

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 5th January 2020 – 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

Monday 6th January – Christmas feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Johanna Duhig RIP

Tuesday 7th January – St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

St Joseph and the English Martyrs

9.30am Mass – Private Intention

Wednesday 8th January – Christmas feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Nancy Ayley RIP

Thursday 9th January – Christmas feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

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

Friday 10th January – Christmas feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Margaret & Douglas Rosair RIP

1.30pm Requiem Mass – Margaret Mulroy RIP

Saturday 11th January – Christmas feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

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

6pm Mass – Thanksgiving

Sunday 12th January – The Baptism of the Lord

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass – Gerry Castle RIP

11am Mass – The Elstone Family Intention

12.30pm Baptism – Beatrice Elizabeth Evans

Frederick Fox Francis Holland

6pm Mass – Eugene Neary RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)

9am Mass – Joe Lynch RIP

Baptism – Mark Fernando

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

11.15am Mass – People of the Parish

BLESSING OF THE CHALK - On Epiphany, many families take this day to ask God to bestow his blessing on their homes. Chalk is blessed, and written on their doors with the initials of the Three Wise Men, asking for Christ to Bless their home (*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*) - writing 20 + C + M + B + 20 on the top of their door. Chalk will be blessed today. Families are encouraged to take some chalk today along with a Blessing for the Home.

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

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.

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.

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

VOCATION EVENT – Join us to listen to the stories of those called to the Priesthood and Religious life, and share your experience of what the Lord is doing in your life. SPEC, Waxwell House 125 Waxwell Lane, Pinner HA5 3EP Saturday 25th January 2020 10am – 4pm. Please inform us of your attendance by email at vocationspromoter@rcdow.org.uk for catering purposes.

SPUC COLLECTION – There will be a collection at St Joseph's next weekend for the Society to Protect the Unborn Child

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'

FAITH IN POLITICS - is a Catholic Parliamentary and Public Affairs internship scheme for recent university graduates, offering 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. See www.faithinpolitics.org.uk Applications close 28/2/20

PENNY COLLECTION - Many thanks for your tremendous support for the Winter Night Shelter. The beneficiary of the 2020 Penny Collection will be the MEDAILLE TRUST. This is a charity with strong Catholic roots and connections which works to support victims of modern slavery, mainly young women who have been trafficked to work in, for example, nail bars. It provides safe houses in various locations around the country and works closely with law-enforcement authorities. You can find more information in the Penny Collection section on the parish website or on the charity's website: www.medaille-trust.org.uk

LEARN FROM ME - CATECHESIS AND MISSION FORMATION PROGRAMME
An information evening about the programme will take place on Thursday 23rd January 2020, 7.30-9pm at Vaughan House. The 'Learn From Me' programmes include:

- Certificate in Parish Mission and Ministry: one-year part-time distance learning course

- Certificate in Catechesis: two-year part-time distance learning course

- Catechesis on Marriage and Family: six-month distance learning course.

For further information and application forms please contact Anna Dupelycz on annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk or 0207 798 9150.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC RAMBLERS' CLUB -The Catholic Rambler's Club invites new members to join in 2020, with weekly walks taking place in South-East England, accessible by public transport. Membership is open to all who are happy to respect their Catholic ethos.

www.stfrancisramblers.ukwalkers.com

THANK YOU - to all who took part in the Art Aid for Zambia at MHR, both making and buying. The amount raised was £162.

ADVANCED NOTICE RE REFRESHMENTS – Unfortunately due to a booking in the WCC St Joseph's Hall, there will be **NO** refreshments served next Sunday 12th January 2020

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY from 18-25 Jan takes the theme 'Unusual kindness' reflecting on how our Christian faith leads us to see all 'others' as sisters and brothers.

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::
bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

Safeguarding enquiries only:

bishopsstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Thank you

Collections 28/29 Dec 2019 Loose Coin & Envelopes / Christmas

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

Collection: Loose- £652.81 Envelopes- £444 /£1424.45

Holy Cross

Collection: Loose- £49.40 Envelopes-£10/ £318.34

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: Loose- £53.95 Envelopes-£30 /£436.05



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

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

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 on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.

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 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round; all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 71

Response: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

- O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
- In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
- The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (R.)
- For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

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

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. "Where is the infant king of the Jews?" they asked. "We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. "At Bethlehem in Judaea," they told him "for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. "Go and find out all about the child," he said "and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage." Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child

with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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

