



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 1st December 2019 - 1st Sunday of Advent
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - Manuel Pereira Jardim, Wife & Sons intention

11am Mass - Ray Asser RIP

6pm Mass - James Joseph Conroy RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)

9am Mass- Robert Froude RIP

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

11.15am Mass - People of the Parish

Monday 2nd December-Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Trevor and Pauline Duhig Intention

Tuesday 3rd December-St Francis Xavier, Priest

St Joseph and the English Martyrs

9.30am Mass - Ernest Workman RIP

Wednesday 4th December-St John Damascene, Priest and Doctor

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - William Frost RIP

Thursday 5th December-Advent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - James Morris Intention

1.30pm St Joseph's School

Friday 6th December - St Nicholas, Bishop

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

10.30am Requiem Mass- Bridget Patricia Shea RIP

Saturday 7th December-St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

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

6pm Mass - John Sharkey RIP



Sunday 8th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - Paul Kelly RIP

11am Mass - Anna Graveson RIP

6pm Mass - Noreen Davidson RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)

9am Mass - Fr Bob Styles Intention

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

11.15am Mass - People of the Parish

HYMN BOOKS & BRICKS - St Joseph's Parishioners Sophie and Mike Sullivan along with their Children emigrated to Zimbabwe in 2016 but will be back in the UK and at Mass to catch up with everyone on **Sun 1st Dec & Sun 29th Dec**. Life in Zimbabwe is very different from that in Bishop's Stortford and there are many hardships. Mike and Sophie are trying to raise money for improvements to 'Petra School' in Bulawayo which includes the building of a changing room for the children (35,000 bricks required + labour costs) and also have a goal to provide at least 100 new Hymn books (£12 each) for their local Catholic Church 'Christ the King'. If you would like to help to 'buy a brick' or a 'Hymn book' it would be very much appreciated. Any donations can be given into the Parish Office, Number 3 Windhill or directly to Sophie & Mike. Thank you

FANCY GIVING FREE MONEY TO CHARITY?! If you intend buying Christmas presents online or actually do any other internet shopping (even your weekly shop) perhaps you might consider using The Giving Machine website. If you create an account, which is free, and then access retailers via The Giving Machine page a donation will be given to your nominated charity. There are hundreds of retailers signed up (John Lewis, Amazon, Sainsbury's etc) and many charities that can benefit but please consider nominating Across Stansted as a linked charity. Our Parish pilgrimage to Lourdes travelled with Across at the end of September and this provides an opportunity to support their work ... for free!! Every online transaction via The Giving Machine adds to their funds without it costing you anything.

COMPANY AT CHRISTMAS- Every year, under the banner of "Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford", we give a party for anyone in our Town who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. This is a happy and popular event and is enjoyed by guests and helpers alike. If you would like to help out as a volunteer on Christmas Day please come along to the Volunteers Meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 4th December in the Methodist Church on South Street. You can also get involved as a driver (picking up and dropping off guests) and/or dropping of 'Meals on Wheels' to those unable to get to the Church. We also need helpers between (3pm and 6pm) on Christmas Eve to help set up (bring along your own Vegetable knife and peeler). If you want to help in any way please contact companyatchristmas@gmail.com

GENERAL ELECTION HUSTINGS- Tuesday 10th Dec 7.30pm - 9.30pm BS Baptist Church. Your opportunity to question candidates from all the main parties. Send your questions to bpshustings@gmail.com

FOODBANK- All three of our Churches will be collecting for the Foodbank throughout Advent until 29th December. Please leave donations as usual at the back of each Church where there is a list of most wanted items. Thank you

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR - Caritas are sharing an 'Advent Giving Calendar'. This calendar follows the concept of a 'reverse' Advent Calendar and gives suggestions for items to collect each day to donate to a local foodbank or food poverty project in time for Christmas. See our web site for more info and to download a calendar or collect one from the back of the Church.

PENNY COLLECTION- The winter night shelter at Holy Trinity opened its doors on 27th November for its fifth year. It provides 12 beds for the homeless but needs to raise funds to provide more. Please help by putting your pennies and pounds in the labelled jar at the back of the Church at weekend Masses. Our running total for this year currently stands at £659.32

THE BIG SLEEP NIGHT -Bill O'Neill from Holy Cross is sleeping outside on 7th December to raise money for the homeless. If you would like to help sponsor him please visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/hardyhearts>. If Bill raises more than £500 then 50% will go to the main charity and 50% to the Holy Trinity homeless shelter project in Bishop's Stortford.

SUPPORT DALIT CHILDREN by buying your Christmas cards/ gifts from their online shop www.supportingdalitchildren.com. In the Indian caste system the Dalit people are known as 'The Untouchables' and deemed unclean. Dalits perform the jobs that nobody else wants to do. Human right abuses against the Dalits are numerous and go on throughout India. Dalit women suffer the most abuse- mental, physical and sexual. Education is the fundamental key for the Dalit children of today and their future generations by lifting them out of poverty and oppression and this is why the charity supports them by sponsoring education and the boarding costs of as many children as possible.



GIVING TREE 2019

PROVIDING CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR UNDER PRIVILEGED CHILDREN
 We are supporting the charitable present giving scheme the 'Giving Tree' again this year at St Joseph's. Please only take one tag per family and spend no more than £10. If you do take a gift tag, please ensure that you also take an information leaflet which will have all the details you need. Any queries please contact Mandy Gregory 07985111235. Thank you very much.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD CHRISTMAS FAYRE - Saturday 7th December from 9.30am - 4.30pm. There will be road closures, restrictions and diversions from 0600-1900in the town.

