



# 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 17th March 2019 - 2nd Sunday of Lent**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**

9am Mass - Manuel Felix Drumond RIP  
 11am Mass - Theresa and Mary Cannon RIP  
 6pm Mass - Maria Guerra & Maria Michela RIP

**Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth):**  
 9.00am Mass- Kevin Tomkins RIP

**Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):**  
 11.15am Mass - People of the Parish

**Monday 18th March - Lent feria**

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

**Tuesday 19th March - St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese and Our Parish**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
 9.30am Requiem Mass and Burial - Doris Kathleen Dennis RIP

**Wednesday 20th March - Lent feria**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
 6.30am SPECIAL LENT WORKERS MASS - People of the Parish  
 9.30am Mass - Sue Wright RIP

**Thursday 21st March - Lent feria**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
 9.30am Mass - Seamus Burke RIP

**Friday 22nd March - Lent feria**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
 9.30am Mass - Fr Michael Lambert RIP  
 1pm Requiem Mass and Burial - Helen Teresa Boe RIP

**Saturday 23rd March - Lent feria**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs**  
 5pm- 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 6pm Mass - Colin Stewart 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 any donation. Thank you very much.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS



### PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES for Tax Year starting 6th April 2019:

The new Planned Giving Envelopes are available for you to collect **NOW IN THE SACRISTY OF EACH CHURCH**. Your new envelopes will be arranged in numerical order. The new envelopes must NOT be used until the weekend of 6/7 April. If your circumstances have changed and either you no longer wish to make your donation using envelopes, or if you would like to start using envelopes, please do let us know.

**GIFT AID:** The Tax Year ends on 5th April and we will be submitting our Gift Aid Claim for 2018/19 soon after that. If you are registered for Gift Aid but are no longer eligible because you will have stopped paying UK Income Tax before 5th April 2019 it is important that you let us know immediately, using one of the methods mentioned below, with the date that you stopped paying tax. If you are eligible for Gift Aid but not yet registered we urge you to do so as we can claim back 25% of your donation back from the government which does add up!

**CONTACT DETAILS.** To make any changes to your offertory arrangements, please contact the Parish Office by email at [bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk), a note to No 3, or by phoning 01279 654063 (9am to 3pm) and leaving a message.

**FOOD BANK COLLECTION** - Food supplies are getting low in the local Foodbank. St Joseph's will be collecting donations from now until Easter. Please leave donations in the tub at the back of each church where there is a list of items required e.g. tins of meat, fish, tomatoes, long life milk and juices, tea and sugar. Toiletries also needed. A full list is on the Parish website. It would be helpful if seasonal items could be donated in good time to be distributed before Easter. Please ensure items are well within use-by dates.

**ENCOUNTER** - meet next Fri. 22 March in Windhill Churches Centre. 'Lenten & Holy Week theme using 'The Sacred Made Real' (DVD), followed by shared Stations of the Cross with Fr Kevin Scanlon (CD) 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: B/S 652060

**THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** - As we prepare for Holy Week, the Dads' Group will be watching the Mel Gibson film, The Passion of the Christ, at our regular monthly meeting. If you would like to join us everyone is welcome, Wednesday 27 March, 8pm upstairs in the Parish Centre.



**ADVANCED NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE** - The Office will be closed from Monday 25th March - Friday 29th March inclusive, so if you have any urgent requests please contact Debbie before this time. All non-urgent telephone messages and emails left during this time will be dealt with immediately upon her return. Thank you

**VOCATIONS EVENING** - CALL TO PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE? An evening of prayer and conversation with like-minded people on Sunday 24th March 2019 at 6.00pm at St Joseph's Church, Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage SG1 1NJ Join the Westminster Diocese Vocations Team at the 6pm Mass when Seminarians and others will speak about their calling. After Mass there is an opportunity to speak to each other and to priests, religious and seminarians about the call of God, closing with Night Prayer at 8pm.

