



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. 253699

Sunday 7th 2019 - 5th Sunday of Lent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - Bill Ibbottson RIP
 11am Mass - Albert Smith RIP
 5.15pm - Stations of the Cross
 6pm Mass - Paddy Mahoney RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth):
 9.00am Mass - Agnes Okonkwo Family Intention

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

Monday 8th April - Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Frederick and Mary Stott RIP

Tuesday 9th April - Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Margaret Agnew RIP

Wednesday 10th April - Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

6.30am SPECIAL LENT WORKERS MASS - People of the Parish
 9.30am Mass - Special Intention Joan Stalley

Thursday 11th April - Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Special Intention

Friday 12th April - Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Special Intention
 11am Requiem Mass Julia Walsh RIP
 7.30pm - Penitential Service

Saturday 13th April - Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs

5pm - 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &
 Sacrament of Reconciliation
 6pm Mass - Philip Andrews 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, 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 whole month of April and most of May 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.

DIVINE MERCY - A Service in honour of the Divine Mercy will be held on Sunday 28th April from 3-4pm at St Thérèse of Lisieux, Stansted. Fr Paul Arnold will be officiating.

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



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 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 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 John Wright on 07739 789169 or Debbie Hourihan on 07584-623472

ABSAILING FOR ACROSS - Jassen Sathan will be abseiling down Harlow water tower on 4th May to raise funds for Across. If you would like to sponsor him please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jassen-sathan>

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE - The next course for parents wishing to baptise their Child will be on Thursday 23rd and 30th May, followed by 11th and 18th July respectively in the WCC with Fr Carlos. Please contact the office to register. The course consists of two sessions.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL is looking for a KS2 Class Teacher to commence employment in September 2019. For further information on how to apply please follow the link https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view/class-teacher-key-stage-2_53247.htm or contact Mrs Branch on 01992 463549, email cbranch@staugustines.herts.sch.uk

SCHOOL LAY CHAPLAIN/CHAPLAINCY COORDINATOR/ YOUTH MINISTRY ROLE - at St Mary's Catholic School Pay Scale H7. 1 Fringe Pro Rata 32.5 hours per week, term time only (plus 4 Inset Days). See www.stmarys.net or our Church web site for the full advert.

COME ALONG on Wednesday 8th May at Bishop's Stortford library at 10.30-12.00. Sessions are aimed to bring together people who may not go out very much and want to chat and perhaps learn and share ideas. Our first session we will be a trip down Memory Lane, including looking at some old photos of Bishop's Stortford and sharing a story or two along the way. We will offer tea and coffee and sometimes cake and biscuits! Future sessions could include Travellers' Tales, Crafty Corner, Quizzes and Games, but we would love to hear your ideas too. Drop in when you can, a warm welcome awaits.

Lenten Penance Service

.... will be on Friday
 12th April
 at 7.30pm
 at St Josephs

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.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT - St Mary's is looking for practising Catholics who feel they have something to offer to this historic institution to join the Board of Governors as a Foundation Governor. It would be an advantage (but not essential) if you have skills in any of the following areas; facilities management, construction, communication or health & safety. The role is 4 year tenure and requires attendance at 2 - 4 meetings per term plus occasional visits to school to meet with classes and subject teachers as well as attending training courses as required. If you are a practising Catholic and are interested in giving something back to this Outstanding School, please contact the Clerk to the Governors at headspa@stmarys.net



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 30/31 March 2019 Loose Coin & Envelopes

St Josephs and the English Martyrs:

Collection: £1328.70 23/24/ March - £1364.64

Holy Cross

Collection: £40.00 23/24 March £68.00

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: £203.53 23/24 March £236.80



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.

7 APRIL 2019 Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Year C • Psalter Week 1

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is
faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

COLLECT

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
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 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord,
who made a way through the sea,
a path in the great waters;
who puts chariots and horse in the field
and a powerful army,
which lay there never to rise again,
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done
before.

See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light; can you not see
it?

Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,
jackals and ostriches,
because I am putting water in the
wilderness

(rivers in the wild)
to give my chosen people drink.
The people I have formed for myself
will sing my praises.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 125

Response:

**What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from
bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: "What
marvels
the Lord worked for them!"
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back, full of
song,
carrying their sheaves. (R.)

