



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 18th August 2019 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9am Mass - Beryl Basey RIP
 11am Mass - Leo Brady RIP
 6pm Mass - Patricia Buttery RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)
 NO MASS

Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):
 NO MASS

Monday 19th August - St John Eudes, Priest
 St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am Mass - Mary and Joseph Robinson RIP

Tuesday 20th August - St Bernard, Abbot & Doctor
 St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am Mass - Muz Morris RIP

Wednesday 21st August - St Pius X, Pope
 St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 NO MASS

Thursday 22nd August - The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am Mass - Maureen Smith RIP

Friday 23rd August - St Rose of Lima, Virgin
 St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 NO MASS

Saturday 24th August - St Bartholomew, Apostle

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 5pm-5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &
 Sacrament of Reconciliation
 6pm Mass - Special Intention Bridie Andrews



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.



WELCOME BACK Father Peter and 'Au Revoir' to Fr Carlos as he embarks on his summer holiday.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 14-21 MAY 2020

We are preparing the details for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land on the above dates. At the moment, we have received a quote of £1,333 which includes the following:

- Round-trip flights by El Al (including taxes)
- 1 piece of checked in luggage up to 23 kg.
- Transfers and touring by private coach in Israel.
- Accommodation based on sharing a twin-bedded room (breakfast and dinner included):
 - 3 nights at Plaza Nazareth Hotel, Nazareth
 - 4 nights at 7 Arches Hotel, Jerusalem.
- Entrance fees appropriate to the itinerary.
- Tour manager/guide while in Israel.
- Arrangement of religious services.
- ATOL and ABTA financial protection.

Please speak with Fr. Peter or Fr. Carlos for further information. There is now a sign-up sheet in the Sacristy for those interested.

MAJELLANS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP (0-4 years) - New volunteers are needed to help run the group. Starting 9th September 2019 on Monday mornings only during school term time from 9.30am-11.30am. For more information contact Mary Crake 07948450612.

PARISH MAGAZINE - Deadline for the next issue is SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER - plenty of time for news, views and holiday stories. Kindly e-mail items for inclusion to astriddavies@hotmail.co.uk

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS & MUSIC - ST JAMES THE GREAT, THORLEY Bank Holiday weekend Sat/ Sun & Mon 11am -5pm. Lunch & refreshments, Craft Fair and Children's activities.



ADVANCED NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE - Debbie will be away from 2/9 - 13/9 inclusive and will be preparing & printing newsletters in advance. Should you have any notices that you wish to have included please do let her know by 26/8 at the latest. Thank you very much.



'Let us pray for peace and let us bring it about starting in our own homes'

Pope Francis

CATHOLIC PARISH OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD - SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

Application forms and sign-up sheets have been available from the Sacristy since Sunday 7th July for Children who wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and will be at least 8 years old on or before 31 August 2020. The preparation programme is only for children who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion within the Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford and not elsewhere.

All forms must be signed for by the parent of each child - please do not take a form for someone else. The last day for receiving completed forms into No.3 Windhill will be **Wednesday 4th September 2019**. When you have submitted your form please send an e-mail to fhcstjosephs@gmail.com confirming your application. This is so that our Catechist is able to send you an acknowledgement email and keep you updated of any changes to the scheduled sessions. The first Parents meeting will be Tuesday 17th September 7.30pm-8.30pm in the Parish centre and the first Children's session on Saturday 21st September 10.30am - 12pm.

CARITAS IN YOUR COMMUNITY - On Saturday 21st September, Caritas will be holding a gathering at the Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph, Waltham Cross. The gathering is an opportunity for Hertfordshire-based parish groups and social action projects to learn about Caritas Westminster, network with other organisations and recruit volunteers. If you are an individual, it is an opportunity to learn about projects local to you and find out about Caritas' work across the Diocese. We will also be running the Universal Credit Savvy course on the day. Please join us from 9am-12pm. Contact francesmoore@rcdow.org.uk for more information. Search 'Caritas in Your Community' on eventbrite.co.uk to book your free place.

DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE - Thank you VERY much indeed to everyone who kindly contributed towards the cost of the defibrillator. We now have our cabinet installed complete with the required electrics and are awaited delivery of the defibrillator itself. We will be supplied with a training device and DVD and hope to run regular sessions in the WCC and train as many people as possible in how to use it should the situation ever arise.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS - will start back in the WCC on Sunday 8th September 2019. Thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers who generously organise the rota, buy supplies, make tea, clear up and kindly give their time and friendship to others in our parish.

Let us pray for students who are waiting for, or who have just received, exam results, that their future direction in life will be one of hope and promise, confidence and trust.



HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST BIKE 'N HIKE SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2019

The annual Bike 'n Hike offers the opportunity to raise money both for Churches and for the Beds. & Herts. Historic Churches Trust. Every £1 that we raise in sponsorship, 50p is returned to us. This makes the Bike 'n Hike a very effective way to raise funds for our church. All the organizing is done for us; all we have to do is to take part! The other half of the sponsorship money goes to the Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust which is distributed, in the form of grants, to local communities struggling to raise funds for vital repairs to their church or chapel. Taking part involves being sponsored for either cycling or walking to visit other churches (you plan your own route). We also need "welcomers" between the hours of 10am and 6pm and welcomers can also be sponsored. Last year the Bike 'n Hike raised almost £100,000 for the churches and chapels of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Our church can benefit from this fund raising event if you will help.

