



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 6th January 2019 - The Epiphany of the Lord

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - Anthony Micallef RIP

11am Mass - Helen Diment RIP

12.30pm Baptism - Anne Veronica Lawrence

6pm Mass - Barry Randall 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 - Johanna Duhig RIP

12.45pm - Baptism Alastair Lawrence Dominic Quai Currie

Monday 7th January - St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Special Intention Paul Elstone & Family

Tuesday 8th January - Christmas feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Special Intention Anne Hazard

Wednesday 9th January - Christmas feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Viktor Bainov RIP

Thursday 10th January - Christmas feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - The Ball Family Intention

Friday 11th January - Christmas feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Margaret Rosair RIP

Saturday 12th January - St Aelred of Rievaulx

St Joseph and the English Martyrs

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

6pm Mass - Teresa Mc Anespie Intention



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.

A very 'Happy New Year' from the Parish Social Committee:-

WINTER LUNCH next Saturday, 19 January please make sure your RSVP is returned to us by Wednesday, 16 January.



VOLUNTEER CAR DRIVERS urgently sought to drive our guests to/from their Winter Lunch on 19 January, please contact **Alison Gornall** on **07880946085**



CHARITY PARISH QUIZ next Saturday, 19 January, 7pm

WCC Final few tickets available now £5 BYO drinks and nibbles. Contact **Debbie Hourihan** on **07584623472**

RAFFLE PRIZES for the Quiz Night would be most welcome - please leave in the box at the back of St Joseph's Church.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION - Volunteer for CAFOD in the Westminster Diocese - Do you have good public speaking skills and want to help us tackling poverty and injustice? CAFOD needs volunteers to speak on our behalf in parishes and/or schools in the Westminster Diocese about our work in the developing world. To find out more details, or book a place on our next Volunteer information day in London on Saturday, 19th January 2019 call CAFOD on 0208 449 6970 or email westminster@cafod.org.uk
FOODBANK - The Foodbank at St Josephs has now stopped but Most Holy Redeemer and Holy Cross continue to collect for the Foodbank throughout the year and donations can be left at the entrance to the church. Thank you to all who continue to contribute across our Parish.

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**

OFFERING HOPE WORKSHOPS - 12th January 2-4pm and 22nd January 7-9pm - Courtyards 'Offering Hope' workshops are open to anyone who is interested in how the Church can help and make a difference to the lives of young people. Conversations between individuals will give an idea of current projects happening within the diocese, in addition to input from Courtyard on constructing new ideas for engaging and accompanying young people. If you would like more information, or wish to attend either of the dates above please email sophie@millionminutes.org

COME TO A SEEKERS MEETING FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DISCERN A POSSIBLE VOCATION

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm Tuesday 29 January 2019 Venue: SW3 5AA, Beaufort St, Chelsea, London, SW3 5AA, UK

Seekers' meeting scheduled at Allen Hall Seminary, 28 Beaufort Street, Chelsea London SW3 5AA. The schedule for the day is as follows:

6:00 pm Evening Prayer and Mass

7:00 pm Supper

7.30-9pm Seekers' meeting

Attendance at the meeting is by invitation of the Vocations Promoter. If interested, please contact: Canon Stuart Wilson, Spiritual Director, Allen Hall Seminary, 28 Beaufort Street, London SW3 5AA Tel: 020 7349 5620 Email: vocationspromoter@rcdow.org.uk or stuartwilson@rcdow.org.uk

TALKS AT THE SION CENTRE, 34 CHEPSTOW VILLAS, LONDON, W11 2QZ

0207 313 8286 www.sioncentre.org,

ROMERO, Saints of Vatican II A series given by Jonathan Gorsky

Dates: Wednesday 9th January and Wednesday 16th January

Time: 11.00am - 3.15pm (Tea and Coffee from 10.30am) Please bring a packed lunch

TORN FROM HOME - An event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day

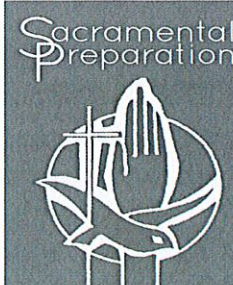
An afternoon with Fr Francis Wahle - one of the Kindertransport Children and a Priest of the Westminster Diocese

Date: Tuesday 29th January Time: 2.00pm - 4.00pm (Tea and Coffee from 1.30pm) at the Sion Centre

ST MICHAELS CHURCH BELLS - The red brick tower and slender steeple of St Michael's church are a familiar sight to the people of Bishop's Stortford. There have been bells in the tower since the early 1400s. The present ring of ten bells was installed in 1820 in a wooden frame after the tower and spire were rebuilt the previous year. Since then, the only other work on the bells consisted of re-tuning in 1928. Now, nearly 200 years since the last major work, the bells are in urgent need of refurbishment. ST MICHAELS need to raise £200,000. Several of our Parishioners are Bell ringers at St Michaels and many weddings over the decades celebrated at St Joseph's have been accompanied by the bells of St Michaels. If you would like to help by making a donation, please visit <https://saintmichaelweb.org.uk/church-bells-restoration-appeal/>

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION - Thank you to everyone who kindly donated - St Joseph's £4979.13, Holy Cross £452.64 and Most Holy Redeemer £353.27

'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage'



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



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 29/30th December 2018 Loose Coin & Envelopes

St Josephs and the English Martyrs:

Collection: £1108.37 November S/ Order £6220.34

Holy Cross

Collection: £79.00 November S/Order £1055.00

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: £146.92 November S/Order £655.33

*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

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and
dominion.

