

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 9th December 2018 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - Monica and Newton Carasco RIP
11am Mass - John McCormack RIP
6pm Mass - James Long 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 - The Shephard Family Intention

Monday 10th December – Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - The Carleton Family Intention
10.45am Requiem Mass - Linda Sims RIP

Tuesday 11th December – St Damasus I, Pope

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Jack Basey RIP

Wednesday 12th December – Our Lady of Guadalupe

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Albert Garrett RIP

Thursday 13th December – St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - James Strang RIP

Friday 14th December – St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Benefactors of the Secular Clergy Common Fund

Saturday 15th December – Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

11am - 'Jingle All the Way' - The Harmonaires Concert

5pm - 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Sacrament of Reconciliation

6pm Mass - Mary Graham-Watson 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 at St Joseph's. 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).
JOB VACANCIES WITH ACROSS – Across is a small charity specialising in group pilgrimages to Lourdes, France, for those who are sick, disabled and terminally ill. They are currently looking for an experienced Book keeper, a Fund raising & Legacy Manager and a Lead Nurse. The full job adverts are currently on our parish web site and more information can also be found on www.across.org.uk the closing date for all applications is 7/1/19

THE SALVATION ARMY – Lt Megan Lowe would be very grateful for any donations of toys, chocolates, books, craft items, wrapping paper or sello tape to the local Salvation army as they have 82 families who are currently in need. Thank you

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – Fri 14 12pm-5pm / Sat 15 & Sun 16 December 11am – 5pm. free entrance, stalls, music, refreshments, raffle & tombola



REV FR MICHAEL LAMBERT AA RIP – Please keep in your thoughts and prayers Rev Fr Michael Lambert and the Priests and Parishioners at Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew in Hitchin. Fr Michael sadly died on Sunday 2 December following a road traffic collision in Hitchin. He was ordained a Priest in 1966, retiring in 2016 but remained in the Hitchin Parish providing pastoral support where he was very much loved. His body will be received into the Church on Sunday 16 December at 4.30pm and his Requiem Mass will be at 11am on 17 December. May he rest in peace



Collections 1st / 2nd December 2018 Loose Coin & Envelopes

St Josephs and the English Martyrs:

Collection: £ 1350.23 October S/ Order £7521.34

Holy Cross

Collection: £ 28.00 October S/Order £1505.00

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: £257.24 October S/Order £667.33



CONGRATULATIONS – to Fr Carlos who formally took his Oath to H.M. Queen Elizabeth II on Wednesday and became a British citizen.

FOODBANK COLLECTIONS – All 3 churches are collecting for the Foodbank from now until New Year. At St Joseph's please leave donations in the cupboard at the back of the church where there is a list of most wanted items, Thank you

THANK YOU to all who supported the wonderful Advent Fayre at MHR. £370 was raised which will be shared equally between St. Lawrence's School, Zambia and the Cardinal Hume Centre.

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>

PENNY COLLECTION FOR ZAMBIA – Our Penny collection total is so far £926.65 – we would love to reach the £1k point and send the money directly to the St Lawrence school in Zambia before Christmas, so if you have any loose change please help us by donation in the tub at the back of St Joseph's or at Most Holy Redeemer, thank you

DID YOU KNOW that since 3/6/2015 until 5/12/2018 our Church Live stream at St Joseph's has attracted 273045 Viewers from all over the world!



"Prepare a way for the Lord!"

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 this 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.

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.

ADVENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS - Join the Assumption Sisters and Fathers for the full-day Advent retreat on **Saturday 15th December 2018**. The theme: "Master, what must we do?" will help us to prepare spiritually for the arrival of Christ. The day includes time for confession, spiritual accompaniment, talks, adoration, mass, faith sharing, prayer and activities. Venue: Milleret House, via 23 Kensington Square, London W8 5HN. Registration is essential - email us to book your place: youth@assumptionreligious.org Tel: 020 7361 4755. Cost: donations only, lunch is included.

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

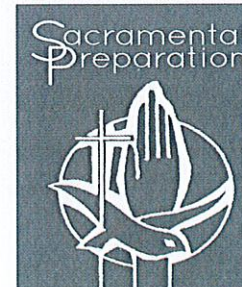
Parish Office: 01279 654063 (9am-3pm Mon - Fri)

Parish Centre Bookings and All Enquiries:

bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

Safeguarding enquiries only

bishopsstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk



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

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice
heard
in the joy of your heart.

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.
Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and
distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around
you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on
your head:
since God means to show your splendour to
every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will
be,
“Peace through integrity, and honour through
devotedness.”
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and
east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that
God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot,
with enemies of an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting
hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground
level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the
glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will
provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of
his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 125

Response:
**What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from
bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: “What
marvels
the Lord worked for them!”
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R.)

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of
song,
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

SECOND READING Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with
joy, remembering how you have helped to
spread the Good News from the day you first
heard it right up to the present. I am quite
certain that the One who began this good
work in you will see that it is finished when
the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows
how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ
Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love
for each other may increase more and more
and never stop improving your knowledge
and deepening your perception so that you
can always recognise what is best. This will
help you to become pure and blameless, and
prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you
will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus
Christ produces in us for the glory and praise
of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of
God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's
reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor
of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his
brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of
Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch
of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas
and Caiaphas, the word of God came to
John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.
He went through the whole Jordan district
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book
of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of
God.