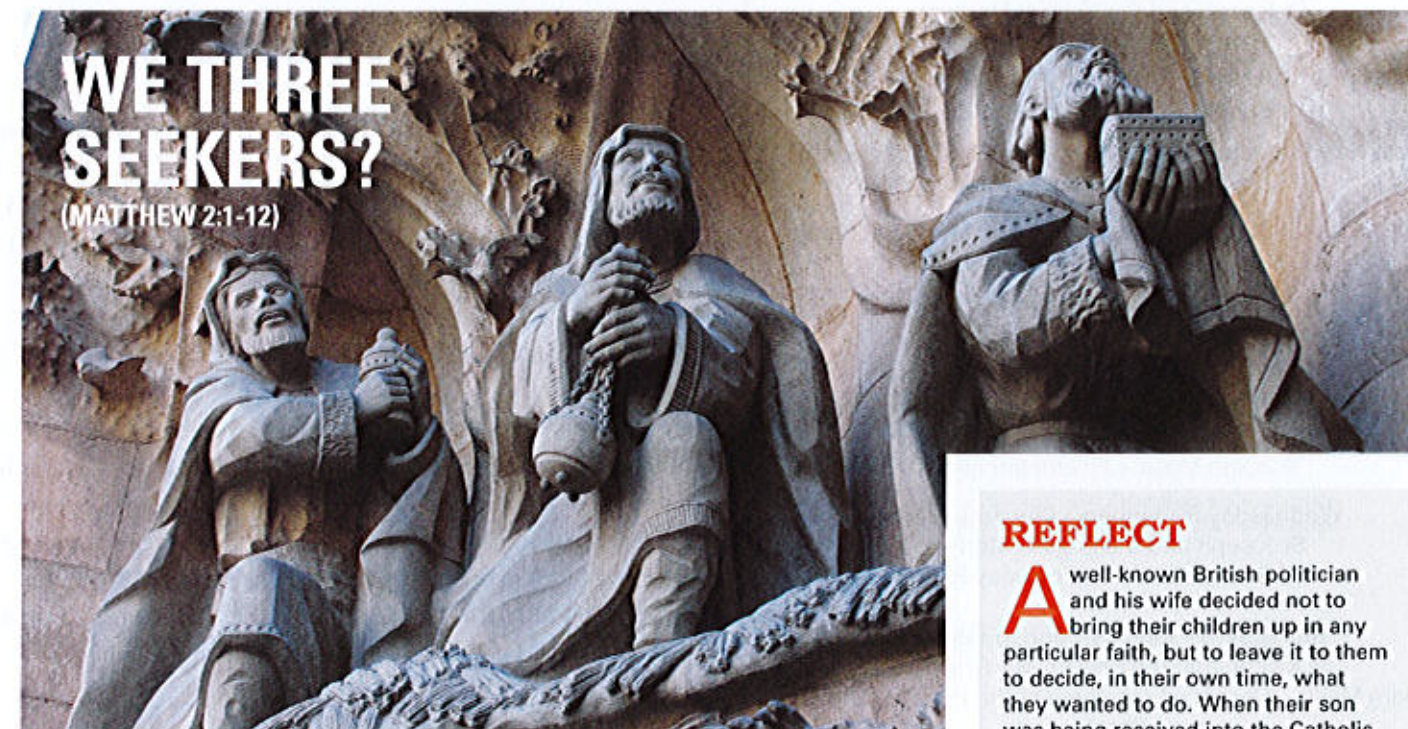
Look with favour, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord, always and everywhere, that we may perceive with clear sight and revere with true affection the mystery in which you have willed us to participate. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Facade in La Sagrada Familia, Barcelona, depicting the three wise men

WE THREE SEEKERS?

(MATTHEW 2:1-12)

Matthew wants to show that the Gospel message is for people of any race and nationality. The magi represent the Gentiles who will accept Jesus and his message.

As they are not of the Jewish tradition, they do not have the benefit of the scriptures, but their study of the natural sciences, such as astronomy, have led them to recognise that a birth which has worldwide significance has taken place. But this knowledge can bring them only so far: to complete their journey, they need the word of God contained in the writings of the Hebrew prophets. This points them to Bethlehem, the city of David, a key figure in the Jewish tradition.

However, the explanation for their arrival is not received as good news by Herod and the whole of Jerusalem, who are perturbed. In their reaction we can hear a hint of the way in which Jesus will be rejected later by the civil and religious authorities of the day. It is the Gentiles who are open to the evidence before them who come to believe and express this outwardly in worship, falling on their knees, which the eleven disciples will do in the presence of the risen Jesus at the end of the Gospel narrative, when Jesus gives the command to make disciples of all the nations. ■

LEARN

There are three gifts mentioned: the number of the magi is not specified.

The word "Epiphany" means showing or manifestation.

Other "epiphanies" are the baptism of Jesus and the changing of water into wine at Cana.

DO

Think about your faith and see if there are questions which you would like to explore. Read up about such matters or join (or form) a discussion group.

SAY

Christ is the light of all peoples.

REFLECT

A well-known British politician and his wife decided not to bring their children up in any particular faith, but to leave it to them to decide, in their own time, what they wanted to do. When their son was being received into the Catholic Church, the father excitedly exclaimed to his spouse, "You see! We did the right thing!" What had started the young man on his journey of faith was the simple act of lighting a candle.

We often refer to someone coming to believe as being on a journey. There are many reasons why people will start out on that journey: deep questions may arise in their mind about the meaning of life, prompted by some event which has affected them profoundly, or simply wonder and awe at the beauties of nature, art or music. Very often, it is from meeting someone or a community who has something special about them, and which they would like for themselves.

The magi may have a lesson for all of us, including those of us who may feel that we have never had the opportunity (or need) to set out on such a quest, as we were baptised as infants and brought up in the faith. But we still need to understand our faith better: our faith is essentially a relationship with Jesus, and any relationship which is not nurtured will die. St Anselm talks about faith seeking understanding: we can all benefit from seeing our faith as a journey, rather than a safe destination. We are called, not perhaps to any great and dramatic change, but to grow, albeit gradually, in our appreciation of what we believe. ■