



# 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. 235699

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January - St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor**  
**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
9.30am Mass - Thanksgiving

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January - feria**  
**St Joseph and the English Martyrs**  
9.30am Mass - Private Intention

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January - feria**  
**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
9.30am Mass - Sheila O'Sullivan & Eleanor O'Sullivan RIP

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January - feria**  
**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
9.30am Mass - Myra Regan RIP

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January - St Anthony, Abbot**  
**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
9.30am Mass - Catherine Dundon RIP

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January - Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday**  
**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
5pm-5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &  
Sacrament of Reconciliation  
6pm Mass - The Taylor Family Intention

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
9am Mass - Maria Cecilig RIP  
11am Mass - Ray Asser RIP  
6pm Mass - People of the Parish

**Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)**  
9am Mass - Margaret Tomkins RIP

**Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):**  
11.15am Mass - People of the Parish  
12.45pm Baptism - Audrey Rose Marçal

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 12 March 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. 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.

**FOODBANK** - The Bishop's Stortford Foodbank is especially grateful to St. Joseph's parishioners for their very generous donations in the run-up to Christmas. We have stopped collecting for the time being but please look out in the Newsletter for details of our next collection period. However Most Holy Redeemer and Holy Cross continue to collect for the food bank throughout the year

**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP** - Post Christmas tea... at Doreen's house, 12 Salisbury Close, from 2 p.m. on Jan 22. Come and catch up with everyone, all welcome. For further information, lifts etc. ring Doreen on 325326 or Jill on 657575

**SPUC COLLECTION** - There will be a collection at St Joseph's this weekend for the Society to Protect the Unborn Child.

**NOTICE RE REFRESHMENTS** - Due to a booking in the WCC there will be NO refreshments served this Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**QUIZ NIGHT - RAFFLE DONATIONS** - if you have any unwanted Christmas presents that you would like to donate for our Across charity raffle. Please place them in the box at the back of Church at St Joseph's. Many thanks

**JENNIFER RYAN RIP** - David and Jennifer Ryan attended St Joseph's for 40+ years. Sadly, Jennifer recently died and David would like to advise all Parishioners that Jennifer's funeral will take place at 11 am on Tuesday 21 Jan 2020 at The Assumption of Our Lady, Mulberry Green, Old Harlow. CM17 0HA.

## SAFEGUARDING IN OUR PARISH

*'Safeguarding is everybody's right, Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility'*

The Church has a responsibility to ensure all those who undertake work in the name of the Church are adequately trained in safeguarding matters.

The Catholic Trust for England and Wales has purchased a package of e-learning programmes available to ALL members of the Catholic community **FREE OF CHARGE**. This is part of the Church's ongoing commitment to safeguarding. These modules include:

- Child Protection
- Child Protection in Education
- Child Exploitation & Online Safety
- Safeguarding Adults
- Mental Capacity

### What do I need to do to access this training resource?

1. To register your interest please email: [safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk)
2. Your email should contain your name, the name of your parish and your role (for example: Catechist, Eucharistic Minister, Youth Worker; Teacher; SVP/Volunteer; Parent/Grandparent/Guardian; Other).
3. On receipt of your email the safeguarding administrator will register your email address with EduCare.
4. You will receive a welcome email from EduCare inviting you to set your password.
5. You will then have instant access to the training programmes.

### ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO SIGN UP TO THIS FREE TRAINING

**ENCOUNTER** - meet next Fri. 17 Jan at St Theresa's, Stansted. The History of the Bible: the book & its faiths. An opportunity to explore our knowledge of the Bible and its rich and varied history. Bring a copy of the Bible for reference. 10am coffee 10.30 meeting opens 12.30pm 'New Year Lunch': please bring food to share 2pm day ends. All welcome for all or part of the day. Enquiries: B/S 652060

**TABLE TENNIS CLUB** - are holding a free come and try it evening in the WCC on Sunday 12 January from 7pm to 8.30 pm. We welcome anyone who wants to just have a go or players of all ages who may be interested in joining us more regularly at our fortnightly Sunday evening club nights. Just turn up on the evening or contact Chris Brolly for more details 01279-324231.

**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

**RCIA** - The next session on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 8pm in the WCC will discuss 'The Path to Holiness; The Seven Sacraments'.

**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](http://www.medaille-trust.org.uk)

**A THANKYOU LETTER** - from Mike and Sophie Sullivan to everyone who donated money towards Hymn Books and Bricks in Zimbabwe is on our website under 'news' and also a letter received from the Salvation Army.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**CHARITY ACROSS QUIZ** - (in aid of Across Bishop's Stortford Jumbulance) Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**CHARITY BARN DANCE** - (in aid of Across Bishop's Stortford Jumbulance) - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at St Joseph's School - details to follow...



