

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: 5 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 2nd February 2020 – The Presentation of the Lord
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9am Mass – Morris Bowland RIP
 11am Mass – Terry Bartlett RIP
 6pm Mass – Joe and Nuala Murphy Intention
Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)
 9am Mass – Jennifer Ryan RIP
Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):
 11.15am Mass – People of the Parish

Monday 3rd February – St Laurence, St Dunstan & St Theodore,
 Archbishops of Canterbury
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am Mass – Gisèle O'Hagan RIP
 4.30pm Requiem Vigil – Mary Ellen Evelyn Pontin RIP

Tuesday 4th February – feria
St Joseph and the English Martyrs
 10.30am Requiem Mass – Mary Ellen Evelyn Pontin RIP

Wednesday 5th February – St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am Mass – Monica Frost RIP

Thursday 6th February – St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am Mass – John Basley RIP

Friday 7th February – feria
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am Mass – Private Intention

Saturday 8th February – St Josephine Bakhita
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 5pm-5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &
 Sacrament of Reconciliation
 6pm Mass – David Hussey RIP

Sunday 9th February – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9am Mass – Becky Jones RIP
 11am Mass – Joseph Flannery RIP
 12.30pm Baptism – Mario and Gabriella Richards
 6pm Mass – Aidan Alphonsus Joseph Leacy RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)
 9am Mass – William 'Mike' Murphy RIP
Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):
 11.15am Mass – People of the Parish

Who is the King of glory? It is the Lord

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.

PALMS – Fr Carlos is requesting for parishioners to bring their palms they received from Palm Sunday in order to burn them in preparation for Ash Wednesday. If you wish to do so, please bring your palms to Fr. Carlos after Mass. There will also be a red bucket to leave your palms behind in the back of St Joseph's Church.

WCC CODES – The Door Code for the Parish Centre expired at the end of January. If you are a group that regularly uses the Parish centre please contact the Parish Office as you will be asked to sign a new WCC hire agreement, your required dates/ times will be booked into the calendar and the codes provided

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND – A healing weekend for men and women who are separated, divorced or widowed will be held from 3rd to 5th April 2020 at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. For details please contact Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 01322-551503 or email Johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk

VACANCY – Fundraising Marketing & Communications Manager for ACROSS c£35k full time (depending on experience). For full details see www.across.org.uk Closing date 14/2/2020

ALL SORTS DEMENTIA GROUP – a fun and relaxed group that provides cognitive stimulation therapy, entertainment and socialisation to people with mild to moderate dementia whilst their loved ones gain much a needed break from their caring role. First session is free. We run from 10am – 12.30pm on Monday & Thursday at Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club & 10.30am-3pm Mon, Wed & Thurs at Ware Arts Centre. £30 per day which includes all activities, tea, coffee, cold drink & lunch. Tel 01279 498938 or email allsortsdg@gmail.com www.allsortsdg.co.uk for more info.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

CHARITY GOLF DAY – Friday 22nd May 2020 we are returning to Manor of Groves <https://www.manorofgroves.com/golf-club> in Sawbridgeworth with tee times starting at 12 with dinner from 7-30pm. The food is excellent so please bring partners and book babysitters! Further details to follow..

PLANT SALE AND COFFEE MORNING on Saturday 30 May 2020 from 10am to 12 noon at the Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church.

CARDINAL'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL SATURDAY 30 MAY 2020 at 3PM

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2020

If you are celebrating an anniversary please contact the Parish Office with the following details; husband and wife's names, wedding date, your full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). This information will be forwarded to the Diocese for an invitation to be sent directly to you.

Replies to the Parish Office by Thursday 12th March please at the latest.

CANCELLATION OF MASSES – Unfortunately over the next few months we have had to cancel several Masses at St Joseph's which has affected some previously booked Mass intentions. We sincerely apologise for this but this is regrettably due to Fr Peter and Fr Carlos having to attend various Diocesan meetings, safeguard training and engagements outside of the parish as well as some overdue holiday entitlement. Everyone currently affected has been contacted and offered an alternative Mass date. Please be assured that your loved ones will be also remembered and prayed for at our weekend Masses. Thank you.

WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT AT ST JOSEPH'S – An application is to be made to the Diocese to carry out works at St Joseph's to replace our current antiquated heating system. It is believed that we are the only parish in the Diocese which still runs an oil fired boiler to heat the radiators in the Church which is both costly and not as effective as it could be. If permission is granted then we would hope to start the work during the warm summer months. It would mean however that due to health and safety regulations, St Joseph's could potentially be closed for up to 6 weeks and that weekday and weekend Mass would be affected with daily Mass probably being celebrated in the Windhill Churches Centre and weekend Mass possibly in St Mary's School hall **as the entire floor of the Church would have to be dug up and replaced.** We aim to avoid the dates of booked weddings and the First Holy Communion Masses, so as not to impact on these. In order to avoid any additional disruption or disappointment, we will not currently be booking any future Baptisms or Weddings at St Joseph's only, until such time as we know the intended dates of scheduled works which will involve the coordination of several different companies all working together. Further information will follow hopefully in the coming weeks once we are in a position to update you. This will be a large scale project and your understanding, patience and prayers will be much appreciated.

RCIA – The next RCIA session with Fr Carlos will be on Monday 3rd February in the WCC. The topic will be 'The Season of Lent: The Scrutiny and the Rites'

WHAT DOES A FIRE MARSHALL IN CHURCH DO?

- Looks after an area in the Church which may have to be evacuated and checked, identifying any doors which need to be unlocked or secured before Mass
 - Identifies any areas which could cause problems to those with mobility difficulties and knows how to help
 - Is aware of the location of Fire blankets, extinguishers and where candles are in use
 - Listens and looks out for dangers, signs of fires starting e.g. monitoring votive candle stands or obstructions in aisles or fire exits
 - Opens any doors which may trap people if left closed
 - Encourages Parishioners to evacuate calmly and quickly
 - Gives Parents of Servers and families of the Junior Choir direction to the Assembly point to meet them.
- All other Parishioners should leave and move away from the Church. Vehicles and People (either moving or stationary) should not cause an obstruction or a delay to any emergency service vehicles arriving at the Church to deal with the fire or any casualties.**
- Checks that any visitors or disabled persons within their area of responsibility have been cared for and assistance given.
 - If safe to do so, confirms their area has been fully evacuated and reports to the Priest in charge

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGES

Is your marriage stressed, unloving, cold?
 Do you want to improve your communication?
 Have you separated, divorced, are you thinking of doing so?
 Do you want to try again?
 The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need!

Next programme commences with a weekend
 28th/29th Feb & 1st Mar 2020
 Tel or Text 0788 729 6983 or 0797 338 0443

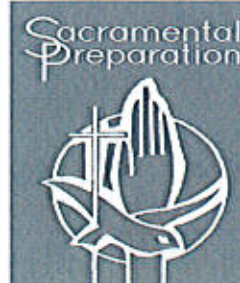
Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com
 Website: www.retrouvaille.org.uk



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 25/26 January 2020 Loose Coin & Envelopes
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 Collection: Loose- £708.39 Envelopes- £542.50
Holy Cross
 Collection: Loose-£57.30 Envelopes-£0
Most Holy Redeemer:
 Collection: Loose- £79.00 Envelopes-£35



Sacramental Preparation
 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

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 4

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

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,
we humbly implore your majesty
that, just as your Only Begotten Son
was presented on this day in the Temple
in the substance of our flesh,
so, by your grace,
we may be presented to you with minds
made pure.

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 Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the book of Malachi

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going
to send my messenger to prepare a way
before me. And the Lord you are seeking will
suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of
the covenant whom you are longing for, yes,
he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who
will be able to resist the day of his coming?
Who will remain standing when he appears?
For he is like the refiner's fire and the fullers'
alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and
purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and
refine them like gold and silver, and then
they will make the offering to the Lord as it
should be made. The offering of Judah and
Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord
as in former days, as in the years of old.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 23

Response:
Who is the king of glory?
It is the Lord.

1 O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)

2 Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. (R.)

3 O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory. (R.)

4 Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. (R.)

