



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: bishopstortford@rcdow.org.uk • Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopstortford>
 Live streaming from St Joseph's: www.churchservices.tv/bishopstortford
 Diocese of Westminster Charity No. 233699

Sunday 29th December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9am Mass – John James Brannon RIP
 11am Mass – Noel Henry Brady RIP
 6pm Mass – Sheila Main RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)

9am Mass – Sr Lina and her Community

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

11.15am Mass – People of the Parish

Monday 30th December – 6th Day in the Octave of Christmas

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Maureen Pamphilon RIP

Tuesday 31st December – 7th Day in the Octave of Christmas

St Joseph and the English Martyrs

9.30am Mass – Harry Stalley RIP

Wednesday 1st January 2020 – Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

10am Mass – Rose Marie O'Mahoney RIP

Thursday 2nd January – St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Georgina O'Neill RIP

Friday 3rd January – The Most Holy Name of Jesus

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Deceased members of the Pearson & Lago Family

Saturday 4th January – Christmas feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

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

6pm Mass – Richard and David Morris Intention

Sunday 5th January – The Epiphany of the Lord – Holy Day of Obligation

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass – John Duffy RIP

11am Mass – The Byrne Family Intention

6pm Mass – Patricia Stott RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)

9am Mass – John Baker Intention

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

11.15am Mass – People of the Parish

ADVANCED NOTICE-FIRE MARSHALL TRAINING – Come and learn what to do should a fire break out in the Church and how you can help to safely evacuate fellow Parishioners. Training (approx. 1 hour duration) will be provided free by 'Precision Safety Services' on Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 7pm in the WCC. Refreshments provided.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE – There are now 6 places open for our parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The cost is £1333 for 7 nights in a shared room accommodation with a return flight from London Luton Airport. If you are interested to join, please see Fr. Carlos or contact the Office in order to receive a Booking form/ Brochure
ADVANCED NOTICE RE REFRESHMENTS – Unfortunately due to a booking in the WCC St Joseph's Hall, there will be **NO** refreshments served on Sunday 12th January 2020

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE 2020 – The next Baptism course with Fr Carlos will be Thursday 9 January 2020 at 7.30pm in the WCC. Please contact the office to book a place.

ST MARY'S VACANCIES – Assistant Head Teacher and Head of DT Expansion posts. Please see www.stmarys.net for more details and also for other vacancies.

VINNIE PACKS – The SVP are distributing 11,500 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Would you be willing to help? To donate (£3.50 per pack is suggested), please send cheques payable to SVP to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ, or to donate by bank transfer to Natwest sort code 60-60-04, account number 4608 8237.

CARITAS WESTMINSTER is recruiting at least one Representative for Social Outreach from each parish to help communication between the Parish and Caritas to support and grow charitable activities. They will help to display posters and flyers, speak in Masses, learn about new tools and models for social action and share best practice between parishes. If you would like to become a Caritas Representative, please speak to your Parish Priest.

SCRIPTURE ROAD SHOW – All are invited to Westminster Cathedral from 30th January to 1st February to explore the Year of the Word in the 'Tents of Meeting' which will be set up in the side chapels, and view specially commissioned artwork around the theme of 'The God Who Speaks'. Resources, activities and presentations will suit all ages, groups welcome. For further details see

<https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/>

'You should be clothed in sincere compassion'

Colossians 3:12

Thank you!!

Fr Peter and Fr Carlos, send their sincere thanks to 'everyone' who generously gave their time and helped over the Christmas period as well as continuously throughout the year. We are blessed to have so many willing volunteers in our parish, from those who clean the Churches, read, sing, play music, serve, create beautiful flower arrangements, run groups, organise, visit the sick, look after the repositories, make tea, hand out hymn books, collect money and count money, the list is endless...! They would also like to thank everyone for the kind gifts, cards and good wishes which they very gratefully received and extend their prayers and every good wish to you for a Happy, Blessed and prosperous New Year!

REV FR CROWE RIP – With sadness we announce the death of Fr Bernard James Crowe. He died peacefully at Nazareth House, East Finchley where he had been living since April. Born in October 1930 and ordained to the priesthood in March 1955 as a Redemptorist, spending time at St Joseph's. Fr Bernard was incardinated into the Diocese in the early 1980s. Sympathy is extended to Fr Bernard's family and friends, and to the Sisters and Residents at Nazareth House. Details of funeral arrangements will follow in due course.

RCIA – The next session on Monday 6th January 2020 at 8pm in the WCC will discuss 'The Fountain of Life, The Word of God and Scripture'

PASTORAL LETTER FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY – Cardinal Vincent, who recently celebrated his' Golden Jubilee of Ordination as a Priest 'has written a pastoral letter for the Feast of the Holy Family this weekend. Please do take a copy or alternatively read on our web site.

