



# 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  
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Live streaming from St Joseph's: [www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)  
Diocese of Westminster Charity No. 253699

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:  
9am Mass – Bridie and Jim Higgins RIP  
11am Mass – Bernadette Ross RIP  
6pm Mass – Noel Henry Brady RIP

**Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)**  
9am Mass – Marie Keane RIP

**Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):**  
11.15am Mass – People of the Parish

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order**  
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:  
9.30am Mass – Marion Markey RIP

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February – feria**  
St Joseph and the English Martyrs  
9.30am Mass – Di Giovanni Arminda RIP

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February – feria**  
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:  
9.30am Mass – Michael Curran RIP  
Marriage 1.30pm – Geraldine Kehoe and Derek Clarke

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February – feria**  
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:  
9.30am Mass – Frank Fitzpatrick RIP

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February – St Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor**  
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:  
**NO MASS**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – The Chair of St Peter the Apostle**  
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:  
5pm-5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Sacrament of Reconciliation  
6pm Mass – David Jonathan Bown RIP

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:  
9am Mass – Sacred Heart of Jesus  
11am Mass – Tilly Anne Davies RIP  
12.30pm Baptism – Ella Margaret Brown  
Lara Sofia Da Costa Duma  
6pm Mass – James Strang RIP

**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

*'Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart'*

 **'SENDING LOVE, PRAYERS & BEST WISHES'** to Father Peter who celebrates his birthday this Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February

**ALTAR SERVERS REQUIRED AT HOLY CROSS** - If there are any Children who have received their First Holy Communion and are interested in training to become an Altar server please contact Suzanne Fitzgerald at Holy Cross.

**'ACROSS' CHARITY BARN DANCE** - Saturday 7 March 2020 at St Joseph's School, further details to follow..

**APOLOGIES** – for any inconvenience caused but the Parish Office will be closed on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020 for 1 day only.


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

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** - has been offering marriage enrichment retreats for the past 50 years all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, the retreat offers a unique experience. It's a chance to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter weekend retreat, the next retreat is in Swindon 6th - 8th March [wwme.org.uk](http://wwme.org.uk)

**CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MOTHERS** - Catholic Mothers Conference 2020 in Walsingham Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 6pm - Sunday 24th 2.30pm Great speakers, socialising, and prayer. For information, re costs, event or transport please call Zofia: 07970 858211. A great time for reflection, joy and support - meeting with likeminded women. This Catholic Mothers group is a very active online group, as well as organising many regular events, and selling religious publications for adults and children online. Its Catholic Mothers Year Planner is superb! It has 4,000 members online mostly UK and USA and growing. [www.catholicmothersuk.wixsite.com](http://www.catholicmothersuk.wixsite.com)

**REV FR JOHN GARRETT RIP** – Please keep in your thoughts and prayers Fr John Garrett, former Parish Priest at St Theresa of Lisieux in Stansted who sadly died on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

*Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

 **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 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (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 12<sup>th</sup> March please at the latest.**

**WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT AT ST JOSEPH'S** – An application has been 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 between June - August until such time as we know the confirmed 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,

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT** - 24<sup>th</sup> Feb - 8<sup>th</sup> March. **Be Fairtrade aware when shopping in the next 2 weeks AND beyond!** The theme for this year, COCOA, can be explored at [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk). Read about the 18 Fairtrade product categories where a fair price is paid for goods and producers are given a little bit extra to put back into their communities. St Joseph's is a Fairtrade parish, where parish groups buy Fairtrade products for refreshments & other parish functions. Group leaders, now may be the time to check your store cupboards.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE 2020** – The next Baptism course with Fr Carlos will be Thurs 12 March 2020 at 7.30pm in the WCC

**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY CLASS**  
application process for admissions for September 2020 is now open for children who will be 3 years of age between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020. From this September in addition to the standard 15 hours there will be 30 hours and extended hours provisions, subject to availability. Details can be found on the application forms obtained from the school office or school website  
**The deadline for application is 3.30pm Friday 13th March.**


**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE** - Applicants for St Joseph's School for **NURSERY** places in 2020 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 **13/3/2020. Please apply in plenty of time to allow the certificate to be processed.**

**JUNIOR READING ROTA at ST JOSEPH'S** – If you would like to become a Reader at 9am Mass please contact the parish office for your details to be passed on to David Wilkinson who kindly co-ordinates the rota and readings.