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Hebrews

Since all the children share the same blood
and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it,
so that by his death he could take away all
the power of the devil, who had power over
death, and set free all those who had been
held in slavery all their lives by the fear of
death. For it was not the angels that he took
to himself; he took to himself descent from
Abraham. It was essential that he should in
this way become completely like his brothers
so that he could be a compassionate and
trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able
to atone for human sins. That is, because he
has himself been through temptation he is
able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

(For shorter form, read between > and <)

>When the day came for them to be purified
as laid down by the Law of Moses, the
parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem
to present him to the Lord – observing what
stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every
first-born male must be consecrated to
the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in
accordance with what is said in the Law of
the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young
pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a
man named Simeon. He was an upright and
devout man; he looked forward to Israel's
comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him.
It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
that he would not see death until he had set
eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by
the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when
the parents brought in the child Jesus to do
for him what the law required, he took him
into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

"Now, Master, you can let your servant go
in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations
to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel." <

As the child's father and mother stood there
wondering at the things that were being said
about him, Simeon blessed them and said
to Mary his mother, "You see this child: he

is destined for the fall and for the rising of
many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is
rejected – and a sword will pierce your own
soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many
may be laid bare."

There was a prophetess also, Anna the
daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was well on in years. Her days of
girlhood over, she had been married for
seven years before becoming a widow. She
was now eighty-four years old and never left
the Temple, serving God night and day with
fasting and prayer. She came by just at that
moment and began to praise God; and she
spoke of the child to all who looked forward
to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of
the Lord required, they went back to Galilee,
to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the
child grew to maturity, and he was filled with
wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

>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

May the offering made with exultation by your
Church

be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray,
for you willed that your Only Begotten Son
be offered to you for the life of the world
as the Lamb without blemish.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the
peoples.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

By these gifts which we have received,
O Lord,
bring your grace to perfection within us,
and, as you fulfilled Simeon's expectation
that he would not see death
until he had been privileged to welcome the
Christ,
so may we, going forth to meet the Lord,
obtain the gift of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION

(LUKE 2:22-40)



A stained glass window in the Church of San Vittore Martire in Italy, depicting the presentation of the Lord

The opening two chapters of Luke's Gospel are known as his **Infancy Narrative**. However, they are more of a theological overture to the main work than an actual history. They have also been referred to as the **Gospel in miniature**, as they present, often very subtly, hints of how the story of Jesus will unfold.

In the episode of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, we encounter two figures who, along with Mary and Joseph, embody all that is best in Israel. Simeon and Anna are two elderly figures endowed with the prophetic spirit. They react in a positive way to the arrival of the child. Simeon sees in Jesus not only the fulfilment of all his hopes, but also that Jesus has a universal meaning and significance for people beyond Israel. Anna is a devout woman who announces Jesus to all those who are looking for the Messiah.

But when he speaks to Mary, Simeon sounds a negative note of warning. He foretells that her child will be a source of division, a stumbling block over which many people will trip and fall. He will be a sign over which people will disagree; some will accept him, others will not. For Luke, Mary here personifies Israel, and the sword of judgement will pierce her too: she will have to decide what she believes, but for Luke she is also the model of the perfect response to God's word.

The story ends with the return of the family to Nazareth and a note about the child growing up like any other, being filled with wisdom and enjoying God's favour. ■

DO

Observe a family – perhaps your own: reflect on how this was the way in which God sent God's Son into our world, with all the joy and pain involved.



REFLECT

One of the greatest obstacles to understanding the message of the evangelists Luke and Matthew, when they present their versions of the conception and birth of Jesus, is sentimentality. Much of the blame for this lies with the writers of nineteenth-century Christmas carols. For instance, the hint from Luke that Mary wrapping Jesus in swaddling bands and laying him in a manger, probably a stone trough, is an intimation of his burial probably passes most of us by. Medieval hymns were much more conscious of the link between the crib and the cross.

It is useful to remember that when Jesus came into our world, God entrusted him to a human couple to bring him up as their own son. In the past, marriage and bringing up a family was not really regarded as a vocation in its own right, but rather a state of life for those who were not called to the priesthood or religious life. When we consider Mary and Joseph, we might think of them as being special persons in their own right and therefore worthy to be called to look after Jesus. The Gospels do not remotely suggest this. Jesus grew up as a proper human being in a proper human family. There can be no higher value placed on this state of life to which most people are called. ■

SAY

Jesus grew to maturity
and God's favour was
with him (see Luke 2:40)

LEARN

Luke often pairs a male character with a female one, as in the case of Simeon and Anna.

The sword which will pierce Mary's soul is probably the sword of judgement, laying bare her innermost thoughts and being.

For Luke, Mary is the model disciple, who hears the word of God, meditates upon it and puts it into practice.