So what are you waiting for? Enjoy a pleasant day cycling or walking to churches and chapels in our area, or welcoming our visitors, and at the same time boost our church's funds as well as those of the Trust.

You can use 'Just Giving' to help you raise sponsorship money, along with the normal sponsor form. By encouraging the use of gift aid, you can further increase the funds available to the Trust. For more information please contact Bill O'Neill from Holy Cross on 07577655922 Email Chondoh@aol.com

WCC WORKING PARTY 7TH SEPTEMBER 10AM-12NOON.

Now that the Centre is 10 years old we try to look after the building as much as we can and 2 years ago we spent a splendid morning with volunteers taking on a joint spring clean. So, if you enjoy the facilities offered week by week please do come along and give a hand, washing down paintwork, cleaning tables and chairs etc. Refreshments will be on offer as we work alongside our neighbours from St Michaels. All cleaning materials provided. Thank you



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 10/11 Aug 2019 Loose Coin & Envelopes / July D/ Debit
 St Josephs and the English Martyrs:
 Collection: Loose- £22.15 Envelopes- £518.70 D/D - £7,534.84
 Holy Cross
 Collection: Loose- £23.00 Envelopes- £0 D/D £1,210.00
 Most Holy Redeemer:
 Collection: Loose- £27.70 Envelopes- £46.00 D/D £645.33



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 open 7th July 2019
 Confirmation: Applications closed

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy; hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year C • Psalter Week 4

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

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

O God, who have prepared for those who
love you
good things which no eye can see,
fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of
your love,
so that, loving you in all things and above all
things,
we may attain your promises,
which surpass every human desire.
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 Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The king's leading men spoke to the king. "Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin." "He is in your hands as you know," King Zedekiah answered, "for the king is powerless against you." So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. "My lord king," he said "these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die." At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: "Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 39

Response:
Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. (R.)
2. He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. (R.)
3. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. (R.)
4. As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay. (R.)

SECOND READING Hebrews 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 12:49-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!"

"Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

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

Receive our oblation, O Lord,
by which is brought about a glorious
exchange,
that, by offering what you have given,
we may merit to receive your very self.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Made partakers of Christ through these
Sacraments,
we humbly implore your mercy, Lord,
that, conformed to his image on earth,
we may merit also to be his coheirs in
heaven.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.



On an initial glance at today's Gospel, this statement from Jesus is truly frightening. More often than not, the image of God Jesus presents to us is a God of love, tenderness and compassion.

Contrast that image with the God that shows a more fearsome, demanding and frightening side. In some Gospel translations, the opening line reads, "I have come to throw fire on the earth." Throwing fire suggests a more judgemental God, unhappy with what he sees in the world. But this scene reveals that something more profound and destructive is about to happen. Jesus is moving towards Jerusalem where a painful death awaits him.

Rather than downplay some of the harsh images of God in today's Gospel, there is a perspective that may help us understand Jesus' journey to Calvary. The fire referred to in Luke's Gospel can be used to describe the power of the Holy Spirit. The fire of the Holy Spirit is thrown into our world so that we might be renewed. The fire can take on even another meaning and express how the final judgement of God is near at hand with the death and resurrection of Jesus. We know that the crucifixion weighs heavily on Jesus' mind today because he states, "There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!" This baptism is not the ritual that we all know and partake in. The word "baptism" in today's Gospel refers to the death that awaits Jesus. He is filled with anxiety at the prospect of what is about to happen in Jerusalem. So if the first part concerns Jesus and his impending death, the second part of the Gospel focuses on the disciples. They and their families must be ready for the disputes and divisions that will take place after Jesus' death. ■

DO

Read the Gospel again and focus particularly on the phrase, "Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." How does Jesus cause division in your life?

LEARN

"Sometimes truth is not easy to listen to. Prophets have always had to deal with being persecuted for speaking the truth." (Pope Francis, Mass at Casa Santa Marta, April 2018)

SAY

"Let us pray for peace and let us bring it about starting in our own homes."
Pope Francis



REFLECT

For Donal Neary SJ, in a reflection on today's Gospel, states that following Jesus has created divisions among people for generations. The fire of Jesus' message will divide people and sometimes those divisions creep into local communities and families. As St Luke states, "the father divided against the son, son against father..." Within societies across the world, these divisions against Jesus and his values are getting stronger and more vocal, especially in the areas of bioethics and migration. These values can cause conflict and division in the face of open debate. The Church can be seen as judgemental and the enemy but since the very beginning, Jesus points to this as being fundamental to its existence. There is a certain power or fire that Jesus brought into the world that continues today. Fr Neary points out correctly that arising out of today's Gospel, we reflect on the people who put themselves in danger around the world for the right to religious freedom. St Thomas Aquinas once said that "whatever is received is received according to the mode of the recipient". In other words, when God's love breaks into the world with all of its fire and power, how do we receive it – as judgemental or as compassionate and tender? Jesus did not come into the world as a troublemaker. He came to show us God's own values and God's love for God's people. ■