



# 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 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**

9am Mass - John Mc Combes RIP

11am Mass - Thanksgiving - Christina Njenga

12.30pm Baptism - James Daniel Forbes

6pm Mass - Fernanda Braz RIP

**Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)**

9am Mass- Albert Foley RIP

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

11.15am Mass - People of the Parish

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September - St Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am Mass - Private Intention

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September - St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am Mass - Kevin O'Neill RIP

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September - feria**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am Mass - Hugh Collins RIP

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September - St Januarius, Bishop & Martyr**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am Mass - Helen Fahy Intention

11am Funeral service Gillian Joy Canning RIP

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September - St John Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions, Martyrs**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am Mass - People of the Parish

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September - St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

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

6pm Mass - Anne O' Callaghan RIP

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 - 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**

9am Mass - Cornelius O'Keeffe RIP

11am Mass - Margaret Hanley RIP

6pm Mass - Noel Hurley RIP

**Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)**

9am Mass- John & Bridget 63<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary

9am Baptism - Martha Loretta Dyfri Souza-Smith

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

11.15am Mass - People of the Parish

## 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.**

**YOUNG SEEKERS MEETINGS**-The Vocations Promotion Team has begun a new group called Young Seekers. Led by Fr Mike Maguire, the Assistant Vocations Promoter, this group aims to attract men in their late teens and early twenties to meet regularly and share their hopes and maybe their uncertainties about the call of the Lord. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September from 6.45pm up until 8.30pm. The topic for the evening is 'Formation for priesthood and the expectations offered in the new Ratio Fundamental'. Each session to end with night prayer, followed by a visit to the pub. For details, contact Fr Mike Maguire at [vocations@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcdow.org.uk)

**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE** - The next course with Fr Carlos will be on Thursday 19 September at 7.30pm in the WCC

**THE PARISH OFFICE** opens again as usual on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 9am - 3pm

**RCIA COME & SEE** - If you are you interested in Adult Baptism, Reception to the Church or Adult Confirmation, please see Fr Carlos on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at 8pm in the WCC for more information



*When someone comes back to the church and the sacraments, make them feel welcome'*

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020- The

application process has now **CLOSED**. The first Parents meeting will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm-8.30pm in the Parish centre and the first Children's session on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 10.30am - 12pm.

**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 awaiting delivery of the defibrillator itself from the British Heart Foundation. 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 CPR and how to use it should the situation ever arise. In the meantime please see the info on our web site which includes CPR instruction video clips from the British Heart foundation. Across the UK, there are over 30,000 cardiac arrests outside of hospital every year, and the survival rate is only 1 in 10. The reason for this poor survival rate is simple: not enough people in the UK know lifesaving CPR skills and how to use a defibrillator. Please take some time to look at the clips so that YOU know what to do in the event of a cardiac arrest of a fellow parishioner, a loved one or person in the street. There is also a link to a printable pocket guide on there too

**ENCOUNTER**- New programme of meetings for Sept 2019 - May 2020 is now available at the back of church and on the parish website. All welcome either to attend on a regular basis or to drop in to one or two meetings. For more information on the programme or enquiries contact: 01279 652060 The next **Encounter** meeting is Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Sept in the WCC. 'Pope Francis; A man of his word' A DVD (90 mins) directed by Wim Wenders; followed by group discussion. 10am coffee; 10.20 am meeting opens; 12.30pm shared lunch (please bring lunch to share); 2pm meeting ends. Enquiries: 01279 652060

**ANNUAL MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS** - The annual Mass for Bereaved Parents will be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2.30pm at St Aloysius Church, Somers Town, 20 Phoenix Road, London, NW1 1TA celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan.



**HOLY TRINITY WINTER NIGHT SHELTER** provides emergency shelter and supportive services to people who are homeless or at risk and also collaborates for locally driven solutions to end homelessness. On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September between 11am - 4pm there will be an informal Open day to promote the work of the Night Shelter and all are welcome to visit.

