debt and money worries. We are an Associate Member of Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford. Due to increasing demand, we urgently need more volunteers with a heart to help people with money issues to strengthen the team and keep the service running. If you would like to know more about being an advisor please

email bsmoneyadvice@ntlworld.com or telephone the Manager, Heather Clapham for a no-obligation chat on 07857 209870...

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL RECEPTION APPLICATIONS The application process for primary school places for Reception 2019/2020 opens on Monday 5th November to Tuesday 15th January 2019. Please see our website for further details and copy of our school admission's policy. Also on our website are details of school visits for prospective parents- www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk. Places for these need to be booked via the school office please on 01279 652576.

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

PRETTY IN PINK – Betty Freed recently celebrated her 85th birthday and will be turning her hair pink to raise funds for cancer research. If you wish to sponsor Betty please visit <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/bettyfreed1>

WATER BOILER IN THE WCC – if you use the water boiler in the WCC **please** may you kindly ensure that it is turned off at the mains when you leave the building. Over the past few weeks the boiler has continuously been left on, sometimes overnight when not being used which is wasting electricity and will eventually cause it to burn out. Thank you ☺

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING - Wednesday 5th December, 10am - 11.30 in the WCC. Come along for coffee/tea/ mince pies. For a lift please contact Jill on 657575.

THE BAPTIST LADIES are having a 'Girls Night In' at the Baptist Church on Wednesday 5th December at 8 pm. It is free but they do just ask for a donation of items such as new ladies underwear, feminine products e.g. deodorants and sanitary items or nice soaps. These they will distribute between the Night Shelter, Foodbank and YMCA. It's a lovely social evening for ladies with refreshments provided.

ENCOUNTER meet next Fri. 7 Dec at St Theresa's, Stansted.

'Advent reflections' Do secular symbols of Christmas obscure the Christian message of the Incarnation of God in Christ? 10am coffee 10.30 meeting opens 12.30pm shared 'Advent' themed lunch: please bring food to share 2pm day ends. All welcome for all or part of the day. Enquiries: B/S 652060

COMMUNITY CAROLS – with the Salvation Army **Saturday 8 December** 7pm Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church

PARISH AGM – Come along, catch up and connect! Here's an opportunity to find out more about what has been going on and offer suggestions on what next. All parishioners are invited to attend on Sunday, 9th December at the WCC from 7pm-8.30pm. Drinks and nibbles will be served. Put the date in your diary **now** and we look forward to seeing you.

HARMONAIRES FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Sat 15 December at 11am at St Joseph's Church 'Jingle All the Way'. Tickets: £5 Adult/£3 children .Available on 07916 153 898 www.theharmonaireschoir.com We will be selling tickets outside St Joseph's Church after the 9am and 11am Mass on Sunday 2nd and Sunday 9th December.

CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS - London at Christmas and the New Year Sunday 16th December 2018 & Wednesday 2nd January 2019, both at 3pm. Join us for seasonal walks through Westminster and Victoria, taking in Christmas trees and crib-scenes. Meet at Westminster Cathedral. Nearest Tube: Victoria. www.catholichistorywalks.com

CHARITY PARISH QUIZ Saturday, 19 January 2019: WCC (raising funds for Across Bishop's Stortford) Don't miss out, buy your tickets early (limited number available): £5 BYO drinks and nibbles. Contact Debbie Hourihan on 07584 623472. More details nearer the time.

WINTER LUNCH WCC Saturday, 19 January 2019: 12-3pm - are you retired, living alone or looking forward to a good time with fellow parishioners? Come and join us for an afternoon of feasting and entertainment and shake off those winter blues. Further details to come nearer the time



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 24/25 November 2018 Loose Coin & Envelopes

St Josephs and the English Martyrs:

Collection: £ 1458.37 October S/ Order £7521.34

Holy Cross

Collection: £ 59.98 October S/Order £1505.00

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: £178.35 October S/Order £667.33



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

*Mother of Christ! Hear thou thy people's cry,
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky!
Mother of Him Who thee from nothing made,
Sinking we strive and call to thee for aid;
Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,
Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

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 Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

“In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 24

Response:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)
3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who
revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

SECOND READING Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living

it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: “There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

“Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.”

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, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate
devoutly here below,
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

