



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: bishopstortford@rcdow.org.uk • Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopstortford>
Live streaming from St Joseph's: www.churchservices.tv/bishopstortford
Diocese of Westminster Charity No. 233699

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

Monday 2nd March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Rev Fr Charles Jeffries RIP

Tuesday 3rd March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs

9.30am Mass – James Martin RIP

Wednesday 4th March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Anne Morton RIP

Thursday 5th March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Mary Ashton RIP

Friday 6th March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass – Elsa Reyes RIP

11.30am Requiem Mass Holy Cross – Geraldine Bird RIP

Saturday 7th March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

5pm-5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &

Sacrament of Reconciliation

6pm Mass – Gaynor Barlow RIP

Sunday 8th March – 2nd Sunday of Lent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass – Holy Grace of God

11am Mass – Martin Horan RIP

6pm Mass – Gisele O'Hagan RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)

9am Mass – Francis Fahy RIP

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

11.15am Mass – People of the Parish



'Lent is a joyful season'

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 at St Joseph's School. Tickets are £7.50 and on sale after weekend Mass.

FOODBANK- St. Joseph's will be collecting for the Foodbank during Lent. 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

TABLE TENNIS CLUB will next be on Sunday 8 March in the WCC

THE REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS MARY'S DOWRY

On Sunday 29th March at 12noon, the Rededication will take place throughout the country. As King Richard II once gave England as a gift to Our Lady, so we are invited to give ourselves, as the people of this country, to Mary. We respond to this invitation on the day of Rededication in two ways; by making a **personal promise** and a **communal entrustment**. Our personal promise brings us closer to Mary, the first disciple of Christ. In this we unite in her joy by following her openness to God's call. Our communal entrustment unites us together as the people of our country in prayer, by renewing the vows of dedication made to Mary by our ancestors. Visit <https://www.behold2020.com/>

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE 2020 – The next Baptism course with Fr Carlos will be Thursday 12 March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Windhill Churches Centre.



As you will remember, the Bishops of England and Wales have called us into deeper knowledge of Scripture this year. As part of this initiative here in our Parish every household who comes to Mass this weekend will be presented with a free copy of St Matthew's Gospel.

Our hope is that during Lent this year every household in the Parish will read St. Matthew's Gospel.

It can be read on one's own privately or, perhaps, if you are a family living at home together, out loud together.

Matthew's Gospel is written like a handbook, or catechism for the early Church, providing models for teaching, preaching, mission, community worship and dealing with disputes with outsiders. These are carefully woven into the story of Jesus and his mission. He presents a coherent perspective on Jesus, giving a rich account of Jesus' miracles and teachings, while also placing them in their historical and religious context.

UPDATE ON WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT AT ST JOSEPH'S – Financial Approval has been granted by the Diocese for the proposed heating works, we are now awaiting listed building permission from the Historic Churches Committee.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) Friday 6th March. This year the intention is the people of Zimbabwe. There will not be a Service in a Church in Bishop's Stortford but if you would like to attend one you will be most welcome at 2pm at the Free Church, Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet or 10am at Great St Mary's, Sawbridgeworth

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 live here and are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.

BSCS CONCERT at All Saints Church – 'Rachmaninov Vespers' Sat 14 March 7.30pm. Tickets available on BSCS web site, on the door or at Tourist info office

NO REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS NEXT WEEKEND – Apologies but due to an event in the hall NO refreshments will be served after Mass on 8th March

CONFIRMATION CLASSES with Fr Peter will be Sunday 1st, 8th & 15th March at 4.30pm in the WCC and will finish in time for attendance at 6pm Mass.

Please be sure to pick up an Information Sheet detailing events, groups and Liturgies throughout Lent and Holy Week and look at our web site – here are some of the high points:

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St. Joseph's, Bishop's Stortford, Meditative Stations.

Sundays at 7pm after the 6pm Mass.

Most Holy Redeemer, Sawbridgeworth

Fridays at 12 noon.

Holy Cross, Much Hadham, Ecumenical Stations

Mon 6 April & Wed 8th April at 8pm

LENT TALKS for all the parish at MUCH HADHAM

Wednesday 4th March 11am

'My Ministry and Lent'

Rev. Stephen Bate, Vicar, at St Andrew's Church, Church Lane, Much Hadham.

Wednesday 18th March 11am

'Getting myself under control'

Fr. Peter Harris, Parish Priest, at the Congregational Church, High Street, Much Hadham

PARISH TAIZÉ SERVICE,

Holy Cross, Much Hadham

Wednesday, 25th March 10.45 for 11.00 am

Led by Diana Dillon.

