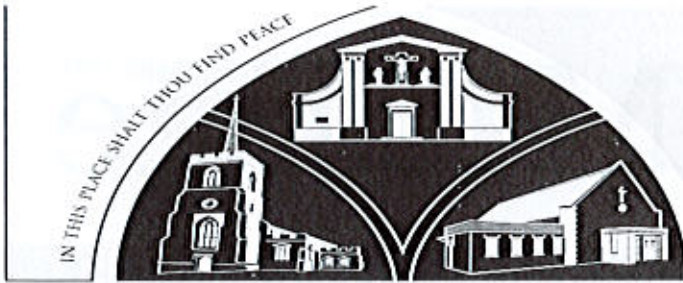


The Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford



*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 23rd February - 7th 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 - Kristine Carino RIP

Monday 24th February - feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Vivienne Lewis RIP

Tuesday 25th February - feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs

9.30am Mass - Jane and Sid Hockett RIP

Wednesday 26th February - ASH WEDNESDAY

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

6.30am Mass and Ashes - People of the Parish

9.30am Mass and Ashes - People of the Parish

7.30pm Mass and Ashes - People of the Parish

Thursday 27th February - Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Seamus Burke RIP

Friday 28th February - Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Mark Goodfield RIP

Saturday 29th February - Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

5pm-5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &

Sacrament of Reconciliation

6pm Mass - Lawrence and Philip Andrews RIP

Sunday 1st March 2020 - 1st Sunday of Lent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - Sofia Olvera RIP

11am Mass - Mark Long RIP

6pm Mass - June Purcell RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)

9am Mass - Vivienne Lewis RIP

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

11.15am Mass - Richard Nally RIP

'The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy'

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.**

'ACROSS' CHARITY BARN DANCE - Saturday 7 March 2020 at St Joseph's School. Tickets are £7.50 and on sale after Mass at St Joseph's Church. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MOTHERS - Catholic Mothers Conference 2020 in Walsingham Friday 22nd 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! www.catholicmothersuk.wixsite.com

FOODBANK- St. Joseph's will be collecting for the Foodbank during Lent, beginning 29th Feb/1st Mar. List of "most wanted" items will be posted at the back of the church. If you can help with transporting donations to the Foodbank (rear of Methodist church, easy parking behind Tesco Express), kindly contact Marie Rhodes, m.j.rhodes@btinternet.com

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP- Please take a copy of our Newsletter from the back of the Church. Also available on the parish website - go to "parish groups", justice & peace

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - Friday 6th March. Please take an envelope from the back of the Church. Eat a simple meal and donate what you would have spent to help others. Thank you

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.

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-24th Feb-8th March. **Be Fairtrade aware when shopping in the next 2 weeks AND beyond!** The theme for this year, COCOA, can be explored at www.fairtradeorg.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

LENT BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY 26th February



This week only we will have an **Ash Wednesday 6.30am workers Mass** plus a 9.30am & 7.30pm Mass at St Joseph's. As in past years, copies of the little "WALK WITH ME" Lent booklets, are available from this weekend at £1 each, so that you can have them ready for Ash Wednesday! Do take one from the back of the Church and if you don't have a £1 with you this week, bring it next week to leave in the basket next to the booklets. They really are a wonderful personal resource for each of us to have and we do recommend them to you.

LENTEN LUNCH- Friday 13th March, 12 noon - 1.30pm in the Windhill Churches Centre. Soup, bread & cheese, tea & coffee. Donations please towards CAFOD Lent Fast Day appeal.

LENT EXTRA- the RP booklet is on the hymn book shelf. Daily reflections, thought-provoking articles; an essential guide to Lent & beyond. £2 per copy; pay in Repository.

CELEBRATE LENT- magazine for 7-12 yr olds. Packed with puzzles & facts to grow in faith, it includes a Lent Calendar & activity sheet. £1.50 per copy.

SETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR EU CITIZENS - All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is **30 June 2021**. Details and links to the application process can be found at:

www.gov.uk/eusetledstatus Please bring this to the attention of friends, family members and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Information on assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: www.gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.



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: 15/16 Feb 2020 Loose Coin & Envelopes / Jan S/O
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
Collection: Loose- £691.68 Envelopes- £439.30 S/O £7272.34
Holy Cross
Collection: Loose-£50.11 Envelopes-£10 S/O £1725.00
Most Holy Redeemer:
Collection: Loose- £44.50 Envelopes-£18 S/O £766.33



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

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful
with me.

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

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, always pondering spiritual things,
we may carry out in both word and deed
that which is 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 Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: "Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 102

Response:
The Lord is compassion and love.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and
compassion. (R.)

3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.
(R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise.

Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
When anyone obeys what Christ has said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: "You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

"You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

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

As we celebrate your mysteries, O Lord,
with the observance that is your due,
we humbly ask you,
that what we offer to the honour of your
majesty
may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that we may experience the effects of the
salvation
which is pledged to us by these mysteries.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE WORD

A depiction of the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew continues his presentation of the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. The teaching about an eye for an eye is often held up as illustrating the superiority of the Gospel over the supposed savagery of the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament).

However, the law of retaliation, as it is known, was, in fact, an attempt to limit violence and to prevent fairly minor incidents escalating into full-blown vendettas. The text really means only an eye for an eye: the punishment had to be in proportion to the offence or injury. Jesus then goes on to advocate meeting any kind of vicious treatment with goodness.

Jesus also expands the meaning of one's neighbour. In some quarters, this term was understood to apply only to members of one's family or tribe and so a person's responsibilities extended no further than that. But as in much of his teaching, especially in the parables, Jesus is challenging his disciples to look at the world as God does. God's blessings in nature are not restricted to any privileged group or withheld from the apparently undeserving. God's attitude should be the standard for the disciples of Jesus: we are to be perfect, like our heavenly Father, in concern for all people. ■

LEARN

The doctrine of an eye for an eye is known as the *Lex talionis*, or the law of retaliation.

It actually means only an eye for an eye: revenge has to be in proportion to the offence.

It was developed to restrict the spread of violence and the practice of vendetta.

SAY

The Lord is compassion
and love, slow to anger
and rich in mercy
(Psalm 102:8)

REFLECT

There are perhaps few passages in the Gospel which are more challenging than this one. On the one hand, we have the example of the Hindu Mahatma Gandhi who personified this teaching of Jesus and showed what can be achieved by a policy of nonviolence. We have the figure of Archbishop Oscar Romero who was murdered after calling on the army of his country to stop the oppression. On the other, arguments rage over how to oppose injustice on the national and international scene. It is all too clear that there is no agreement on how to apply this teaching of Jesus about the nonviolent response and attitude to people whom we regard as hostile to us.

But the complexity of the wider question does not mean that we can ignore Jesus' teaching for our own personal lives. Even if we can only decide that it means treating everyone else with respect simply because they are human beings like ourselves, that would be a start. We could also examine ourselves and see if we are bearing grudges and waiting for the opportunity to get our own back over some slight or insult (real or imagined). At the very least, we might discover that we feel better in ourselves if we forgive those others and lay down the burden of anger and resentment which we have been carrying around. ■

DO

Note from the news bulletins and papers how much war and strife is due to people bearing grudges and refusing to talk to each other. Resolve not to add to the hatred and ill-feeling in the world.

