



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 13th January 2019 – The Baptism of the Lord

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - Gerry Castle RIP
11am Mass - Tom Maher RIP
6pm Mass - Brian Brady 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 – John Piper RIP

Monday 14th January – feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Alexander Bainov RIP

Tuesday 15th January – feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Special Intention The Byrne family
4.30pm Vigil Reception – Bernadette Ann Ross RIP

Wednesday 16th January – feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
11am Requiem Mass – Bernadette Ann Ross RIP

Thursday 17th January – St Anthony, Abbot

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Private Intention

Friday 18th January – feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Philomena McCormack Intention

Saturday 19th January – St Wulstan, Bishop

St Joseph and the English Martyrs

5pm- 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &
Sacrament of Reconciliation
6pm Mass – Margaret Rose 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.

WINTER LUNCH next Saturday, 19 January 12pm, WCC - please ensure your RSVP is with us by this Wednesday, 16 January. For our guests who require a lift, I will be in contact with you by the end of next week. Thank you. Alison Gornall (07880 946085)



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



CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT next Saturday, 19 January WCC doors open 7pm - please collect/purchase your ticket this weekend (subject to availability). £5 per ticket: BYO drinks and nibbles. Thank you. Alison Gornall (07880 946085)

RAFFLE PRIZES for our Charity Quiz Night would be most gratefully received. Please leave in the box at the back of St Joseph's Church. Many thanks.

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- 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 TO THE PRIESTHOOD

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 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/>

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – HOLY CROSS 18-25 January 2019

Compline at 5pm is scheduled for:

18/19/21/22/24/25 January

One service of Anglican Matins is at 12.00 noon on Saturday 19 January
There is Vespers at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 23 January

Everyone very welcome to attend

THE CHURCHES TOGETHER BISHOP'S STORTFORD UNITED SERVICE will be at The Baptist Centre on Sunday January 20th at 4pm. This is a great opportunity to meet together and share worship and prayer together. Do come along
FLAME CATHOLIC YOUTH EVENT- 2nd March in London. Westminster Youth Ministry have reserved hundreds of tickets for those in the diocese and will be selling them to anyone interested for the reduced early-bird price of £20. Those coming with us will also receive a red Westminster Youth Ministry t-shirt for all participants and our ongoing support with all of your getting-to-Flame enquires. To find out more or book your tickets, please contact dominicunliffe@rcdow.org.uk.

PARISH CHARITY GOLF DAY on Friday 26th April at Bishop's Stortford Golf Club. Coffee and bacon rolls on arrival, 18 holes golf, 1st tee off at 1.00pm. 2 course dinner at 7.30pm and all for £60. Everyone welcome for dinner and the prize giving, £25pp. This year we will be supporting Dementia research at Addenbrooke's Hospital. Entry forms from the back of Church or via email angelatyson1293@hotmail.com or wilkinsondavid@mac.com.

ACROSS – Pilgrimage to Lourdes by Jumbulance - After the successful parish pilgrimage to Lourdes last year we are off again on Thursday 26th September – Saturday 5th October 19. Helpers needed and we have spaces for able/unable and VIP's (those that are sick, disabled, terminally ill or just need a helping hand.) Full week in Lourdes in 4* Hotel full board, Group programme for the week - £750. Limited Subsidies available for nurses and 16-25 years old in full-time education. For more information contact either John Wright on 07739 789169 or Debbie Hourihan on 07584-623472 or come along to the parish quiz on Saturday 19th for more information

ENCOUNTER meet next Fri 18 Jan in Windhill Churches Centre. 'Listening to God's call'; formation for the priesthood & personal ministry, 18 months on...talk & discussion led by Fr Carlos Quito. 10am coffee 10.30 meeting opens 12.30 shared lunch; please bring food to share 2pm day ends All welcome for all or part of the day. Enquiries: BS 65060
TABLE TENNIS – Sunday 20/1 & 3/2 7-8.30pm in the WCC- All welcome to join.