FLOWERS – As it is now Lent, no flowers are to be left on any of the Altars or in the Church please. Thank you

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

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – Friday 6th March. Please take an envelope from the back of the Church.

RITE OF ELECTION – We keep in our prayers all RCIA candidates attending the Cathedral this weekend.

JIGSAW FESTIVAL at the Methodist Church Sat 7 March 10am-4pm £2 entry. Children free. Proceeds to Isabel Hospice and Church re-development fund

LENT EXTRA and CELEBRATE LENT publications are on sale in the Repository

Parish Administrator: Debbie Jackson

Parish Office: 01279 654063 (9am-3pm Mon - Fri)

Parish Centre Bookings and All Enquiries::

bishopstortford@rcdow.org.uk

Safeguarding enquiries only:

bishopstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk



Collections: 22/23 Feb 2020 Loose Coin & Envelopes / Jan S/O

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

Collection: Loose- £639.92 Envelopes- £614.05 S/O £7272.34

Holy Cross

Collection: Loose-£72.60 Envelopes-£0 S/O £1725.00

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: Loose- £83.10 Envelopes-£2.10 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

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,
that we may grow in understanding
of the riches hidden in Christ
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.
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 Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, "Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, 'You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death.'" Then the serpent said to the woman: "No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil." The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 50

Response:

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)
3. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy Spirit. (R.)
4. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 5:12-19

(For shorter form read between >> <)

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

>Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.< Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of "law-breaking", yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. >If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.<
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves." But he replied, "Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God."

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. "If you are the Son of God" he said "throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone."

Jesus said to him, "Scripture also says:
You must not put the Lord your God to the
test."

Next, taking him to a very high mountain,
the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the
world and their splendour. "I will give you
all these," he said, "if you fall at my feet and

worship me." Then Jesus replied, "Be off,
Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone."

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared
and looked after 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

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray,
to make these offerings,
for with them we celebrate the beginning
of this venerable and sacred time.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the
mouth of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed now with heavenly bread,
by which faith is nourished, hope increased,
and charity strengthened,
we pray, O Lord,
that we may learn to hunger for Christ,
the true and living Bread,
and strive to live by every word
which proceeds from your mouth.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE WORD

At his baptism, which occurs immediately before our Gospel passage today, Jesus is revealed publicly as the Son of God.

The question now is: how does Jesus understand being the Son of God? What sort of Messiah will he be: the kind that many people expect and hope for, the military liberator of their nation, or the one whom God intends him to be? The devil presents three ways in which Jesus could misuse his power and take a shortcut to being acclaimed as the Messiah: he could change stones into bread and feed not just himself but his followers; he could perform some supernatural feat and acquire an enthusiastic following; or he could seek political influence to establish the kingdom of God. But as Jesus makes clear to Peter – when he later tries to deflect Jesus from the path God has traced out for him, and Jesus addresses him also with "Get behind me, Satan!" – the true sign that Jesus is the Son of God is the cross. ■

LEARN

The expression "the temptations of Jesus" is better understood as the testing of Jesus as the Son of God.

The devil is trying to deflect Jesus from his true path, which will lead to Calvary.

Peter will do the same: that is why Jesus says to him, in Mark's account, "Get behind me, Satan!" – because the way Peter thinks is not God's way but human thinking.

DO

When you carry out the penance you have chosen for Lent, think of the love of God for you: decide how you can best respond to that love each day.

**REFLECT**

Many people approach Lent much as they would any endurance test: can I give up something I like for six weeks? If we reach Easter successfully, then we feel a sense of achievement. If we do not, then we may feel a failure and be disappointed. The problem with this approach is that it is all about ourselves. Our penance, whatever it may be, is supposed to remind us about God, and what God has done for us in sending Jesus.

The idea underlying fasting is that the less the body has to do, the more heightened is our spiritual awareness. We should be able to concentrate more easily on thinking and praying. This can be an uncomfortable experience: we can be faced with questions about ourselves that we would rather not answer. In Lent we are asked to think about what God has done for us and how we are responding to God's love. None of us responds perfectly, and we are being challenged to do something about those areas in our lives where we are lacking. No wonder that we are tempted to give up and indulge in comfort-eating or some other distraction to take our minds off our relationship with God and how we are trying to live up to our Christian calling.

The Church speaks about Lent as a joyful season: perhaps if we thought about it in this way, we might find it a more positive experience. Jesus' answers to the devil are not just smart rejoinders: they are quotations from the book of Deuteronomy: this is concerned with the relationship between God and the people of Israel, which we call the covenant. Israel was put to the test in the Exodus wilderness journey and failed: Jesus undergoes similar testing and passes by being faithful to the word of God. In this, he is our example. ■

SAY

Lent is a joyful
season