



# 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 31st March 2019 - 4th Sunday of Lent**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**

9am Mass - Michael Glynn RIP  
 11am Mass - June Purcell RIP  
 5.15pm - Stations of the Cross  
 6pm Mass - Thomas Roche RIP

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

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

**Monday 1st April - The Annunciation of the Lord**

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

**Tuesday 2nd April - Lent feria**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
 9.30am Mass - Fr Alec Fraser RIP

**Wednesday 3rd April - Lent feria**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
 6.30am SPECIAL LENT WORKERS MASS - People of the Parish  
 9.30am Mass - William O'Shea RIP

**Thursday 4th April - Lent feria**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
 9.30am Mass - Margaret Barrett RIP

**Friday 5th April - Lent feria**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
 9.30am Mass - Marie Elizabeth Grace RIP

**Saturday 6th April - Lent feria**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs**  
 5pm - 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 6pm Mass - Samuel Hopley 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.

**MASS INTENTIONS** - All Mass intention requests for the month of 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.

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFIRMATION GROUP** - The final meeting of the Confirmation Course will be this Sunday afternoon at 4.30pm in the WCC. It will be led by Fr Carlos who will speak on the Holy Spirit



**SPRING CLEANING** - Please help us by joining our annual spring clean of the Church on Tuesday 9th April at 10.15am (after Mass) at St Joseph's. Dusters provided. Many hands make light work! Thank you

**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

**ZAMKNIT** - Zamknit and Chat at MHR resumes on Tuesday 30th April. All are welcome.

**ADULT RCIA/CONFIRMATION TALKS** with Fr Carlos will continue on Monday 1st April at 8pm in the St Margaret Clitherow Room at the WCC

**POST-SYNOD REFLECTIONS WITH BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON** - Tuesday 2nd April 6.30pm - 8.30pm Throne Room, Archbishop's House, Victoria. Join us for refreshments and prayer, calling young adults from across the Diocese of Westminster for the chance to spend an evening together at Archbishop's House with Bishop John Sherrington, who will be talking to them about the youth synod and the role of young people and vocation.

**ST MICHAELS CHURCH** - Following the break-in to the Church that occurred on 19/20 February, and the damage that was caused, a 'Go Fund Me' fundraising page has been set up, for those may wish to help St Michael's at this time. <https://www.gofundme.com/fjw3sz-breakin-at-st-michaels-church>  
**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE** - The next course for parents wishing to baptise their Child will be on Thursday 4th April 2019 at 7.30pm in the WCC with Fr Carlos. Please contact the office to register. The course after this will be a two part course on 23rd and 30th May, followed by 11th and 18th July respectively.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES** - All available courses can be found on <https://rcdow.org.uk/att/files/m%20f%20l/march%2019.pdf>

## CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2019

*'For I was hungry and you gave me food'*

Matthew 25:35

One of the projects for Lenten Alms that we are offering this year is the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, which this year has a special focus on food poverty. If you have not done so already, please do pick up a Cardinal's Lenten Appeal donation leaflet at the back of church for more information. Please read and pray for its aims, and if you choose to do so, please give generously. *Thank you.*



There are weekly events including a **Wednesday 6.30am Workers Mass** at St Joseph's, and Stations of the Cross on Sundays at St Joseph's at 5.15pm  
**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 St Joseph's @£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!  
**LENTEN LUNCH:** St. Joseph's J&P Group is holding a soup/bread & cheese lunch on **Friday 12th April** in the Parish Centre, 12 noon - 1.30pm. Donations towards CAFOD Lent appeal. Parishioners from all three of our churches are most welcome.



*'Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus'*



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 23/24 March 2019 Loose Coin & Envelopes

**St Josephs and the English Martyrs:**

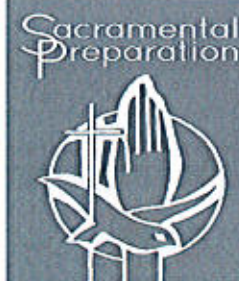
Collection: ETBC February S/ Order £7012.84

**Holy Cross**

Collection: ETBC February S/Order £955.00

**Most Holy Redeemer:**

Collection: ETBC 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**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**COLLECT**

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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**

Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua.

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you."

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 33

Response:

**Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)
3. Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

**SECOND READING** 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appearing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made

the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!  
I will leave this place and go to my father and say:  
"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."  
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. "This man," they said, "welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he spoke this parable to them:

"A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

"When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, 'How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.' So he left the place and went back to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. 'Your brother has come,' replied the servant, 'and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.' He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, 'Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid

for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.'