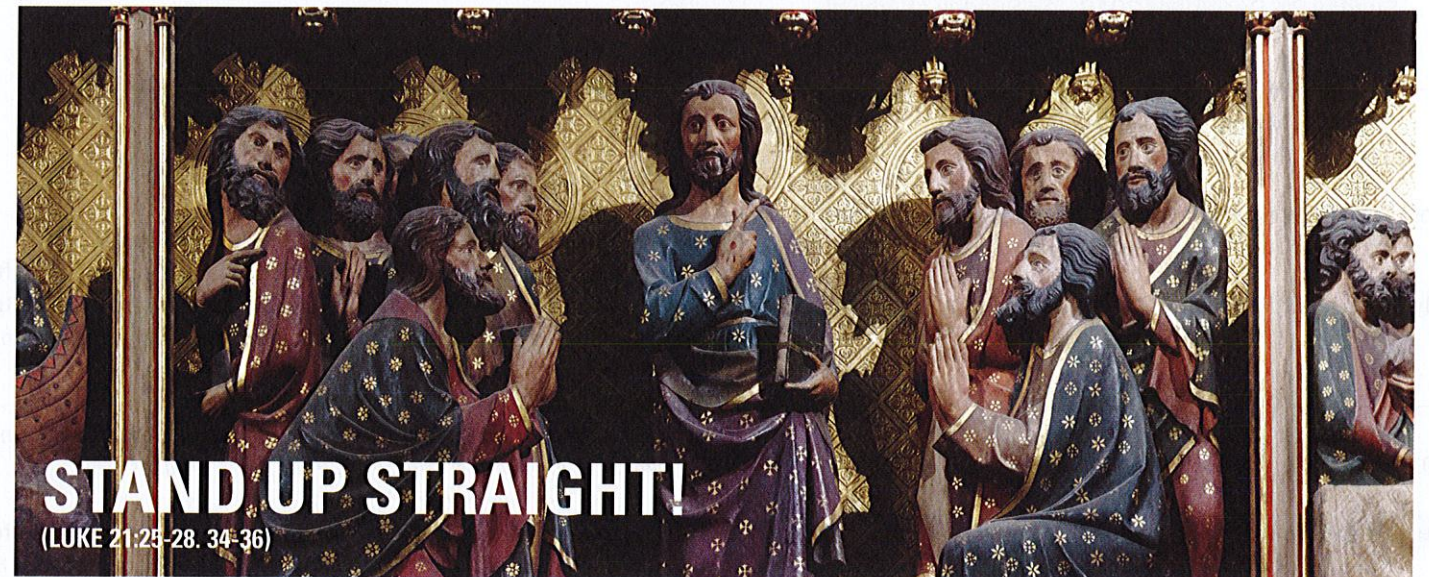
May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated,
profit us, we pray,
for even now, as we walk amid passing things,
you teach us by them to love the things of
heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday Message

2 DECEMBER 2018

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**THE WORD**

Year C • Psalter Week 1



Intricately carved frieze inside Notre Dame Cathedral depicting Jesus' appearance to the disciples in Galilee

Today, the first Sunday of Advent, we begin a new cycle of readings from the Gospel, this time from the account presented to us by Luke.

The text for today concerns the coming of the Son of Man at the end of time, an event heralded by fearful signs which engulf the natural world. The effect on the human world will be one of confusion and panic. When this will happen is unknown, so how should the disciples of Jesus live in the meantime?

We find the figure of the coming of the Son of Man in glory in the book of Daniel, which speaks about the final victory of God over the forces which oppose God's rule, God's vision of what human life should be. In the Gospel story, these forces are identified with Satan, and with anything which endangers or adversely affects human life: for example, Luke earlier has described the plight of a crippled woman, “whom Satan has bound” for eighteen years and is unable “to stand up straight”. Jesus delivers her from this condition, and in this way illustrates the universal deliverance from evil which the Son of Man will bring. The disciples must hold themselves ready to meet the Lord whenever this event takes place. Jesus has warned them about the dangers facing the likes of the complacent house manager who imagines that he or she has plenty of time to indulge in self-centred abuses of his or her position. There is also the risk that disciples may allow their awareness of the word of God to be drowned out by the daily concerns of life. Such an attitude will mean that the arrival of the Son of Man will cause panic, guilt and shame.

But this need not be so. Jesus tells the disciples to be alert, constantly praying, and then they will be ready to greet him joyfully. Like the woman whom Jesus has liberated from her suffering, they should stand up straight, knowing that their deliverance from all the evil which threatens them is imminent. Then his coming will be a source of joy, good news indeed. ■

**LEARN**

The word “Advent” means “coming” or “approach”.

The biblical posture for speaking to God in prayer is standing, not kneeling.

The term “Son of Man” is taken from the book of Daniel.

The book of Daniel is apocalyptic writing, which describes events at the end of time.

SAY

To you, Lord, I lift up my soul.

DO

Use the frantic advertising for Christmas as a reminder of what is really important to you as a Christian person. Imagine it all as froth on the surface and find a quiet place in your heart to reflect on the place which Jesus occupies in your life today.

REFLECT

Advent is the period of the four weeks leading up to the celebration of the feast of the nativity, or the birth, of Christ. During this time we are invited to reflect not simply on the historical event which took place in Bethlehem, but also, and more importantly, on what that event should mean to us personally today. How would I feel if I realised that Jesus was arriving later today? Would this be good news?

Each time we pray “thy kingdom come”, we are in fact praying that God's rule (or God's will) should be established in our world: so we ought to live our lives believing that this is in fact a reality. We might also consider our daily cares and concerns in this light, so that when we celebrate Christmas, we will be welcoming Christ into our lives today as a real and living presence, in a spirit of deep joy. ■