FAITH IN POLITICS – is a Catholic Parliamentary and Public Affairs internship scheme for recent university graduates, which offers a foundation of Catholic faith and spiritual formation for those who believe that they may have a vocation to public service in politics or public affairs. Importantly their journey begins and ends with a retreat, and spiritual guidance is an integral part of the year. Applications for Faith in Politics 2020-21 are now open for those in their final year at university. More information at www.faithinpolitics.org.uk
 Applications close on 28th February 2020.

THANK YOU – to everyone who has supported the collection for Zambia over the last year. Last week another £167.30 was raised at Most Holy Redeemer. Whilst at Holy Cross, a further £121 was collected for the Night Shelter

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREES – in aid of Grove Cottage Sunday 5 January 2020 Link Road Car Park BS CM23 2BA. Call in and drop off your tree and make a donation to Grove Cottage (Suggested minimum is £5 per tree). Trees must be bare, no decorations please and they will be chipped and recycled.

TEACHING – Harlow and Epping Teacher Training Partnership are hosting a 'drop-in' recruitment event for university graduates and final year students, at Harlow Study Centre, CM16 6BWJ on January 7th 2020, between 4.30 – 7pm. This event will answer any questions and help find the right route into teaching. Graduates will be able to discuss the application process and received support from a 'Get into Teaching' advisor.

CHARITY ACROSS QUIZ – (in aid of Across Bishop's Stortford Jumbulance) Saturday 18th January 2020 at 7pm – Windhill Churches Centre. BYO drinks and Nibbles. £5 per person. Maximum of 10 on each table. Tickets sell out fast so call to get yours before they go on sale at the end of Mass in January. Call/text Debbie on 07584 623472 or Fiona on 07790 444130 for tickets.

CHARITY BARN DANCE – (in aid of Across Bishop's Stortford Jumbulance) – Saturday 7th March 2020 at St Joseph's School – details to follow...

ALPS (Across Lourdes Pilgrims and Supporters) – will be meeting for coffee after Mass in the Parish Centre on the 2nd Thursday of every month, starting on **Thursday, 9th January**. If you've been to Lourdes with Across, want to know more or wish to support the work of Across do come along and join us for coffee and a catch up. We'll be meeting **from 10am so do pop in** and find out more. If you have any queries call Alison Jones on 01279 755792.



Parish Administrator: Debbie Jackson

Parish Office: 01279 654063 (9am-3pm Mon - Fri)

Parish Centre Bookings and All Enquiries::

bishopstortford@rcdow.org.uk

Safeguarding enquiries only:

bishopstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk



Collections 21/22 Dec 2019 Loose Coin & Envelopes Nov D/D

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

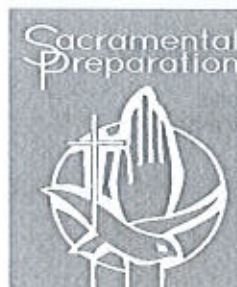
Collection: Loose- £781.25 Envelopes- £707.50 D/D £7,162.34

Holy Cross

Collection: Loose- £44.05 Envelopes- £10 D/D £1,015.00

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: Loose- £130.80 Envelopes- £34 D/D £1,129.33



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.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the infant
lying in a manger.

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 were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practising the virtues of family life and in
the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
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 Ecclesiasticus 32-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.
The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her
sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his
sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone
amassing a fortune.
Whoever respects his father will be happy
with children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his
father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing
obedience to the Lord.
My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him
sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and
strength;
for kindness to a father should not be
forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 127

Response:
O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

- O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
- Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive
around your table. (R.)
- Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life! (R.)

SECOND READING Colossians 3:12-21

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

You are God's chosen race, his saints;
he loves you, and you should be clothed
in sincere compassion, in kindness and
humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with
one another; forgive each other as soon as
a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you;
now you must do the same. Over all these
clothes, to keep them together and complete
them, put on love. And may the peace of
Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for
this that you were called together as parts of
the one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness,
find a home with you. Teach each other,
and advise each other, in all wisdom. With
gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and
hymns and inspired songs to God; and never
say or do anything except in the name of the
Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father
through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as
you should in the Lord. Husbands, love
your wives and treat them with gentleness.
Children, be obedient to your parents
always, because that is what will please
the Lord. Parents, never drive your children
to resentment or you will make them feel
frustrated.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a home with
you.
Alleluia

GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the
Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and
said, "Get up, take the child and his mother
with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay
there until I tell you, because Herod intends
to search for the child and do away with
him." So Joseph got up and, taking the child
and his mother with him, left that night for
Egypt, where they stayed until Herod was
dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had
spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord
appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and
said, "Get up, take the child and his mother
with you and go back to the land of Israel,
for those who wanted to kill the children are
dead". So Joseph got up and, taking the

child and his mother with him, went back to
the land of Israel. But when he learnt that
Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod
as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there,
and being warned in a dream he left for the
region of Galilee. There he settled in a town
called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken
through the prophets were to be fulfilled:
He will be called a Nazarene.

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.

