

# 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 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - Hilda and Percy Castle RIP

11am Mass - Douglas Rosair RIP

12.30pm Baptism - Gershlene Jaidyn Jegaseelan  
Luca Andrew Jones

6pm Mass - Kay Lewis RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth):

9am Mass - Irene Wall RIP

Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):

11.15am Mass - The People of our Parish

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May - Our Lady of Fatima

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Aidan Alphonsus Joseph Leacy RIP

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May - St Matthias, Apostle

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Jane and Sid Hockett RIP

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May - Easter feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Seamus Burke RIP

11.30am St Mary's Leavers Mass

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May - Easter feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Thanksgiving

7.30pm - Confirmation Mass with Bishop Paul Mc Aleenan

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May - Easter feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

NO MASS

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May - St John I, Pope and Martyr

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

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

6pm Mass - Clifford Goodwin 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.

**STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE?** - Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it.

This programme has helped 6,000 couples who were experiencing difficulties in their marriage in the past year. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the programme commencing with a weekend on 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in Welwyn Garden City. Call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**HERTFORDSHIRE HEALTH WALKS 4TH ANNUAL MASS HEALTH WALK** - Monday May 13<sup>th</sup> Try out a Walk, either 9.45am for 10am

depart from St James the Great, Thorley - Church Car Park Grade 3 walk, ~60 mins, more energetic, may be a stile OR 11am CASTLE GARDENS Causeway Entrance to Park by Castle Mound Grade 1 walk, ~30-45 mins, gentle, on the flat within the Castle Gardens/Sworders Field boundary

**ENCOUNTER** meet next Fri 17 May at St Theresa's, Stansted. Talk & discussion led by Fr David Clemens on theme of "Living with ageing"; How do we react towards others; to our own selves. 9.30am Mass; 10am Coffee; 10.20 meeting opens; 12.30 shared lunch; please bring food to share; 2.00pm meeting ends. All welcome to come for all or part of the day. Enquiries: BS 652060

**TABLE TENNIS CLUB** - There is NO table Tennis Club this week. The next club date is 26/05. Please note that all children attending the club will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult. Adults are welcome to play or just watch. We have players of all ages from 7 to 70. Please do not park in the car park as this is only available for use at Sunday Mass times. The cost is £2 per person (£5 for families) which goes to cover the cost of using the hall and for the purchase of new equipment. For further details telephone Chris or Anne Brolly 01279 324231.

**THANKYOU** - The Leacy family would like to thank everyone who has offered Mass intentions for Aidan since his death on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and continue to keep the family in their thoughts and prayers

**PARISH MAGAZINE** - Deadline for the next edition of the Magazine is **Friday 24th May**. Plenty of time for news & views please! Items for inclusion may be e-mailed to [astriddavies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:astriddavies@hotmail.co.uk) or left in the Parish Office.

### GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for Priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the catholic priesthood. There are currently 45 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 27 of whom are for our own Diocese, and last year eight men ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests.

Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation leaflets are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can donate online anytime at [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations)

**WELCOME BACK AND THANKYOU** to Canon Stuart Wilson who joins us this weekend to celebrate Mass

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES** - Please be aware that the Confirmation Rehearsal will be this Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm at St Josephs with Fr Peter. There is no requirement for your Sponsors to attend. The Confirmation Mass itself will be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm celebrated by Bishop Paul Mc Aleenan

**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE** - The next course for parents wishing to baptise their Child will be on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, followed by 11<sup>th</sup> July in the WCC with Fr Carlos. Please contact the office to register. The course will consist of a one-hour session and will start at 7.30pm

**SAVE THE DATE FOR MHR 2019 WINE TASTING QUIZ** on Saturday 22nd June 19:00 at 4 Roseacres, Sawbridgeworth. Tickets £12.50. Proceeds to St Lawrence community Zambia. Contact John Shanley 01279 726301 - [johnjoshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:johnjoshanley@hotmail.com)