**PENNY COLLECTION** - Please remember that our Penny collection at St Joseph's this year is for the Night Shelter. Both pennies and pound coins gratefully accepted!

**HOME MISSION DAY** - This weekend there will be a collection for the Home Mission Appeal.

## HOME MISSION SUNDAY 15TH SEPT 2019

This weekend, we celebrate **Home Mission Sunday** - an opportunity to look closer to home as we grow Missionary Parishes and form Missionary Disciples. Here are a few ideas of activities you might like to consider doing over the coming weeks:

- **WELCOME** those Catholics in our local community who are not active in their faith:
- Welcome families with children starting school - with a blessing and a coffee morning.
- Invite family members or friends who haven't been to church for a while, to make a visit - to a Mass or other liturgy that is particularly welcoming for them - with tea & cake to follow, and parishioners ready to welcome them!
- For those who can't get to Sunday Mass because of old age, disability or home commitments - how could you rally round to help?
- **REACH OUT** to those who may be interested in hearing more about Jesus Christ and his Church:
- Invite those who are married to a non-Catholic to bring their spouse along to a social on the evening after Mass, where they can share with other couples their thoughts on the importance of faith in their lives.

**ANNUAL MASS COUNT** - Next weekend 21/22<sup>nd</sup> September we start our Annual Mass count for the Diocese. This will continue for 4 consecutive weekends ending on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October

**LAY CHAPLAIN VACANCY**- at St Elizabeth's. Closing Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019. See [www.stelizabeths.org.uk](http://www.stelizabeths.org.uk) or telephone 01279 844524 for more info.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED AT GROVE COTTAGE**- We are looking for someone to help with DIY, gardening and general maintenance jobs at Grove Cottage. If you have 3-4 hours a month to spare we would love to hear from you! Please contact Monica Baker [volunteer@mencapgrovecottage.org](mailto:volunteer@mencapgrovecottage.org) or call 01279 656085. Please note that all volunteer placements are subject to satisfactory references and a DBS check.



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 7/8 Sept 2019 Loose Coin & Envelopes /July D/ Debit

*St Josephs and the English Martyrs:*

Collection: Loose- £ TBC Envelopes-TBC ED/D - £7,534.84

*Holy Cross*

Collection: Loose- £ TBC Envelopes-TBC D/D £1,210.00

*Most Holy Redeemer:*

Collection: Loose- £ TBC Envelopes-TBC 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 closed

**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

Year C • Psalter Week 4

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,  
that your prophets be found true.  
Hear the prayers of your servant,  
and of your people Israel.

## 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

Look upon us, O God,  
Creator and ruler of all things,  
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,  
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.  
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 Exodus 32:7-11,13-14

A reading from the book of Exodus:

The Lord spoke to Moses, "Go down now,  
because your people whom you brought out of  
Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to  
leave the way I marked out for them; they have  
made themselves a calf of molten metal and have  
worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. 'Here is your  
God, Israel,' they have cried, 'who brought you up  
from the land of Egypt!' I can see how headstrong  
these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall  
blaze out against them and devour them; of you,  
however, I will make a great nation."

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God.  
"Lord," he said, "why should your wrath blaze out  
against this people of yours whom you brought  
out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched  
and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac  
and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own  
self you swore and made this promise: I will make  
your offspring as many as the stars of heaven,  
and all this land which I promised I will give to  
your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for  
ever." So the Lord relented and did not bring on  
his people the disaster he had threatened.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

Psalm 50

Response:

I will leave this place and go to my father.

1 Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

2 A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

3 O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.  
My sacrifice is a contrite spirit;  
a humbled, contrite heart you will not  
spurn. (R.)

## SECOND READING 1 Timothy 1:12-17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to  
Timothy.

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me  
strength, and who judged me faithful enough  
to call me into his service even though I used to  
be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and  
discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown  
me, because until I became a believer I had been  
acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord  
filled me with faith and with the love that is in  
Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on  
and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came  
into the world to save sinners. I myself am the  
greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to  
me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me  
the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience  
for all the other people who would later have to  
trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal  
King, the undying, invisible and only God, be  
honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten  
the eyes of our mind,  
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-32

(For shorter form, read between > <.)

