

# 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](mailto:bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford>  
Live streaming from St Joseph's: [www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)  
Diocese of Westminster Charity No. 233699

## Sunday 23rd December 2018 - 4th Sunday of Advent

### St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - Andy Moloney and Joseph Stehl RIP

11am Mass - The Conroy and Loftus Family RIP

6pm Mass - Barrie Randall RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth):

9.00am Mass Joan Bridle RIP

Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):

11.15am Mass - People of the Parish



### Monday 24th December - Advent feria

#### St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

5pm Mass - Those who are Sick, Lonely or Bereaved

7pm 2nd Vigil Mass of Christmas - Rev Fr Michael Lambert AA RIP

11.30pm Carols and Readings

Midnight Mass - People of the Parish

### Most Holy Redeemer

Carols and Readings 7.30pm - Vigil Mass at 8pm - The People of the Parish



## Tuesday 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord

### St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - Mary and Harry Matthews RIP

11am Mass - Theresa and Mary Cannon RIP

### Holy Cross

11.15am Mass - People of the Parish

## Wednesday 26th December - St Stephen, the First Martyr

### St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

10am Mass - Alfred Fernandes RIP

## Thursday 27th December - St John, Apostle and Evangelist

### St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

NO MASS

## Friday 28th December - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

### St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

NO MASS

## Saturday 29th December - St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

### St Joseph and the English Martyrs

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

6pm Mass - Maureen Pamphilon RIP



*Fr Peter and Fr Carlos and the Pastoral Council and Committees of our three Churches, send you their thanks for the past year and every prayer and good wish for a Happy, Blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year!*

**THANK YOU** to everyone at Holy Cross who donated £307 to the Cardinal Hume Centre last weekend.

**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 has been sent to St Lawrence School. We received an email from Sr Angela in Zambia last week following our donation (see below). The money raised will make a real difference. Thank you!

*Dear People of God*

*This is really good news. I thank you greatly. On Monday I will check at the bank and for sure the borehole issue will start soon before the water table rises.*

*Very soon I will report on the full expenditure of the amount we received. We are waiting to buy a transparent roofing sheet to be fixed on one of the classrooms which had the roof damaged.*

*May God continue blessing you.  
Sr. Angela.*

**ST MARY'S SCHOOL** require a part-time Learning Support Assistant to support students with a variety of additional and special needs throughout the school. The post is temporary and will begin during the Spring Term until the end of the July 2019. The term-time post is part-time ie 20 hours per week during school hours from Monday-Friday. See [www.stmarys.net](http://www.stmarys.net)

**THE PORTLAND CHILD CONTACT CENTRE** offers a safe space for family members of separated families to meet, every first to fourth Saturday morning of the month at The Hub Church on Portland Road, BS require Volunteers. For role descriptions and application form or an informal chat please email [secretary.portlandccc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.portlandccc@gmail.com)

**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](mailto: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](http://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.

**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](http://www.across.org.uk) the closing date for all applications is 7/1/19

**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/>

**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.

**REFRESHMENTS** - There will be NO refreshments after the 11am Mass for the next 2 weeks. The team thank you all for your support and wish you a Happy Christmas.

**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).

**FULL SUNG LATIN MASS** with Gregorian Chant on Sunday 30th December at 3pm at The Immaculate Conception, 11 Church Hill, Epping, CM16 4RA. Come, pray and sing the Mass of our Church for nearly 2000 years. **All Welcome!**  
**CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS - London at Christmas and the New Year** 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. [www.catholichistorywalks.com](http://www.catholichistorywalks.com)

**THE PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS** and we look forward to seeing you on Saturday, 19 January for our **WINTER LUNCH** ... if you know someone retired or living alone who would like to join us for an afternoon of feasting and entertainment, please take an invitation from the back of Church. However, if you'd prefer an evening out, tickets are available now for our **CHARITY PARISH QUIZ** - also on 19 January - to raise funds for our next Pilgrimage to Lourdes via Jumbulance. £5 BYO drinks and nibbles. **Contact Debbie Hourihan on 07584 623472.**



## PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

25th December Christmas day - Closed

26th December - St Stephens Day - Closed

27th December - 8am-2pm

Fri 28th December - Closed

Sat 29th December - Closed

Sun 30th December - Closed

Mon 31st December - Closed

Tues 1st January - Closed

Wed 2nd January 9am-3pm



Parish Administrator - Debbie Jackson

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

Parish Centre Bookings and All Enquiries:

[bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk)

Safeguarding enquiries only

[bishopsstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:bishopsstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)



Collections 15th/16th December 2018 Loose Coin & Envelopes

**St Josephs and the English Martyrs:**

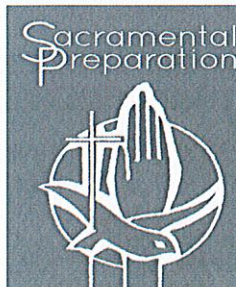
Collection: £1265.25 November S/ Order £6220.34

**Holy Cross**

Collection: £37.40 November S/Order £1055.00

**Most Holy Redeemer:**

Collection: £237.96 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**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a  
Saviour.

