

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 16th December 2018 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

(Gaudete Sunday)

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - Margaret Barrett RIP

11am Mass - The McCormack Family Intention

6pm Mass - Patrick Farrelly 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 17th December - Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Patrick Farrelly RIP

Most Holy Redeemer

1.30pm Requiem Mass - Marie Cecilia Flood RIP

Tuesday 18th December - Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Private Intention

7pm - St Mary's School Advent Service

Wednesday 19th December - Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - John & Kathleen Treanor Intention

Thursday 20th December - Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Mary Sullivan RIP

Friday 21st December - Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Fr Carlos Intention

Saturday 22nd December - Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs

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

6pm Mass - Michael O'Shea 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.



THANK YOU to everyone who generously donated a gift
for the Giving Tree this year. If you have been unable to drop off
your present before this weekend please call Mandy Gregory
07985 111 235 as soon as possible

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).



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - Please do take a leaflet, one per
household advertising our Christmas Mass times along with a
blessing for your Christmas tree and Crib at home.

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

JUSTICE AND PEACE VACANCY - The Diocese of Westminster seeks
to appoint a practising Roman Catholic to serve the Westminster
Justice & Peace Commission in coordinating Justice and Peace
endeavours across the Diocese. Please see the link for more
information <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/justice-and-peace-co-ordinator/>

THANK YOU to everyone who came to the Parish AGM on Sunday
and to those who provided the refreshments. If you missed the
meeting there are copies of the report available at the back of
each Church. Please do take one.

PARISH MAGAZINE - The Christmas edition of the Parish magazine
is now on sale at only 30p containing a range of beautiful poems,
interesting articles and recipes. Thank you to Astrid, the editor for
her dedication and hard work throughout the year and to
everyone who has contributed.

THANK YOU very much to Monica who has beautifully decorated
the English Martyrs Altar at St Joseph's with Advent contributions
from the Senior Parish Art group.



GAUDETE SUNDAY - is the third Sunday of Advent in the Roman
Catholic calendar of the Church year. The term is derived from the Latin
opening words of the introit antiphon, "Rejoice (Gaudete) in the Lord
always." The theme of the day expresses the joy of anticipation at the
approach of the coming of Our Lord at Christmas, reflecting a lightening of
the tone of the traditional Advent observance. This is why the Celebrant of
the Mass can choose to wear rose-coloured vestments on this day instead of
the deeper violet vestments typically worn during Advent. This Sunday was
also known as "Rose Sunday" and that is why we also have a pink or rose-
coloured candle among the four candles in our Advent wreath.

STONE STEPS AT ST JOSEPH'S - You may have noticed upon entering the
Church today that the chipped and damaged stone steps have been repaired
and are now much safer under foot.

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

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 has
turned her hair pink to raise funds for cancer research. So far she has raised
£497.50 (with gift aid). If you wish to still sponsor Betty please visit;
<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/bettyfreed1>

'Rejoice in the Lord always'

ADVENT is THE time to join with the Holy Family with our
special Advent retreat, designed to enrich your marriage and
family life. It is not too late to start!?

<https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/news/grow-through-advent-as-a-family/>

**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

ST MARY'S SCHOOL ADVENT SERVICE - Tuesday 18th
December 2018 at 7pm in St Joseph's Church. Refreshments
served afterwards in the Windhill Churches Centre. Everyone
is welcome to attend.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th December 7.30pm -
9.30pm. Tickets are available on 0844 844 0444.



COMPANY AT CHRISTMAS, 25th December

Every year, Churches Together Bishop's Stortford give a party
for anyone in our town who would otherwise be alone on
Christmas Day. There are FIVE ways you can help:

be a Christmas Day volunteer,

a Christmas Eve volunteer,

a Christmas Day driver,

a Christmas Day entertainer or cook a Christmas turkey.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact

Margaret Fox (658638).



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

PENNY COLLECTION FOR ZAMBIA - Thank you to everyone
who has contributed to our Penny collection for Zambia this
year. We have now reached our £1k total and the money will
be sent to St Lawrence School before Christmas.



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

Thank you

Collections 8th/9th December 2018 Loose Coin & Envelopes

St Josephs and the English Martyrs:

Collection: £ 1418.94 November S/ Order £6220.34

Holy Cross

Collection: £ 71.21 November S/Order £1055.00

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: £92.49 November 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

*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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say,
rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

COLLECT

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
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 Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.
Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to
Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 12

Response:

**Sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his
name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the
peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel. (R.)

SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-7

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

I want you to be happy, always happy in the
Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness.
Let your tolerance be evident to everyone:
the Lord is very near. There is no need to

worry; but if there is anything you need,
pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and
thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which
is so much greater than we can understand,
will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in
Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the
poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

When all the people asked John, "What must
we do?" he answered, "If anyone has two
tunics he must share with the man who has
none, and the one with something to eat
must do the same." There were tax collectors
too who came for baptism, and these said to
him, "Master, what must we do?" He said to
them, "Exact no more than your rate." Some
soldiers asked him in their turn, "What about
us? What must we do?" He said to them, "No
intimidation! No extortion! Be content with
your pay!"

A feeling of expectancy had grown among
the people, who were beginning to think that
John might be the Christ, so John declared
before them all, "I baptise you with water, but
someone is coming, someone who is more
powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo
the strap of his sandals: he will baptise you
with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-
fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor
and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the
chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go
out." As well as this, there were many other
things he said to exhort the people and to
announce the Good News to them.