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:

"What man among you with a hundred sheep,  
losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the  
wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it?  
And when he found it, would he not joyfully take  
it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call  
together his friends and neighbours? 'Rejoice with  
me,' he would say, 'I have found my sheep that was  
lost.' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more  
rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than  
over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of  
repentance."

"Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would  
not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the  
house and search thoroughly till she found it? And  
then, when she had found it, call together her friends  
and neighbours? 'Rejoice with me,' she would say,  
'I have found the drachma I lost.' In the same way, I  
tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God  
over one repentant sinner."

He also said, "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 was 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

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord,  
and in your kindness accept these, your servants'  
offerings,  
that what each has offered to the honour of your  
name  
may serve the salvation of all.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God!  
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of  
your wings.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we  
pray,  
take possession of our minds and bodies,  
so that its effects, and not our own desires,  
may always prevail in us.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## THE WORD

# LOST AND FOUND

(LUKE 15:1-32)

In today's Gospel passage, Luke  
presents us with the different  
reactions to the prophetic word  
of Jesus.

On the one hand, people regarded as  
socially undesirable are drawing near to  
him, to listen to him; on the other, the  
religious leaders are muttering because  
Jesus welcomes and shares table-  
fellowship with "sinners". Once more,  
sharing a meal becomes the reason for  
division. This is the occasion for Jesus'  
telling three parables which exemplify  
God's attitude towards people represented  
by the tax collectors and sinners: these  
are the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost  
son. In all of them, the main character, the  
shepherd, the woman, the father, is shown  
as being anxious, either actively searching  
for what they have lost, or intently  
watching for the wayward son to return. All  
are overjoyed when their hopes are fulfilled  
and a great celebration marks the event.

The positive attitude of the tax collectors  
and sinners, the joy which the main  
characters in the parables show contrasts  
sharply with the negative standpoint of  
the religious leaders: Luke personifies  
this in the character of the elder son in  
the third parable. He is, in many ways, a  
tragic figure: although he has stayed at  
home and done all the right things, he is  
full of resentment at his father. He does  
not appreciate what he has or the love his  
father obviously has for him: the father  
goes out to speak to him, just as he ran to  
greet the younger brother. Does he accept  
his father's invitation, set aside his grudges  
and join the celebrations? Luke leaves us to  
finish the story ourselves. ■

## SAY

Christ Jesus came into the  
world to save sinners  
(1 Timothy 1:15)

## REFLECT

What is your opinion of the older brother? Do you regard him as selfish and unreasonable, hanging on to his wounded feelings in spite of his father's pleading? Or do you have a sneaking sympathy for him and think that his complaints are justified?

The parables are a trap. They invite us to make a judgement and then to rethink our opinion in the light of the way God sees people and situations. We are presented with two reactions to the returning young man, that of the father and that of the elder brother, and asked, which of these two characters represents yourself? It may well be that the elder brother is jealous of his younger sibling who had the courage, or at least the recklessness, to do what he himself would have liked to do: get away from the constraints of home, kick over the traces and live a life of riot. It is interesting that his comment about his brother's indiscretions with women comes apparently from his own imagination rather than from the report Luke gives us of the younger one's activities. Wishful thinking?

We are also being challenged as a church as to how we treat people who return after a time away. They may well be coming back because they realise how much they need the community and the sacraments. Are we glad or resentful? ■

## LEARN

The floor of the house of the woman in the parable would have been made of earth: the coin might therefore have been trodden into the ground.

Luke's pairing of the parables of the man and the sheep and the woman and the coin is typical of his writing.

The younger son having to look after pigs is a sign of his being reduced to utter degradation: no Jewish audience could have imagined a situation more humiliating.

## DO

When someone comes back to church and the sacraments, make them feel welcome.