**COLLECT**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,  
your grace into our hearts,  
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ  
your Son  
was made known by the message of an  
Angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross  
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Micah 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon  
them

till the time when she who is to give birth  
gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come  
back

to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he  
will extend his power  
to the ends of the land.  
He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 79

Response:

God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be  
saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have  
chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your  
name. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the  
world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or  
sacrifices for sin:  
then I said,  
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the  
book,  
"God, here I am! I am coming to obey your  
will."

Notice that he says first: You did not want  
what the Law lays down as the things to be  
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations,  
the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and  
you took no pleasure in them; and then he  
says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your  
will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace  
it with the second. And this will was for us  
to be made holy by the offering of his body  
made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she  
could to a town in the hill country of Judah.  
She went into Zechariah's house and greeted  
Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard  
Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb  
and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.  
She gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women  
you are the most blessed, and blessed is  
the fruit of your womb. Why should I be  
honoured with a visit from the mother of my  
Lord? For the moment your greeting reached  
my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy.  
Yes, blessed is she who believed that the  
promise made her by the Lord would be  
fulfilled."

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 Holy Spirit, O Lord,  
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,  
just as he filled with his power the womb of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a  
son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Having received this pledge of eternal  
redemption,  
we pray, almighty God,  
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws  
ever nearer,  
so we may press forward all the more eagerly  
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of  
your Son's Nativity.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

23 DECEMBER 2018

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# Sunday Message

**THE WORD**

Year C • Psalter Week 4



Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mary's Way in Klenovnik, Croatia

The first two chapters of the Gospel according to Luke deal with the  
conception and birth of Jesus (and John the Baptist) and we usually refer  
to them as the Infancy Narrative.

There are five scenes, and the third of these is related in today's Gospel extract, the  
visitation, in which Mary goes to visit her elderly and pregnant cousin, Elizabeth. The  
angel Gabriel has just told Mary that she is to be the mother of Jesus, and any message  
of this kind is always accompanied by a sign in the biblical story. Though Mary has  
assented to the angel's message, she wants to see the sign that confirms it, that Elizabeth  
is expecting a child herself.

In this scene, the two mothers and the two children are brought together, and John  
the Baptist performs his first act of witness to Jesus. Elizabeth recognises in the joyful  
movement of her unborn child the identity of Mary's baby and she bears witness by calling  
Mary "blessed" and "the mother of my Lord".

Luke emphasises in his Gospel the importance of listening to the word of the Lord.  
Elizabeth attributes Mary's blessedness to the fact that she believed (or trusted) that what  
the Lord had spoken would be fulfilled. Later in the Gospel we hear a woman in the crowd  
exclaiming to Jesus, "Blessed is she who bore you!" Jesus replies, "Blessed, rather, are  
those who hear the word of God and put it into practice!" However, we know that there  
is no distinction intended here, no diminishing of Mary's importance, but rather Jesus is  
presenting his mother in her true light. ■

**SAY**

Blessed is she who believed  
that the promise of the Lord  
would be fulfilled.

**DO**

Say the second Joyful Mystery of the Rosary,  
the Visitation. Take your time over it and  
insert consecutive lines from the Gospel  
account in between the Hail Marys.

**REFLECT**

The evangelists are interested first  
and foremost in the person of  
Jesus. We should see any other  
characters in the story according to  
their relationship with Jesus. If we think  
that the episode in the Gospel today is  
simply Mary being concerned for the  
health and well-being of Elizabeth and  
going to look after her, then we are  
missing the point. The message of this  
section lies in what Elizabeth says to her  
cousin. Luke and Matthew relate that  
Jesus preaches a sermon containing  
what we call the "Beatitudes", in  
which he gives a list of how people  
are "blessed". Through the mouth of  
Elizabeth, Luke describes what it means  
to be blessed: it is to believe in the word  
of the Lord. Mary has already shown  
this when she said to Gabriel, "let it be  
with me according to your word".

For Luke, Mary is the model disciple,  
who listens to the word of the Lord,  
meditates upon it and puts it into  
practice. In this way, she is the model for  
every Christian. She cannot be a model  
for us through her physical motherhood:  
but she can be our model through her  
obedience to the word of the Lord and  
playing her part in God's plan for human  
beings. Luke holds up Mary and Jesus'  
relatives as examples of what it means  
to be a disciple: someone who hears the  
word of God and puts it into practice. To  
describe Mary in this way is to show her  
true importance and to give her proper  
honour and respect. ■

**LEARN**

The Infancy Narratives (the first two chapters)  
of Matthew and Luke present the evangelists'  
understanding of who Jesus is.

Elizabeth's pregnancy is the visible  
confirmation of Gabriel's message to Mary.

For Luke, Mary is the model disciple.

The true disciple of Jesus is one who listens  
to God's word, meditates upon it and puts it  
into practice in his or her daily life.