SECOND READING Philippians 3:8-14

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

I believe nothing can happen that will
outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing
Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have
accepted the loss of everything, and I look
on everything as so much rubbish if only I
can have Christ and be given a place in him.
I am no longer trying for perfection by my
own efforts, the perfection that comes from
the Law, but I want only the perfection that
comes through faith in Christ, and is from
God and based on faith. All I want is to know
Christ and the power of his resurrection and
to share his sufferings by reproducing the
pattern of his death. That is the way I can
hope to take my place in the resurrection of
the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet:
I have not yet won, but I am still running,
trying to capture the prize for which Christ
Jesus captured me. I can assure you my
brothers, I am far from thinking that I have
already won. All I can say is that I forget the
past and I strain ahead for what is still to
come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize
to which God calls us upwards to receive in
Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Seek good and not evil so that you may live,
and that the Lord God of hosts may really be
with you.**

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL John 8:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At
daybreak he appeared in the Temple again;
and as all the people came to him, he sat
down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought
a woman along who had been caught
committing adultery; and making her stand
there in full view of everybody, they said
to Jesus, "Master, this woman was caught
in the very act of committing adultery, and
Moses has ordered us in the law to condemn
women like this to death by stoning. What
have you to say?" They asked him this as a
test, looking for something to use against
him. But Jesus bent down and started
writing on the ground with his finger. As
they persisted with their question, he looked
up and said, "If there is one of you who has
not sinned, let him be the first to throw a
stone at her." Then he bent down and wrote
on the ground again. When they heard this
they went away one by one, beginning with
the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with
the woman, who remained standing there.
He looked up and said, "Woman, where are
they? Has no one condemned you?" "No
one, sir," she replied. "Neither do I condemn
you," said Jesus "go away, and don't sin any
more."

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

Hear us, almighty God,
and, having instilled in your servants
the teachings of the Christian faith,
graciously purify them
by the working of this sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Has no one condemned you, woman? No
one, Lord.
Neither shall I condemn you. From now on,
sin no more.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray, almighty God,
that we may always be counted among the
members of Christ,
in whose Body and Blood we have
communion.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Bless, O Lord, your people,
who long for the gift of your mercy,
and grant that what, at your prompting, they
desire
they may receive by your generous gift.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE WORD

GO ON: THROW THAT STONE!

(JOHN 8:1-11)



There are several occasions in the Gospel story in which Jesus' opponents lay a trap for him. They employ the familiar device of asking for a simple Yes/No answer to a question which may be far more complicated.

Today's apparently innocent request for his opinion about the punishment due to the guilty woman has echoes of the question about paying tribute to Caesar: whatever answer Jesus gives, it will get him into trouble either with the Romans or with certain sections of his own people.

It is clear that this episode rests on bad faith: John tells us that it is a test. Whatever the actual background, it seems that this is not a case of genuine legal doubt but of an imminent lynching. Jesus' opponents may well have the letter of the Law on their side, but not its spirit. It is extremely, perhaps suspiciously, convenient for the prosecutors that the woman in question has been caught in such a way that the legal requirement for two witnesses can be fulfilled: it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that she is the victim of a set-up by her husband. Jesus is rejecting the unjust process by which this woman has been brought to the brink of execution. He has said just before this that he judges no one: this story illustrates his teaching perfectly. ■

SAY

Who am I to judge?

DO

Pick up a stone. Look at it. Put yourself in the scene from today's Gospel. Would you throw it at the woman? What about other people in your life: do you throw stones (metaphorically) at them?

LEARN

There are two authors involved in the writing of biblical text: these are the Holy Spirit and the human author.

The inspired text of the Bible is the original text written in Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek.

No translation of the Bible is divinely inspired.

REFLECT

We can all appreciate the injustice of this scene, particularly the fact that the man involved does not have to share in the punishment. We can deplore the connivance of the judges, witnesses and perhaps of the husband in this perversion of due process. But we are all caught up to some degree in the court of public opinion where people can be accused, tried and condemned with no chance of defending themselves. We can also become frustrated with politicians and others who will not answer a simple question but bluster their way through a reply which is no answer at all. Point-scoring becomes the purpose of debate.

In all of this, truth is the real casualty. Some questions can be answered Yes or No. Others are not so simple. The woman's accusers do not seem to be interested in the real purpose of the Law, or whether she is sorry for her actions, and she is certainly being given no opportunity to put things right.

This is the danger of fundamentalism of any sort. In the Christian setting, it usually involves the lifting of biblical references out of their context and interpreting them literally. This normally applies to sexual matters: the clear and critical message of the prophets about cheating workers, accumulating wealth and land at the expense of others does not usually receive the same attention or emphasis. When we hear someone declare that *the Bible says...*, then we should be on our guard, as the biblical text is the word of God, written by human authors according to their own culture and background. What we need to do is to apply the *spirit* of the Bible to our own time and place. ■