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 4/5 January 2020 Loose Coin & Envelopes  
**St Joseph and the English Martyrs:**  
Collection: Loose- £763.55 Envelopes- £580.30  
**Holy Cross**  
Collection: Loose- £78.81 Envelopes- £10  
**Most Holy Redeemer:**  
Collection: Loose- £87.35 Envelopes- £35



**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**

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened,  
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,  
and the voice of the Father thundered:  
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

**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**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who, when Christ had been baptised in the  
River Jordan  
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,  
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,  
grant that your children by adoption,  
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,  
may always be well pleasing to you.  
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 42:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.  
I have endowed him with my spirit  
that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,  
or make his voice heard in the streets.  
He does not break the crushed reed,  
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;  
he will neither waver, nor be crushed  
until true justice is established on earth,  
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the  
cause of right;  
I have taken you by the hand and formed  
you;  
I have appointed you as covenant of the  
people and light of the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,  
to free captives from prison,  
and those who live in darkness from the  
dungeon.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 28

Response:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

- O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)
- The Lord's voice resounding on the  
waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.  
(R.)
- The God of glory thunders.  
In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"  
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

**SECOND READING** Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household:  
"The truth I have now come to realise," he  
said "is that God does not have favourites,  
but that anybody of any nationality who fears  
God and does what is right is acceptable to  
him.

"It is true, God sent his word to the people  
of Israel, and it was to them that the good  
news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ –  
but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must  
have heard about the recent happenings in  
Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how  
he began in Galilee, after John had been  
preaching baptism. God had anointed him  
with the Holy Spirit and with power, and  
because God was with him, Jesus went about  
doing good and curing all who had fallen into  
the power of the devil."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens opened and the Father's voice  
resounded:  
"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Matthew 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be  
baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him.  
"It is I who need baptism from you," he said  
"and yet you come to me!" But Jesus replied,  
"Leave it like this for the time being; it is  
fitting that we should, in this way, do all that  
righteousness demands." At this, John gave  
in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up  
from the water, and suddenly the heavens  
opened and he saw the Spirit of God  
descending like a dove and coming down on  
him. And a voice spoke from heaven, "This  
is my son, the Beloved; my favour rests on  
him."

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, O Lord, the offerings  
we have brought to honour the revealing of  
your beloved Son,  
so that the oblation of your faithful  
may be transformed into the sacrifice of him  
who willed in his compassion  
to wash away the sins of the world.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Behold the One of whom John said:  
I have seen and testified that this is the Son  
of God.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished with these sacred gifts,  
we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord,  
that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten  
Son,  
we may be your children in name and in  
truth.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**THE WORD**

Church window depicting the baptism of Jesus by John

The baptism of Jesus is another Epiphany. Jesus comes from Galilee with the definite intention of receiving baptism from John, who initially resists his request.

John's baptism is a sign that the person undergoing the ritual is sorry for sin, which can hardly apply in the case of Jesus. Jesus explains that it is an indication that he wants to be seen to fulfil all the obligations which a person wanting to lead a righteous life would carry out. He is thus identifying himself with all those individuals who want to live a decent human life under the word of God. Although Jesus recognises that his baptism is superior to that of John, he still accepts the baptism which John offers and many people have sought.

It is as a result of this act of solidarity with people who want to live a proper life that Jesus is revealed as God's Son, the Beloved. Also, a new possibility of communication between heaven and earth is suggested by the heavens being opened and the Spirit of God descending. Thus the identity of Jesus is established for us at the beginning of his ministry.

It would seem that this incident actually occurred in the life of Jesus. The early community would be more likely to try to suppress an event which suggested that Jesus was in some way inferior to John the Baptist than to invent a story which could lead to embarrassing misunderstandings. The dialogue between the two hints at this concern within the early circle of disciples. ■

**SAY**  
It is fitting that we should...  
do all that righteousness  
demands (Matthew 3:15)

**DO**  
Make the Sign of the Cross with holy  
water. Remember that baptism made you a  
member of the people of God: make an act of  
solidarity with your fellow Christian brothers  
and sisters.

**REFLECT**

One of the interesting – and  
challenging – aspects of the Jesus  
story is how he was not afraid to  
risk being misunderstood if it helped  
him in his mission to reach people with  
the Good News. In the course of his  
ministry, the religious leaders criticised  
him for associating with people on the  
margins of civic and religious society  
in such a way that he was identifying  
himself with them by eating with  
them. In today's story he undergoes a  
voluntary ritual by which people  
showed that they were turning away  
from a former sinful life and towards  
God, even though he and John the  
Baptist are aware that he has no need  
to do so. Yet Jesus wants to be seen as  
being at one with those who have good  
reason to express repentance.

One of the traps into which religious  
people can easily fall is that of  
respectability. The reasons for the  
decline in religious practice are many,  
and one that has been suggested is  
that once going to church ceased to  
be regarded as a necessary sign that  
people were respectable in the eyes of  
people who knew them, then the social  
pressure to attend services of any  
denomination diminished.

All of us are sinners: we all fall short  
of the mark, which is what the New  
Testament usually means by sin. We  
might then be careful before forming  
judgements about others. ■

**LEARN**

If an incident in the Gospel is embarrassing  
to a prominent figure (for example Peter and  
his denials) then it is likely to be historically  
accurate.

The baptism which John administered  
was simply a sign that the person repented  
of past sin and looked for forgiveness  
from God.

The Jordan is the one main river in the Holy  
Land, flowing from the Sea of Galilee to the  
Dead Sea, a distance of 65 miles.