**HELP END ROUGH SLEEPING IN ENGLAND** - Captain Meghan Kervin who leads the Salvation Army (SA) in the town has written to say that the SA has welcomed the Conservative Party pledge to eliminate rough sleeping by 2024 and now wishes the pledge to be delivered throughout England. The SA is running a campaign asking supporters to write online to our new MP. Taking five minutes to support the campaign could make all the difference. Visit the web site below and when the link opens, click on "Sign up now" and follow the instructions. Thank you for your support.  
<https://action.salvationarmy.org.uk/page/54432/action/1>


**A FOUNDATION GOVERNOR** is required at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. This needs to be someone who does not now or in the foreseeable future have children in the school. The Full Governing Body meets 6 times per year on Mondays at 7.30pm. Please either call the school to enquire or e-mail [governors@stjosephs207.herts.uk](mailto:governors@stjosephs207.herts.uk)

**WCC TEA TOWEL AMNESTY** - Please return Thank you!! ☺

 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)

*Thank you*

Collections: 8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 Loose Coin & Envelopes / Jan S/O  
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:  
Collection: Loose- £609.59 Envelopes- £588.20 S/O £7272.34  
Holy Cross  
Collection: Loose-£890.13 Envelopes-£10 S/O £1725.00  
Most Holy Redeemer:  
Collection: Loose- £42.23 Envelopes-£35.92 S/O £766.33

 **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

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your  
name.

### 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 teach us that you abide  
in hearts that are just and true,  
grant that we may be so fashioned by your  
grace  
as to become a dwelling 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 Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.  
If you wish, you can keep the commandments,  
to behave faithfully is within your power.  
He has set fire and water before you;  
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.  
Man has life and death before him;  
whichever a man likes better will be given  
him.  
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;  
he is almighty and all-seeing.  
His eyes are on those who fear him,  
he notes every action of man.  
He never commanded anyone to be godless,  
he has given no one permission to sin.  
The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### PSALM Psalm 118

Response:  
They are happy who follow God's law!  
1. They are happy whose life is blameless,  
who follow God's law!  
They are happy those who do his will,  
seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)  
2. You have laid down your precepts  
to be obeyed with care.  
May my footsteps be firm  
to obey your statutes. (R.)  
3. Bless your servant and I shall live  
and obey your word.  
Open my eyes that I may consider  
the wonders of your law. (R.)

4. Teach me the demands of your statutes  
and I will keep them to the end.  
Train me to observe your law,  
to keep it with my heart. (R.)

### SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians.  
We have a wisdom to offer those who have  
reached maturity: not a philosophy of our  
age, it is true, still less of the masters of  
our age, which are coming to their end.  
The hidden wisdom of God which we teach  
in our mysteries is the wisdom that God  
predestined to be for our glory before the  
ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the  
masters of this age have ever known, or they  
would not have crucified the Lord of Glory;  
we teach what scripture calls: the things that  
no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things  
beyond the mind of man, all that God has  
prepared for those who love him.  
These are the very things that God has  
revealed to us through the Spirit, for the  
Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even  
the depths of God.  
The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL Matthew 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.  
(For shorter form, read between > and <)  
> Jesus said to his disciples: < "Do not  
imagine that I have come to abolish the  
Law or the Prophets. I have come not to  
abolish them but to complete them. I tell you  
solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear,  
not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear  
from the Law until its purpose is achieved.  
Therefore, the man who infringes even  
one of the least of these commandments  
and teaches others to do the same will be  
considered the least in the kingdom of  
heaven; but the man who keeps them and  
teaches them will be considered great in the  
kingdom of heaven.  
"For > I tell you, if your virtue goes no  
deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees,  
you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.  
"You have learnt how it was said to our  
ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone  
does kill he must answer for it before the  
court. But I say this to you: anyone who  
is angry with his brother will answer for it  
before the court; < if a man calls his brother  
'Fool' he will answer for it before the  
Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him 'Renegade'  
he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if  
you are bringing your offering to the altar  
and there remember that your brother has  
something against you, leave your offering  
there before the altar, go and be reconciled  
with your brother first, and then come back  
and present your offering. Come to terms  
with your opponent in good time while you  
are still on the way to the court with him, or  
he may hand you over to the judge and the  
judge to the officer, and you will be thrown  
into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not  
get out till you have paid the last penny.