**RCIA/CONFIRMATION TALKS** with Fr Carlos will continue on Monday 25 March at 8pm in the St Margaret Clitherow Room at the WCC

**FREE TO GOOD HOME** - A dark brown 2 seater leather settee situated in Sawbridgeworth. Please contact the office for details

**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](mailto:angelatyson1293@hotmail.com) or [wilkinsondavid@mac.com](mailto: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 2019. Helpers needed and we have spaces for able /unable and VIP's (those who are sick, disabled, and 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 info contact either John Wright on 07739 789169 or Debbie Hourihan on 07584-623472

**THE NEW CHURCH GUIDE FOR ST ANDREW'S CHURCH (HOLY CROSS)** will be published at the AGM of The Friends of Much Hadham Parish Church on 23 March 2019. The Guide, will contain lots of photos of the Church and some of its contents and will be available for £2 per copy

**MASS INTENTIONS** - All Mass intention requests for the month of March and April are now fully booked. We do our very best to honour your date chosen but thank you for your understanding if we do have to rearrange your Mass intention date due to a Requiem Mass or unavailability of Father.

**FATIMA DEVOTION DAY** - Saturday 23rd March a day of prayer and thanksgiving for the visit of the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima with the Relics of St Jacinta and Francisco at Our Lady Immaculate 178 New London Road, Chelmsford, CM2 0AR. Starts 9.55am - 5pm



**WELCOME** to FATHER MICHAEL HEAP from the 'The White Fathers' who joins us at Holy Cross and Most Holy Redeemer this weekend for the Annual Diocesan Missionary appeal, explaining the work of the Missionaries of Africa. There will be a Retiring collection and Mission Appeal cheques can be made payable to 'Missionaries of Africa.'

Thank you for your support for the mission. Thank you to everyone who donated to the appeal from St Joseph's last weekend. We have raised £1406.44 to date



There will be weekly events including a **Wednesday 6.30am Workers Mass** at St Joseph's, Please also take the special Lent and Holy Week information sheets at the back of the Church.

**LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE** - will be on Friday 12th April at 7.30pm at St Josephs

**LENT EXTRA** - copies of this popular magazine for Lenten reading/daily praying are at back of church @ £2.25 per copy. Money can be left in the repository 'Wall' box. The Repository has a number of Lent & Easter books and pamphlets for sale for both children & adults. Please take a look!

**PARISHIONERS AT ST JOSEPH'S** will have noticed that the restoration of the plaster work above all the arches have now been completed. The present scheme is based on "scrapes" that have revealed the original plan. This work has been made possible by a few parishioners who have very kindly made donations in memory of loved ones who have died. We are very grateful to them for their generosity. The work on redecorating the side chapels will now begin. At the same time the first stage of work at *Most Holy Redeemer* to combat damp issues has been completed. The gable at the entrance is now clad in tiles and looks very smart. The installation of central heating will happen later in the year.

*'The Lord is my light and my help'*



**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 9/10 March 2019 Loose Coin & Envelopes

**St Josephs and the English Martyrs:**

Collection: £1415.87 p February S/ Order £7012.84

**Holy Cross**

Collection: £35.70 February S/Order £955.00

**Most Holy Redeemer:**

Collection: £212.40 February S/Order £633.33



**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

*Hail, O Queen of Heaven enthroned.  
 Hail, by angels mistress owned.  
 Root of Jesse, Gate of Morn  
 Whence the world's true light was born:  
 Glorious Virgin, Joy to thee,  
 Loveliest whom in heaven they see;  
 Fairest thou, where all are fair,  
 Plead with Christ our souls to spare.*



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

**COLLECT**

O God, who have commanded us  
to listen to your beloved Son,  
be pleased, we pray,  
to nourish us inwardly by your word,  
that, with spiritual sight made pure,  
we may rejoice to behold your 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** Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, "Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants" he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

"I am the Lord" he said to him "who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land." "My Lord, the Lord" Abram replied "how am I to know that I shall inherit it?" He said to him, "Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon." He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

"To your descendants I give this land,  
from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 26

Response:

The Lord is my light and my help.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)
2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer.  
Of you my heart has spoken:  
"Seek his face." (R.)
3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face.  
Dismiss not your servant in anger;  
you have been my help. (R.)
4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! (R.)