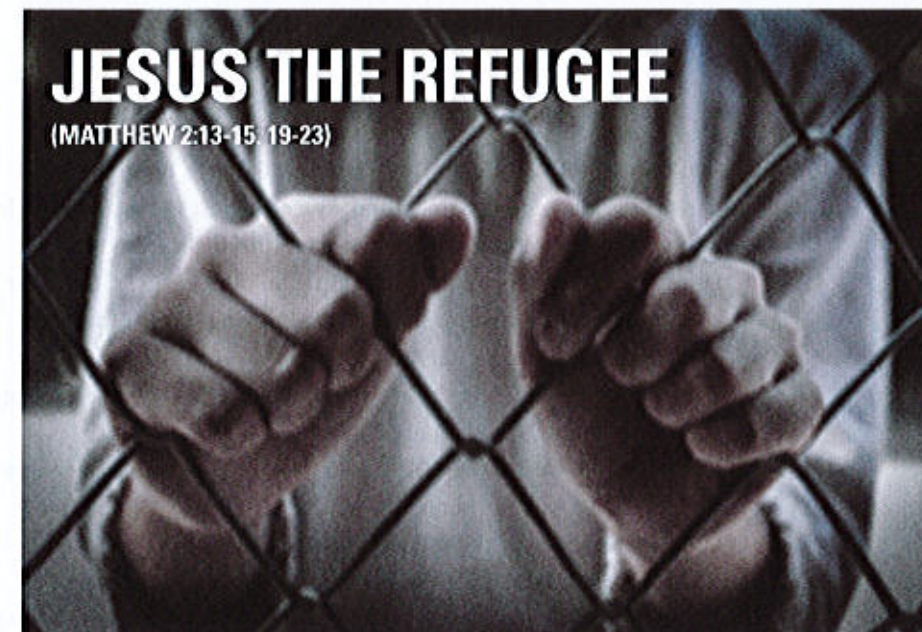
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of
conciliation,
humbly asking that,
through the intercession of the Virgin Mother
of God and St Joseph,
you may establish our families firmly in your
grace and your peace.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
Our God has appeared on the earth, and
lived among us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Bring those you refresh with this heavenly
Sacrament,
most merciful Father,
to imitate constantly the example of the Holy
Family,
so that, after the trials of this world,
we may share their company for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE WORD**JESUS THE REFUGEE**

(MATTHEW 2:13-15. 19-23)

Matthew is writing for a community which is made up mainly of Jewish Christians: he is anxious to show that the Gospel story is the fulfilment of God's promises and actions as recorded in the Hebrew scriptures. He often uses expressions such as "In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled."

Today, there are echoes of the Genesis story of Joseph, where Egypt is the place of safety (not of slavery, as is its usual sense). Joseph acts under God's instructions, communicated here in dreams and by angels; and like Moses, he can return to his own land when those who were a threat to life are dead. Like the Israelites in Exodus, he comes out of Egypt. It seems that in Matthew's version, Joseph and Mary were living in Bethlehem to begin with, as the evangelist notes that Joseph was afraid to go back to his own place because of possible danger from the son of Herod the Great who was now king in the place of his father: so he settled in a town called Nazareth, the town in the north, in Galilee, from which tradition tells us Jesus came.

The first two chapters of Matthew present the themes which we will encounter in his version of the story of Jesus throughout this liturgical year: they are sometimes called the Gospel in miniature. The Exodus will form a prominent background to our readings, setting the story of Jesus firmly in the tradition of the Jewish scriptures which we call the Old Testament. ■

REFLECT

One of the distressing features of life at the present time is the number of people who find themselves displaced from their homes due to war, conflict, famine and natural disasters. The risks they take by undertaking long and dangerous journeys during which they can be taken advantage of by unscrupulous criminals illustrate their desperation: setting out to cross open water in inadequate and overcrowded vessels is a measure of their determination to survive and find a better life for their families.

There is no denying that coping with refugees poses problems for the countries in which they arrive. But to characterise such people as scroungers looking for an easy life is hardly the Christian response. Today's feast of the Holy Family presents Jesus, Mary and Joseph as refugees fleeing what might be described in today's terms as ethnic cleansing. A possible threat to a tyrannical ruler is met with what we would call state-sponsored murder. Hardly the idyllic existence imagined in many holy pictures.

SAY

You should be
clothed in sincere
compassion
(Colossians 3:12)

LEARN

Matthew is writing his Gospel for a
community of mainly Jewish Christians.

The evangelist wants to show that the
ministry and passion of Jesus are in accord
with God's plan.

This is shown by fulfilment quotations from
the Jewish scriptures.

DO

When next you see a news item about
refugees, say to yourself, "Jesus, Mary
and Joseph have been through that sort of
experience."



Yemeni children in refugee camp in Yemen

The letter to the Hebrews tells us that
Christ has experienced everything we
have known except sin. Our celebration
today of the Holy Family presents us with
Christ enduring danger, an attempt on his
life and fleeing to a foreign land for safety.
The Lord we worship knows what it is to
be a refugee. We might remember that
when next we see such a situation on our
news bulletins. ■