> "You have learnt how it was said: You  
must not commit adultery. But I say this to  
you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he  
has already committed adultery with her in  
his heart.< If your right eye should cause you  
to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will  
do you less harm to lose one part of you than  
to have your whole body thrown into hell.  
And if your right hand should cause you to  
sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do  
you less harm to lose one part of you than to  
have your whole body go to hell.

"It has also been said: Anyone who  
divorces his wife must give her a writ of  
dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone  
who divorces his wife, except for the case  
of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and  
anyone who marries a divorced woman  
commits adultery.

> "Again, you have learnt how it was said  
to our ancestors: You must not break your  
oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord.  
But I say this to you: do not swear at all,<  
either by heaven, since that is God's throne;  
or by the earth, since that is his footstool;  
or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the  
great king. Do not swear by your own head  
either, since you cannot turn a single hair  
white or black. > All you need say is 'Yes' if  
you mean yes, 'No' if you mean no; anything  
more than this comes from the evil one."

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

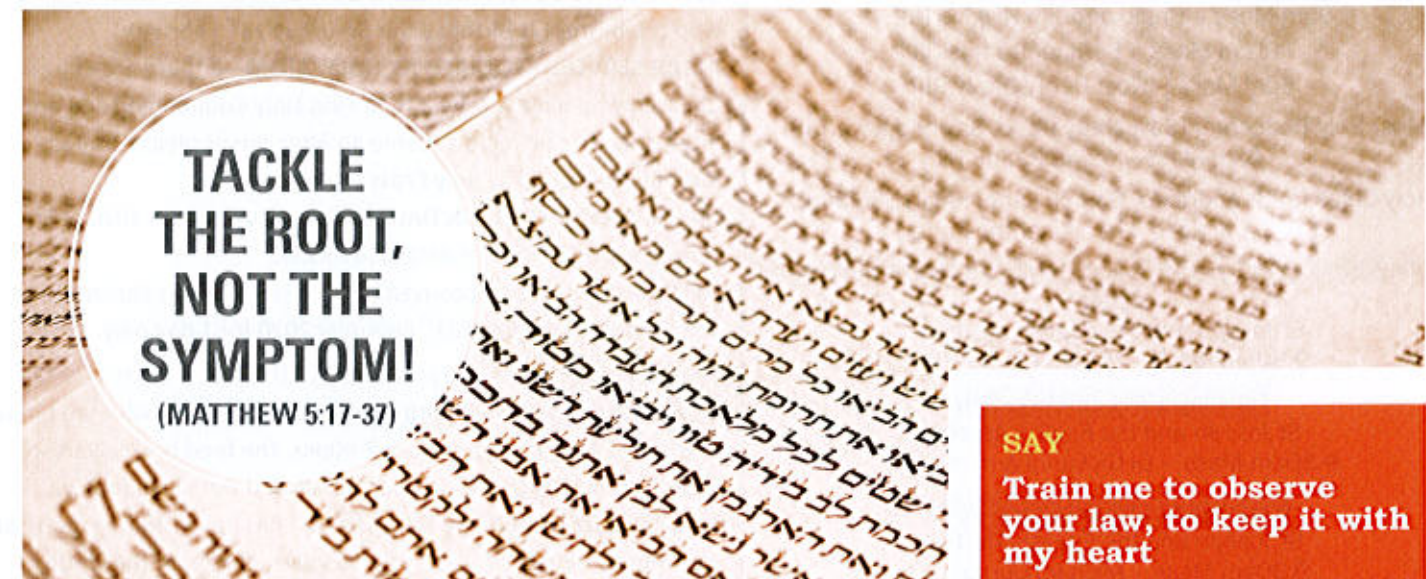
May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,  
cleanse and renew us  
and may it become for those who do your will  
the source of eternal reward.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They ate and had their fill,  
and what they craved the Lord gave them;  
they were not disappointed in what they  
craved.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that we may always long  
for that food by which we truly live.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