**SECOND READING** Philippians 3:17-4:1

(For shorter form, read between > <).

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make boasts of their god and they are proud of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. >For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

The word of the Lord.<  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:

"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!"  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." — He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him". And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
(all bow during the next two lines)  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,  
cleanse us of our faults  
and sanctify your faithful in body and mind  
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am  
well pleased;  
listen to him.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

As we receive these glorious mysteries,  
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,  
for allowing us while still on earth  
to be partakers even now of the things of  
heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord,  
with a blessing that endures for ever,  
and keep them faithful  
to the Gospel of your Only Begotten Son,  
so that they may always desire and at last attain  
that glory whose beauty he showed in his  
own Body,  
to the amazement of his Apostles.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**THE WORD**

Fresco of the Transfiguration of Jesus, in St Constantine and Helena Orthodox Church

The transfiguration of Jesus marks a turning point in the Gospel. The baptism of Jesus revealed him as the Son of God and set the scene for his ministry in Galilee.

The incident in today's Gospel fulfils a similar function, and marks the beginning of his journey towards Jerusalem and his destiny there. Luke presents this as a prayer experience: before any important stage in Jesus' ministry, the evangelist shows him at prayer. At the heart of this vision of Jesus in glory, we find a reference to the passion in the subject of his conversation with Moses and Elijah, where they speak of his "passing" (or "exodus") which he would accomplish in the holy city. This reinforces Jesus' prediction of his suffering and death which he had made a little while before. Glory will follow his obedient suffering. Jesus is also here revealed as the promised prophet like Moses to whom the disciples are told to listen.

One interesting detail we might consider in this story is the movement of the presence of God. The mention of the mountain and the cloud, light and divine voice recall the experiences of Moses and Elijah on Sinai/Horeb. As happened to them, the divine presence comes upon Jesus and the three disciples, and withdraws from them at the end of the experience. Peter wants to pin down the divine presence in some way by constructing three tents. But God is not to be controlled or contained in any human construction. It is only after the Paschal event has been accomplished that the disciples will pass on to others what they have seen, once they have received the Spirit. ■

**REFLECT**

In the early history of Israel, the most important religious object was the ark of the covenant. It represented the presence of the Lord among the people. Its most significant characteristic was that it was mobile, and was taken to different shrines around the territories of the tribes. A carving from a much later synagogue at Capernaum shows the ark as having wheels, which emphasises this aspect. David's proposal to build a Temple in his newly acquired southern

capital of Jerusalem may have been regarded by the northern tribes as a step too far. It might have seemed like localising and fixing the divine presence in the royal capital, and thereby bolstering the monarchy. In the end, David did not pursue his plan, though he did bring the ark to Jerusalem.

We might ponder where we think God is to be found. In the Bible, the writers often wonder about God's apparent

**LEARN**

Moses represents the Law which he received from the Lord on Mount Sinai during the Exodus journey.

Elijah represents the Prophets: his mission as God's spokesperson was reconfirmed on Mount Horeb.

Horeb is another name for Sinai, used particularly in the northern kingdom of Israel, where Elijah was a prophet.

The expression "the Law and the Prophets" refers to the main writings of the Hebrew Bible.

**DO**

Look at the tabernacle in the church. The Catholic tradition tells us that Christ is present in the consecrated bread reserved there. Where else are you aware of Christ present in your life? Set aside some extra time each day this week to think about this: this is prayer.

**SAY**

It is your face, O Lord,  
that I seek: hide not  
your face.