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM - The Ecumenical Children's Christmas event, will take place at 3pm on Saturday 21st December at Holy Cross.

'Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!' Revelation 22:20

YOU CAN HELP TO HERALD THE CHRISTMAS GOOD NEWS

... by volunteering for a Churches Together Christmas card delivery round (approx. 85 letter boxes). The cards list the Christmas services of all the Stortford churches. Simply go to the St Joseph's information area, choose your round and sign for it on the sheet on the counter top, then take the corresponding map and card pack (lettered A to K).

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE- Applicants for St Joseph's School for **RECEPTION places in 2020/21** should collect a white 'embossed' application form for a certificate from No 3 Windhill, the Sacristy or the Parish Office in person. Once completed it should then be posted through the letter box of No 3 Windhill marked for Fr Peter's attention **with a stamped addressed envelope please**. The Certificate will then be posted to you. The School deadline is 15/1/2020

CRISP PACKETS -Holy Trinity Church are collecting empty crisp packets to recycle to raise money for the Night shelter. If you would like to help please flatten the empty packet (any brand, but crisp packets only) and take to Holy Trinity directly where they have a collection box. Thanks.

ENCOUNTER- The Advent lunch scheduled for Friday 6 Dec at St Theresa's, Stansted has unfortunately had to be cancelled. Instead the next meeting on 17 January 2020 will involve a 'New year lunch' at St Theresa's. Enquiries: B/S 652060

CHANGE TO ADVERTISED DATE - Due to unforeseen circumstances the 'Reflections service' at St Elizabeth's will now be on Sunday 8th December and not 1st Dec.

RCIA - The next session on Monday 2nd December 2019 at 8pm in the WCC will discuss the Liturgical Year and Preparation for the Rite of Acceptance.



CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROLS - Friday 6th December at 4pm in Jackson square - Come and join us to sing carols. Meet at the top of the traveller.

HARMONAIRES CHOIR - 'Jingle All the Way' concert 11am Sat 14 December at St Joseph's Church. Tickets £5 Adult £3 Children. Proceeds to 'Save the Children'.

www.theharmonaireschoir.com



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 23/24 November 2019 Loose Coin & Envelopes Oct D/D

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

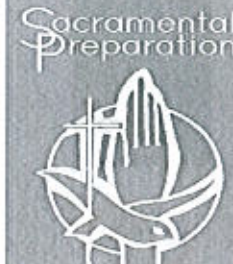
Collection: Loose- £ 812.53 Envelopes- £501.50 D/D £7,502.34

Holy Cross

Collection: Loose- £ 31.50 Envelopes-£10 D/D £1,450

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: Loose- £ 140.80 Envelopes-£ 48.50 D/D £1,141.33



Baptism: Forms and Information are available from the Parish Office.

Marriage: enquiries call the Parish Office or email

RCIA: Applications closed

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

1 DECEMBER 2019

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 1

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
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 21:5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and
they will say:

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem."

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into
ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.
O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 121

Response:

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
"Let us go to God's house."

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
"Let us go to God's house."
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)

2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R.)

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
"Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!" (R.)

4. For love of my brethren and friends
I say: "Peace upon you!"
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. (R.)

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

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

You know "the time" has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left."

"So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

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

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we
make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate
devoutly here below
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our
earth shall yield its increase.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated,
profit us, we pray,
for even now, as we walk amid passing
things,
you teach us by them to love the things of
heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Our Gospel reading today is in some ways surprising: we are beginning the season of Advent, when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world as a baby, born in the usual way from his mother, Mary.

But the Jesus we encounter is an adult, warning his audience to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man at the end of time. The title "Son of Man" has overtones of the theme of judgement, which is also connected with that of the Day of the Lord.

We might note that Jesus talks about the flood purely as a natural event: he does not refer to it as a punishment for sin or wickedness. People are going about their everyday affairs, oblivious to the imminent danger which threatens them. The Gospel message for us is to look more deeply at our lives and to be prepared so that the Lord will find us alert, aware that he may appear at any time and ready to receive him. Many parables present this lesson: the coming of the Lord is a serious business, and we should take it seriously. The readings from Matthew which we will hear during Advent are anything but comfortable. ■

REFLECT

If it were a crime to be a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? We sometimes see this question displayed on posters as a challenge to passers-by. We may think that we are living a good and proper life if we are honest in our dealings with other people, decent and well-mannered in our relations with them. No doubt this was how the people of the time of Noah felt. During Advent, we are invited to look beyond the surface of our daily lives and routine and to be more aware of Jesus.

We are asked to think of Christmas not just as something which happened a long time ago, but as the way that God reached out to us in the person of Jesus, and continues to do so. How would we feel if we knew that Jesus was coming in such a way to us today? What changes would we make in the way we live? The lesson of today's Gospel is that it should not make any difference at all: we should always be living and behaving as if the coming of Jesus as Son of Man were imminent, not out of fear, but because it has become natural to us as disciples.

SAY

**Maranatha! Come,
Lord Jesus!**

(See Revelation 22:20)

LEARN

The biblical flood is a well-attested natural disaster in the ancient world.

The biblical story attributes the flood to God's judgement on human wickedness.

The First Sunday of Advent is the first day of the Church's new year.

DO

Flooding today is often due to human mismanagement or exploitation of the natural world: register your concern about climate change to an appropriate person or authority.

The message of Christmas is that God was prepared to come into our world to invite us into friendship with God. We do not intentionally hurt our friends, and apologise as soon as we can if things go wrong between us. Advent is the time when we are challenged to wake up, to see the world with fresh eyes, and to appreciate the great gift which God has given us in the person, life and example of Jesus: then we will gladly live by the Gospel teachings. ■