"The father said, 'My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

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**

We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

You must rejoice, my son,  
for your brother was dead and has come to life;  
he was lost and is found.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord, and sustain the weak;  
give life by your unfailing light to those who walk in the shadow of death, and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil to reach the highest good.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

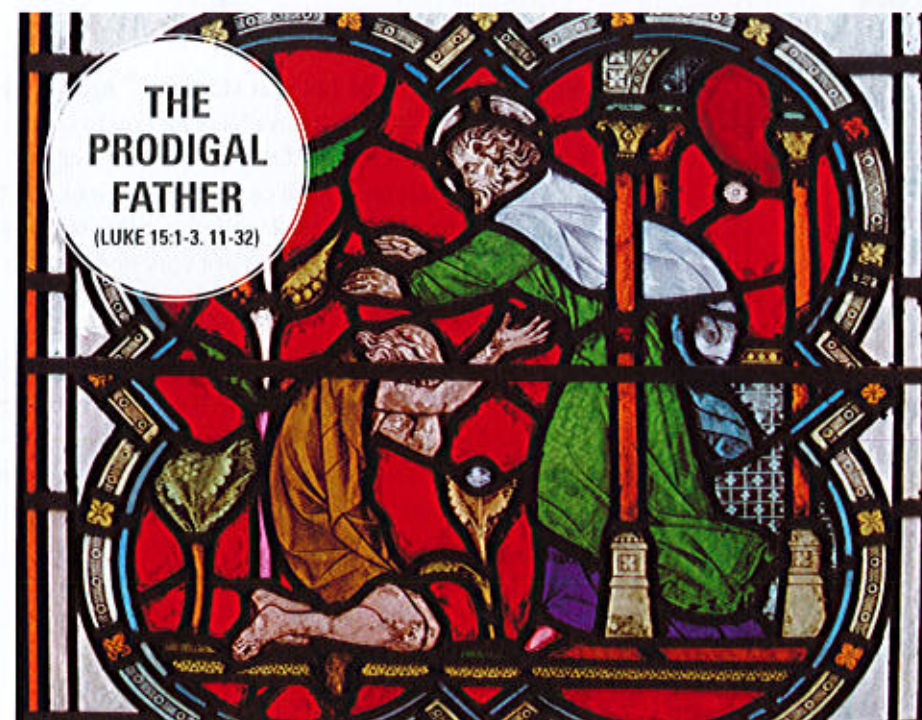
# Sunday Message

31 MARCH 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE)

**THE WORD**

Year C • Psalter Week 4



A depiction of the parable of the prodigal son in the Church of St Michael Cornhill, by Clayton and Bell, 19th century

**Jesus conveys his message by what he does just as much as by what he says. When he eats with people on the margins of social and religious society, he is revealing what God is like.**

This is a parable in action, and the story of the lost son is a masterpiece of insight and writing, which explains the meaning of Jesus' sharing table-fellowship.

Luke invites us to consider the reactions to the return of the reckless young man who has "come to his senses" as the result of bitter experience. On the one hand we have the father (God) who is overjoyed at regaining his lost child. On the other, there is the embittered elder brother (the Pharisees and scribes) whose life of dutiful service he describes in terms of *slavery*. The first part of the story shows the positive response of outcasts to the prophet: they do not come simply to eat with him but *to listen to him*, and they accept his message. But the religious people cannot accept that God is like this, because it does not fit in with the way in which they understand God and God's attitude to human beings. Like the elder brother, they prefer to stay outside, wrapped in self-righteous indignation. ■

**REFLECT**

If the parable of the lost (or prodigal) son were simply a record of what Jesus said to the people of his day, we could regard it simply as an interesting and edifying account of Jesus criticising the attitude of the Jewish religious leaders of that time. Unfortunately, perhaps, that is not the case. We are being put on the spot: we are being asked to take the side of either the father or the elder brother. How do we feel about people who want to rejoin our community after a period away? Are we pleased, even joyful? Or

do we feel that it's all too easy, that there should be some sort of penalty?

In the end, the question is perhaps more about our own idea of God. Do we believe in God as a loving, merciful Father who loves all his children equally? Or is our God one whom we serve out of a sense of duty with little if any personal relationship involved? The elder brother represents those people who keep the rules but feel unrewarded, unappreciated and end up full of anger and resentment, deep down at God, but this comes out in hostility towards other people. Instead of

**SAY**

**Jesus eats with sinners.**

**DO**

Look at the money in your pocket. Would you be prepared to spend it all – and more – on a meal to celebrate the return of someone who had made a complete mess of their life? Or would your attitude be one of righteous satisfaction, *That'll teach him or her!*? Which attitude is Jesus encouraging us to adopt, if we are to be truly his disciples?

**LEARN**

The word "prodigal" means "wasteful".

The parable might be better entitled "The Prodigal Father".

The parables are the prophetic words of Jesus.

They are addressed to us today, personally: each of us is challenged to respond.

developing a proper relationship with his father, the older son dwells on his own unsatisfying situation in life: perhaps, deep down, he is jealous of his brother's escaping from the family home and breaking all the rules.

Our reaction to the characters tells us something about ourselves. But we have a choice: the elder son is free to join the party; the scribes and Pharisees can decide to accept Jesus' invitation. It is our decision. What sort of God do you believe in? ■