**VOLUNTEER YEAR AT SPEC, THE DIOCESAN YOUTH RETREAT CENTRE** SPEC, the diocesan youth retreat centre, offers the possibility of a volunteer year for young adults. The volunteer missionary would live on site in Pinner in the residential community, receive formation and accompaniment in their faith and serve as a retreat facilitator, working with the employed retreat leaders. In particular, any sixth formers who may like to find out more are welcome to attend a day retreat to see what goes on and meet the community. For more information please see [www.dowym.com/spec/volunteer/](http://www.dowym.com/spec/volunteer/) or contact [spec@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:spec@rcdow.org.uk)

**INTERFAITH GROUP** will meet on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in the WCC. All welcome.



*'We are his people, the sheep of his flock!'*

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 12th-18th May 2019



Raising funds to make childbirth safe for mothers & babies in Sierra Leone. More information at the back of St Joseph's Church together with a list of roads which our Church has been allocated. Please consider joining the ecumenical effort in Bishop's Stortford and become a collector. We need to cover some 30 roads. Many thanks! Enquiries: BS 652060

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY / THY KINGDOM COME

May 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 12noon to 2pm & 7-9pm,  
Vestry Prayer Room United Reformed Church

'So much to give thanks for, so much to pray for and just 10 sessions to join together to do it'. The session led by Joseph's on Friday 24th from noon to 2pm will centre on prayer for Justice and Peace causes. Please make a commitment to come and join us at any session, for however long you can manage, to give time to God, to pray with others, and to make a difference.

**VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY - CARITAS REPS** - Are you interested in social outreach? Caritas Westminster, the Diocesan social action agency, is looking for Caritas Representatives to help record local poverty and social exclusion projects across different areas of the Diocese. They would also work closely with the Caritas development workers to help respond to those in need in the local area. If you are interested, please contact Caritas Westminster at [caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk) to register interest.

**CARITAS VOLUNTEER FAIR - SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE** - The Caritas Volunteer Service will be holding its annual Volunteers' Fair showcasing volunteering opportunities from across the Diocese. Those attending will have the chance to chat with different charities and find out more about their work and the roles available and hear talks and testimonials from different organisations. The event will be on Saturday 8th June, from 1:00-3:00pm, at St Aloysius' Parish Hall, Phoenix Road, Euston, NW1 1TA. To get your free ticket, email [caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk), call 020 7931 6077, or search the event title on Eventbrite



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 4/5 May 2019 Loose Coin & Envelopes

**St Josephs and the English Martyrs:**

Collection: Loose - £781.82 Envelopes - £584.20

**Holy Cross**

Collection: Loose £41.00 Envelopes - £10.00

**Most Holy Redeemer:**

Collection: Loose £140.30 Envelopes - £41.00



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

*Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia:  
For he whom you merited to bear, alleluia.  
Has risen, as He said, alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, alleluia.  
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

**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,  
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,  
so that the humble flock may reach  
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** Acts 13:11, 43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.  
Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, "We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

"I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth."

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the

dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** Psalm 99

Response:  
We are his people, the sheep of his flock,  
or  
Alleluia!

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him, we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age (R.)

**SECOND READING** Apocalypse 7:9, 14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.  
I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, "These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my own sheep and my own know me.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** John 10:27-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:  
"The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;  
I know them and they follow me.  
I give them eternal life;  
they will never be lost  
and no one will ever steal them from me.  
The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,  
and no one can steal from the Father.  
The Father and I are one."