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

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we
pray,
be offered to you unceasingly,
to complete what was begun in sacred
mystery
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving
work.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do
not fear.**

**Behold, our God will come, and he will save
us.**

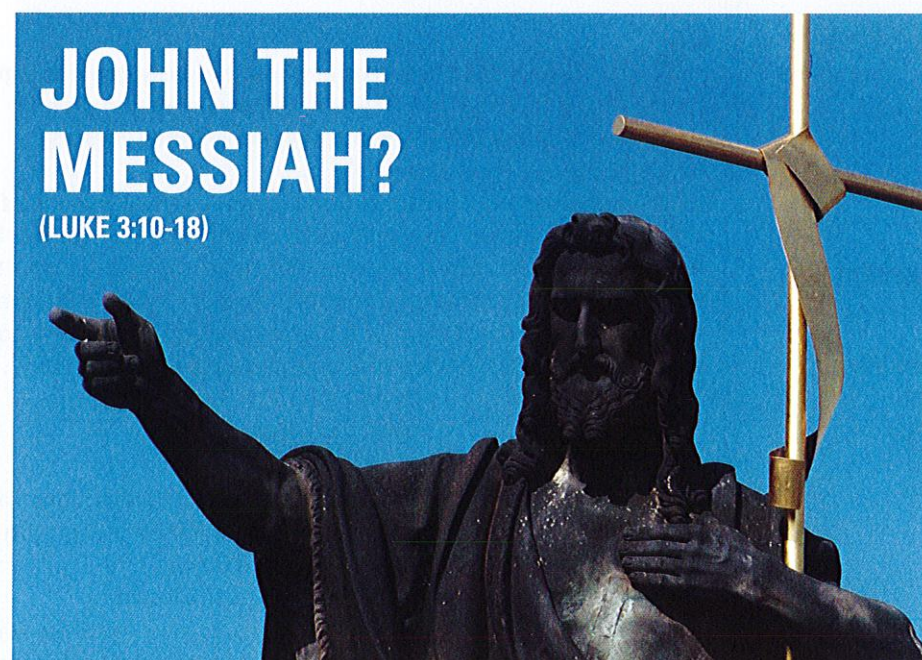
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of
our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year C • Psalter Week 3



Statue of St John the Baptist with golden cross, Charles Bridge, Prague, Czech Republic

Our Gospel passage today centres on John the Baptist and considers two questions.

The first is this: What does baptism mean for those people who have responded positively to his preaching? For Luke, this centres on the use of possessions. A major theme in Luke's Gospel is the care for the poor which features strongly in the preaching of the prophets. To be converted to God means to give up selfish attitudes and behaviour and to consider the needs of those less fortunate. It means resisting the temptation to use a position of authority and power, such as that enjoyed by tax officials and soldiers, to enrich oneself at the expense of those in a vulnerable situation.

The second question is: Who is the Messiah? It is clear from this passage and elsewhere that some people thought that John the Baptist fulfilled this role, and later Christian missionaries encountered disciples of John in Ephesus. John here declares himself not to be the Messiah and looks forward to the coming of the Stronger One, who will bring judgement and salvation. It is John's mission to prepare a people for the Lord, and once Jesus has arrived on the scene and been baptised himself, John's ministry is over. ■

REFLECT

The Gospel tradition tells us that John the Baptist was imprisoned and then executed by Herod Antipas. Most people are familiar with the rather dramatic and colourful account of his fate as a result of Herod's rash promise to his stepdaughter Salome. Even John's being imprisoned for denouncing Herod's legally incestuous marriage to Herodias seems a somewhat extreme reaction to an irritating fundamentalist preacher.

However, our Gospel passage today gives us a clue that Herod may well have regarded John as a real and present

danger to his own power and position. John was a person who was gaining influence, not just over the ordinary religious-minded citizens but also over those officials on whom Herod's rule depended, the tax collectors and soldiers. Herod was also a puppet ruler who depended on the favour of the Roman authorities, so any threat to Roman rule had to be dealt with immediately and severely. If John the Baptist was becoming someone with sway over the likes of soldiers, then he would be an alternative centre of power in the land. It is therefore possible that this was the reason for his imprisonment and subsequent execution. We remember that

LEARN

Tax collectors did not receive a salary: they were expected to charge commission on the money they gathered for the Roman authorities.

The Herod who appears in the story of John the Baptist is Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great who ruled when Jesus was born.

Luke is particularly concerned with the plight of poor and vulnerable people.

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Laetare Sunday: *Laetare* (Rejoice!) is the opening Latin word of the entrance antiphon – we are halfway through Advent!

DO

Look through your cupboards: is there any spare clothing or food you could give to the St Vincent de Paul Society or some such organisation for people in need?



SAY

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Jesus was executed on a political charge as "King of the Jews", not "Son of God".

On a more positive note, we can see in the tax collectors and soldiers the universal offer of salvation: we will encounter these groups later in the ministry of Jesus, where associating with the despised tax collectors will get Jesus into trouble. The Gentile centurion will beg Jesus to heal his servant, and it will be a Roman centurion who will declare the crucified Jesus righteous. As we move through Advent, we can see how God offers the Good News to everyone, irrespective of race, religion or occupation. ■