The Hebrew handwritten Torah on a synagogue altar in Jerusalem

The passage in today's Gospel reading is often interpreted as  
showing Jesus' teaching to be superior to the Law of Moses, and  
therefore Christian Gospel love being higher than Jewish legalism.

This is, in fact, a distortion of Matthew's presentation, in which Jesus says that he has  
not come to abolish but to fulfil the Law. The Torah is the revelation of God's will, and to  
observe it is to respond in covenant devotion to God: it is not a burden to be carried with  
fatalistic resignation.

There were many schools of thought about how the Torah could be lived out, and Jesus'  
teaching is more in line with the more liberal rabbis, except for his teaching on divorce.  
(It is not possible to give a definitive interpretation of what is called the exception clause,  
that is, "except for the case of fornication".) Jesus urges his hearers to look at their inward  
emotions and not allow negative feelings to build up until they manifest themselves in  
action: lust can lead to adultery, anger to murder. It is not a question of Jesus bringing a  
new law or morality: he is interpreting the Torah commandments in a truly radical fashion,  
tackling the roots of sinful action.

The sayings about self-mutilation are not meant to be taken literally but to stress the  
urgency of taking seriously the source of sin: this is not located in the physical body,  
but in the mind. ■

### REFLECT

The Law of Moses which we find in  
the Bible bears the hallmarks of  
development and adjustment to  
different situations due to the changes  
in Israelite society. The Pharisees in the  
synagogues of Jesus' time sought to  
interpret the Torah in such a way that  
the values it proposed could be put into  
practice in people's daily lives. There  
were different views on the subject, some  
strict, others more accommodating, but  
there was no one, official line which  
everyone was expected to follow in the  
name of "orthodoxy".

One of the frequent complaints about  
politicians and other public figures is  
that people find it hard to believe what  
they say. Jesus tells us today that we  
should be straightforward and honest  
in our dealings with others. Swearing  
by anything as a guarantee of our  
truthfulness is to rely on an external  
object, whereas our own personal  
integrity should be sufficient. That is the  
message coming through the various  
diverse sections of today's Gospel.

It might also be helpful to reflect that the  
Judaism of the time of Jesus was broad

**SAY**  
Train me to observe  
your law, to keep it with  
my heart  
(Psalm 118:34)

**LEARN**  
Jesus' teaching on divorce is (unusually)  
closer to the strict interpretation of the  
Rabbi Shammai.

His interpretation of the Torah is normally  
nearer to that of the more liberal Rabbi Hillel.

In every period, there were two main  
teachers of the Torah, one strict, the other  
less so.

**DO**  
Think about Jesus' teaching on being  
reconciled with someone before coming to  
worship God. If this teaching applies to you,  
go and do something about it.

enough to accommodate all shades of  
opinion. One of the distressing aspects  
of discourse in the Church (and beyond)  
is the lack of charity and the attributing  
of bad faith to people with whom there is  
disagreement. Jesus was not condemned  
by people of differing theological  
opinions, but by conservative religious  
authority figures who interpreted the  
Law literally, accepted no development  
of understanding and were mainly  
interested in preserving their political  
position. In essential matters, unity; in  
uncertain matters, liberty; in all matters,  
charity. ■