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

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers
and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to plead our
cause,
come, we pray, to our rescue
with the protection of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from
God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

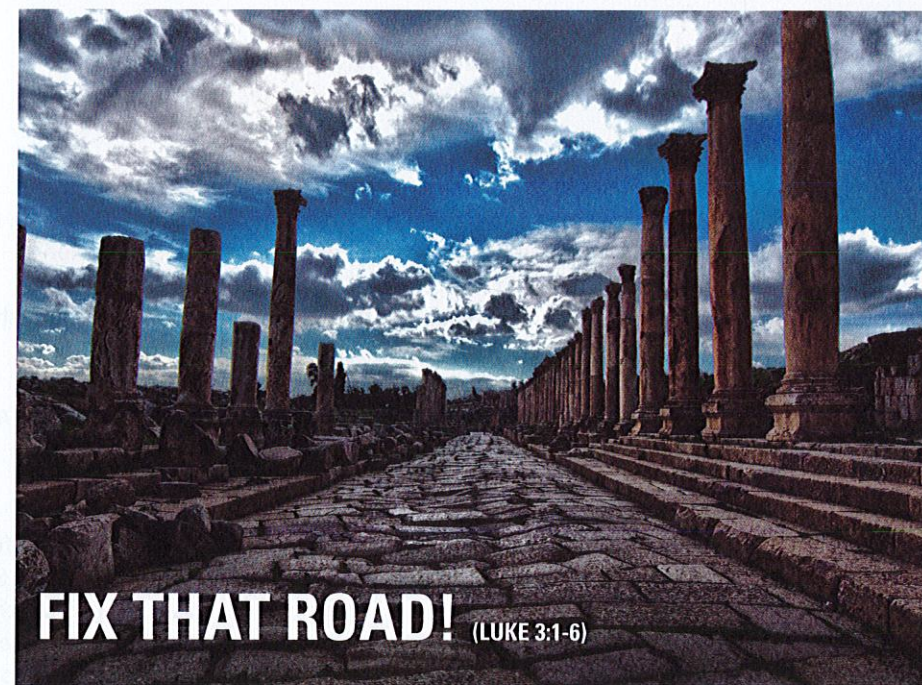
Replenished by the food of spiritual
nourishment,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, through our partaking in this mystery,
you may teach us to judge wisely the things
of earth
and hold firm to the things of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday Message

9 DECEMBER 2018

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**THE WORD**

Year C • Psalter Week 2



Roman road in Jeresh

John the Baptist is an important figure in the Gospel tradition. In Luke's version of the story of their conception and birth, we find he is presented in parallel to Jesus, but always at a lower level: for instance, John is conceived, against all the odds, like significant figures in the Hebrew Bible such as Isaac, Jacob and Samuel, in the natural way; Jesus' conception, however, does not involve a human father.

Luke sets John and his ministry in the wider setting of human history by mentioning the chief political and religious leaders of the time: the emperor, the governor of the area and the chief priests of the people. In this way, Luke tells us that the birth of Jesus has a meaning for the world beyond the geographical and religious world of the land of Israel. The Gospel message is for everyone who will accept it.

John the Baptist is in some ways the last of the Old Testament prophets and the first of the New Testament saints. He is an uncomfortable figure, like all of the prophets, but his preaching is intended to bring people to their senses, to help them realise that they have lost their way in life and to do something about it. The end result should be that his hearers decide to change their attitude and behaviour and to express this resolution publicly by being baptised. In this way, they are reconciled to God: this surely is good news.

John's ministry is earlier and similar to that of Jesus. It is also preparing the way for the arrival of the Saviour. His word may be critical and uncomfortable, but its aim is positive. ■

LEARN

The New Testament Greek term for “conversion” is *metanoia*.

Metanoia has the sense of changing the way we think.

Conversion involves a change of attitude which manifests itself in our behaviour.

The result and purpose of conversion is to be reconciled to God.

REFLECT

Many ancient roads were marvels of engineering. They were straight and level: the engineers overcame every obstacle in their way, whether they were slopes going up or down, streams, trees or the like. Nothing was allowed to interfere with the swift and smooth progress of troops or trade. They were so well constructed that many still remain, thousands of years later.

This is the vision of Second Isaiah, who was writing 500 years or so earlier than the birth of Christ, when the Roman Empire was at the high point of its power. The prophet calls for the construction of such a road so that all people will see the salvation of God. We might recall that in the story of Jesus' being presented in the Temple, Simeon had spoken of “a light of revelation for the Gentiles”, and here we are told that “all people will see the salvation of God”. Luke emphasises that God's message is for all who will accept God's word declared through the prophet, but this conversion, or “turn-around”, is not something purely intellectual or interior: it must show itself in the way the person lives and treats others. Advent is the time for us to “prepare a way for the Lord” into our hearts, minds and lives. ■

SAY

Prepare a way for the Lord!

DO

As you walk along the street, look at the road. What condition is it in? How might the state of the road reflect the state of your life in relation to God? Are there potholes? Are major repairs being carried out? Or is the road well maintained and an asset to the local and wider community?