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

O God, who on this day
revealed your Only Begotten Son to the
nations
by the guidance of a star,
grant in your mercy
that we, who know you already by faith,
may be brought to behold the beauty of your
sublime glory.
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

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has
come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;
camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 71

Response:
All nations shall fall prostrate before you,
O Lord.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.
(R.)
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. (R.)
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

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

You have probably heard how I have been
entrusted by God with the grace he meant
for you, and that it was by a revelation that
I was given the knowledge of the mystery.
This mystery that has now been revealed
through the Spirit to his holy apostles and
prophets was unknown to any men in past
generations; it means that pagans now share
the same inheritance, that they are parts of
the same body, and that the same promise
has been made to them, in Christ Jesus,
through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do the Lord homage.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in
Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some
wise men came to Jerusalem from the east.
"Where is the infant king of the Jews?" they
asked. "We saw his star as it rose and have
come to do him homage." When King Herod
heard this he was perturbed, and so was the
whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the
chief priests and the scribes of the people,
and enquired of them where the Christ was to
be born. "At Bethlehem in Judaea," they told
him "for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the
leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men to
see him privately. He asked them the exact
date on which the star had appeared, and
sent them on to Bethlehem. "Go and find
out all about the child," he said "and when
you have found him, let me know, so that I
too may go and do him homage." Having
listened to what the king had to say, they set
out. And there in front of them was the star
they had seen rising; it went forward and

halted over the place where the child was.
The sight of the star filled them with delight,
and going into the house they saw the child
with his mother Mary, and falling to their
knees they did him homage. Then, opening
their treasures, they offered him gifts of
gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they
were warned in a dream not to go back to
Herod, and returned to their own country by
a different way.

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

Look with favour, Lord, we pray,
on these gifts of your Church,
in which are offered now not gold or
frankincense or myrrh,
but he who by them is proclaimed,
sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord,
always and everywhere,
that we may perceive with clear sight
and revere with true affection
the mystery in which you have willed us to
participate.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday Message

THE WORD

**FOLLOW
YOUR STAR!**
(MATTHEW 2:1-12)

Matthew is a Jewish Christian writing for a community which included
many people from a Jewish background.

So to this evangelist it is natural to show that in the person of Jesus, God's plan for human
beings, as revealed in the Hebrew scriptures, has been fulfilled. His audience, steeped
in the traditions of their religion, would understand the background against which he is
writing and the allusions he is making to their folklore and practices.

The biblical background to Matthew's presentation of the Good News is that of the
Exodus, the event which defines the Jewish people and their understanding of God. The
human figure dominating the narrative is Moses, the person who puts into action God's
plan for the liberation of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and who brings God's Law,
or teaching, to the Israelites at Sinai. Matthew casts Jesus as a present-day Moses: his
Infancy Narrative has many echoes of the story of Moses and of the Exodus experience.
Hence, the tragic episode of the massacre of the male children in and around Bethlehem
(for which there is no evidence outside of the account of Matthew) echoes the reaction of
the Egyptian Pharaoh to a perceived threat to his throne and power.

So when we consider the exotic visitors from the east, the magi, and the star which
leads them to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem, we would do well to look for clues in
the Exodus story. One possibility is the figure of Balaam, described by a Greek-speaking
Jewish writer called Philo as a *magos*.

He is a person accredited with supernatural insight, who is brought by King Balak to curse
the people of Israel and so bring disaster upon them. Balaam, instead, pronounces a
blessing, so causes the opposite effect. He prophesies that "a star shall come forth from
Jacob, and a sceptre arise out of Israel" (Numbers 24:17). The star in Matthew shines over
the land of Israel (Jacob) and announces the birth of the King of the Jews (the sceptre).
Herod intends to use the magi to destroy Jesus, whom he regards as a threat to his
tenuous claim to be a king, but they thwart his plans by not returning with the information
he needs, as a result of a supernatural warning. Matthew thus sets the scene for his
narrative of the ministry and passion of Jesus. Jesus is a figure like Moses, but even
greater, and will fulfil God's plan for another Exodus for those who accept his message. ■

REFLECT

There have been many learned
articles written about the star of
Bethlehem, its identity and the time
of its appearing. However, the Gospel
writers often use symbolic writing to
convey their belief about the person
of Jesus. Matthew, then, is drawing
on stories familiar to his audience and

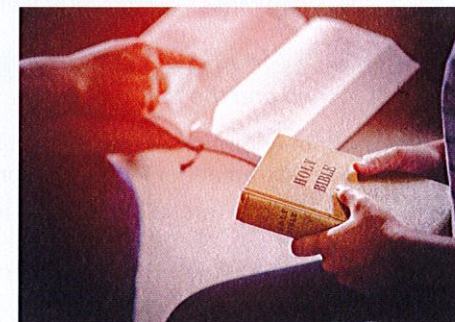
expects them to make the connections.
Many Christians have little acquaintance
with the Jewish scriptures and so fail
to appreciate the links being made.
The answer to "What was the star of
Bethlehem?" is probably to be found
in the book of Numbers, rather than in
astronomical speculation. ■

SAY

All nations shall worship
you, Lord.

DO

Read the first two chapters of the Gospel
according to Matthew. Look up the cross
references to the book of Exodus and note
the connections.

**LEARN**

Midrash is a type of writing which takes a
familiar biblical story and reinterprets it.

Some scholars regard Matthew's Infancy
Narrative as a *midrash* on the story of Moses
and the Exodus.

The magi are Gentiles with knowledge from
the natural sciences; they need the Jewish
scriptures to complete their search.

Matthew mentions three gifts, not three
kings.