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**

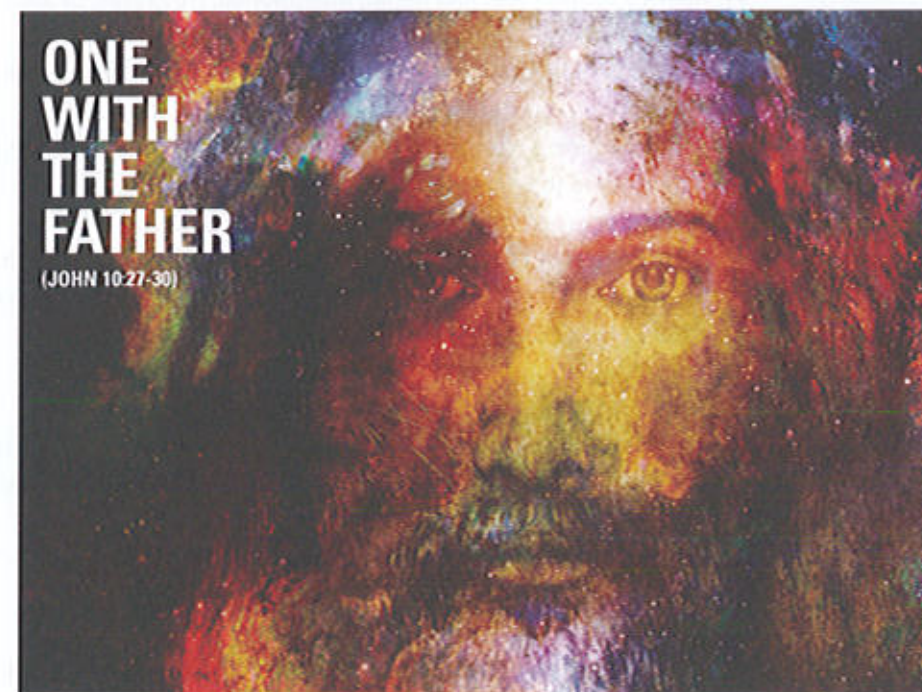
Grant, we pray, O Lord,  
that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries,  
so that the renewal constantly at work within us  
may be the cause of our unending joy.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The Good Shepherd has risen,  
who laid down his life for his sheep  
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd,  
and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures  
the sheep you have redeemed  
by the Precious Blood of your Son.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**THE WORD**

In our Gospel passage today, the evangelist presents us with the picture of the true disciple of Jesus: this is the person who listens to his voice, follows him, has eternal life and will never be lost.

It is through committing ourselves to Jesus that believers receive that life which is a gift of the Father. Jesus is speaking to the religious authorities at the time of the Feast of Dedication, when they celebrated the special presence of God in the Temple. Jesus tells them that he is now the visible presence of God among the people, and that it is his word which binds the person who believes not only to him, but also to God, because he and the Father are one. This statement emphasises the oneness of purpose which exists between Jesus and the one who sent him, and this is based on the bond of love and obedience between them.

This extract occurs in the wider context of the Feast of Dedication, which celebrated the rededication of the Temple altar after its desecration, so the theme of the presence of God runs through the section. The climax is Jesus' declaring that now in him God is truly present to the people because he and the Father are one. In another place, Jesus tells Philip that to see him is to see the Father, which is saying the same thing in a different way. ■

**DO**

Look at the tabernacle in the church. Jesus is not confined there, but is present in different ways to us. If we are disciples, we will listen to his voice each day. Set some time aside to be with Jesus, remembering that anywhere will do.

**SAY**

Speak, Lord, I am listening.

**LEARN**

The Temple in Jerusalem was the place where God was regarded as being present to Israel in a special way.

The Feast of Dedication is known today as Hanukkah.

Hanukkah is celebrated in December: John the evangelist notes that it occurs in winter.

In the Fourth Gospel, Jesus replaces the Temple as the focus of God's presence in the world.

**REFLECT**

In certain western cultures, the image of *sheep* is not a particularly positive one. We hear talk of people "behaving like sheep", or being "as silly as sheep": the animal has become a symbol of something without a mind of its own. However, in the Gospel, this is far from the case. In using this figure, Jesus presents his disciple as someone active and decisive. First of all, the person listens to his voice: there is a difference between *hearing* something and *listening* to it. It is on the basis of this listening that the person makes the *decision to follow Jesus*. No one is driven to become a disciple, and no one is compelled to continue as one: the shepherd walks in front, and the sheep follow, if they wish. The passage today suggests that they follow because they know what is good for them, not in a calculating, selfish way, but because they have accepted Jesus as the Messiah and committed themselves to him in a relationship of love and obedience, a relationship which mirrors that of Jesus and the Father. The evangelist is telling us that now we meet God in the person of Jesus, not in a particular place. Jesus is present to us in many different ways, especially when we celebrate the Eucharist together and listen to the word of God and receive the Lord in Holy Communion. Sheep are social animals, and there is one shepherd, Jesus. Anyone who holds the office of shepherd in the Church today is still one of the flock and holds the staff as a delegate. We are all called to listen, to follow and to obey Jesus first and foremost. ■