FREE TO GOOD HOME – 2 pre-owned Cots in good condition. Please contact the office if interested

RETIRING COLLECTION for the Society of the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) this weekend

'The Lord will bless the people with peace'



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 5/6 January 2019 Loose Coin & Envelopes

St Josephs and the English Martyrs:

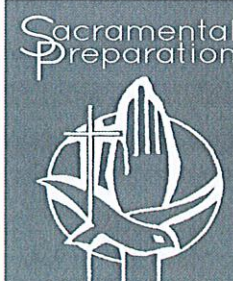
Collection: £1415.22 December S/ Order £7583.84

Holy Cross

Collection: £56.50 December S/Order £935.00

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: £120.50 December S/Order £917.33



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

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

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

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you...
Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
"Console my people, console them"
says your God.
"Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for her crimes."
A voice cries, "Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God."

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 103

Response:

Bless the Lord, my soul!**Lord God, how great you are.**

1. Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. (R.)
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. (R.)
3. How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small. (R.)
4. All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. (R.)
5. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14;3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****Alleluia, alleluia!****Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.****He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!****GOSPEL**

Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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."

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

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, O Lord, the offerings
we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son,
so that the oblation of your faithful
may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion
to wash away the sins of the world... **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished with these sacred gifts,
we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord,
that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son,
we may be your children in name and in truth.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

13 JANUARY 2019

Sunday Message

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE WORD

Year C • Psalter Week 1

WATER OR FIRE?

(LUKE 3:15-16. 21-22)

Any story in the Gospel narrative which is embarrassing to an important person is likely to have a basis in historical fact. Such stories, for example Peter's denying that he knows Jesus, are too strong in the collective memory to be omitted.

The episode of John the Baptist baptising Jesus falls into this category. Does this mean that John is greater than Jesus? Some people were clearly under that impression, so in Luke's account, John definitely states that someone is coming who is more powerful than him. This person will baptise, not as John does with water, but with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Luke does not record any exchange between Jesus and John; he prefers in his writing to have only one major character on the scene at a time. However, he does present Jesus as being baptised along with "all the people" and then spending time in prayer, something he mentions at various important points in Jesus' ministry. Another important theme in Luke and Acts is the Holy Spirit, who comes at the beginning of a new and significant stage in the narrative; here it is at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. Luke presents the interior communication between God and Jesus in a way accessible to the reader and we are let into the secret of Jesus' true identity. Although the figure of the dove appears elsewhere in the Bible, it might be more helpful to set the descending of the Spirit upon Jesus against the overshadowing of Mary by the Spirit at the annunciation: that is the beginning of a significant period in the Gospel narrative. In these cases, the Spirit corresponds to the biblical idea of a power from God, which is at work in human beings to fulfil God's plan. In both of these accounts, Jesus is referred to as "Son of God". ■

LEARN

Jesus set aside time to pray.

The disciples experience baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire definitively at Pentecost.

The fact that a Gospel story contains material embarrassing to a person or to the tradition suggests that there is a historical basis to the episode.

DO

Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water and think of your baptism. Remember that Jesus stands in solidarity with you.

SAY

The Lord will bless the people with peace.

REFLECT

John's baptism was for the forgiveness of sins. Does this mean that Jesus needed to be forgiven? In a sense, Luke sidesteps the question and concentrates on the revealing of Jesus as the Son of God. John's baptism was the ritual by which people outwardly expressed their decision to turn their lives round and to try to be the kind of person God intended them to be. By joining

the crowds being baptised by John, the sinless Jesus shows his solidarity with sinful, struggling humanity. It is interesting that it is at this point that God reveals Jesus to be God's Son, when Jesus stands alongside repentant sinners.

Another point worth considering from this section is that Jesus is shown "at prayer". Even though he is the Son of God, Jesus

had to set time aside to communicate with God in this way. We may tell ourselves that it is enough to be aware of God at all (or any) times, but this is really no substitute for spending time alone with God in personal conversation. If Jesus did it, as Luke implies, then we ought to follow his example. ■