



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 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

Monday 9th March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Donald and Muriel Barrett RIP
11.30am Requiem Mass – Carmel Maria Daughtery RIP

Tuesday 10th March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs
9.30am Mass – Mary Courtney RIP

Wednesday 11th March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Mary Pontin RIP

Thursday 12th March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Christine Hall intention

Friday 13th March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9.30am Mass – Healing of Karolina Ross

Saturday 14th March – Lent feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
5pm-5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Sacrament of Reconciliation
6pm Mass – Jennifer Ryan RIP

Sunday 15th March 2020 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
9am Mass – Olive Veronica 'Vera' Oxborrow RIP
11am Mass – Dorothy Flannery RIP
6pm Mass – People of the Parish

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)
9am Mass – Anne Finlay RIP

Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):
11.15am Mass – The Collis Family RIP



'May your love be upon us O Lord, as we place all our hope in you'

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.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE- There is a meeting for those attending the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land on 19 March and 21 April 2020 at 7.30pm in the Windhill Churches Centre.

ALTAR SERVERS MEETING- There is a meeting for all current Altar Servers in all three Churches and those who wish to join on Saturday 21 March 2020 at 10am at St. Joseph's Church

TABLE TENNIS CLUB is on this 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/>

ADVANCED NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE – Apologies for any inconvenience caused but the Parish office will be closed from Monday 16th March – Friday 27th March inclusive whilst Debbie is away. During this time the answerphone will be checked daily and any urgent enquiries attended to by Fr Peter and Fr Carlos. Newsletters will be prepared in advance so if you wish any notices to be placed during this time please contact Debbie by midday on Wed 11th March. Thank you very much.

GROVE COTTAGE VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AFTERNOON- Sat 21st March at the Charis Centre. Refreshments at 1.30pm, followed by presentations at 2pm. There will then be an opportunity to discuss volunteer opportunities at Grove Cottage with members of staff and current volunteers. All welcome. For further info, please contact Monica Baker at volunteer@mencapgrovecottage.org



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 came to Mass last weekend was presented with a free copy of St Matthew's Gospel. If you missed out we do have a few copies left..

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.

NO REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS THIS WEEKEND – Apologies but due to an event in the hall NO refreshments will be served after Mass this weekend.

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

FOODBANK- St. Joseph's will be collecting for the Foodbank during Lent. A 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 via email m.j.rhodes@btinternet.com

TEACHING VACANCIES AT ST MARY'S- Teacher of Maths and a Teacher of English is required from Sept 2020. Closing date for applications is 16 March 2020. Visit www.stmarys.net for full details

ALPS (Across Lourdes Pilgrims and Supporters) will be meeting for coffee after Mass from 10am in the Parish Centre on the 2nd Thursday of every month so please join us next **Thursday, 12th March.** If you want to find out about travelling with Across, have been to Lourdes with them or want to meet people who have been, do come along for coffee and a catch up. If you have any queries call Alison Jones on 01279 755792.

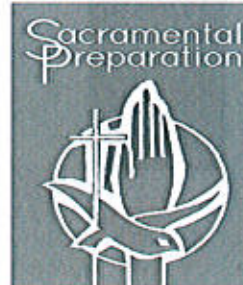
DID YOU KNOW that washing your hands thoroughly with soap and hot water for the recommended 20 seconds can easily be timed by saying 'One Hail Mary' with an additional very quick 'Glory Be' or a full 'Our Father' prayer- try different combinations or even a verse of your favourite hymn and see what works best for you!! Hand sanitiser has been provided for all Eucharistic ministers serving at Mass to use. Up to date advice and guidance from the Diocese on the COVID-19 virus can be found on our web site.



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: 29 Feb/ 1 Mar 2020 Loose Coin & Envelopes / Jan S/O
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
Collection: Loose- £741.23 Envelopes- £500.20 S/O £7272.34
Holy Cross
Collection: Loose-£70.21 Envelopes-£10 S/O £1725.00
Most Holy Redeemer:
Collection: Loose- £49.11 Envelopes-£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

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 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.

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.

HOLIDAY BIBLE WEEK 2020 Vision – 'Seeing and Believing' Visit www.holidaybibleweek.co.uk Mon 3rd – Fri 7th August 10am-3.30pm at BS College Pre-Prep School. A fun packed week for 5-11 year olds run by the Churches of Bishop's Stortford. Sign up now!

DAY OF COLLECTION & REFLECTION – Saturday 28 March 9.30am – 2.30pm at St Theresa's Church Stansted led by Sr. Moira & Sr. Margaret Mary

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES- We are awaiting delivery of the new Planned Giving Envelopes starting 12th April 2020 which we hope will be available for you to collect in the next week or so from the Sacristy of each Church. The new envelopes which will be arranged in numerical order must NOT be used until the weekend of 11/12 April. If your circumstances have changed and either you no longer wish to make your donation using envelopes, or if you would like to start using envelopes, please do let us know.

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

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

COLLECT

O God, who have commanded us
to listen to your beloved Son,
be pleased, we pray,
to nourish us inwardly by your word,
that, with spiritual sight made pure,
we may rejoice to behold your glory.
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 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis.
The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country,
your family and your father's house, for the
land I will show you. I will make you a great
nation; I will bless you and make your name
so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

"I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you."

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 32

Response:

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

1 For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)

2 The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

3 Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to
Timothy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of
the Good News, relying on the power of God
who has saved us and called us to be holy –
not because of anything we ourselves have
done but for his own purpose and by his own
grace. This grace had already been granted
to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning
of time, but it has only been revealed by the
Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He
abolished death, and he has proclaimed life
and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was
heard:
"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL Matthew 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and
his brother John and led them up a high
mountain where they could be alone. There
in their presence he was transfigured; his
face shone like the sun and his clothes
became as white as the light. Suddenly
Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they
were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to
Jesus. "Lord," he said "it is wonderful for us
to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents
here, one for you, one for Moses and one for
Elijah." He was still speaking when suddenly
a bright cloud covered them with shadow,
and from the cloud there came a voice
which said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; he
enjoys my favour. Listen to him." When they
heard this, the disciples fell on their faces,
overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and
touched them. "Stand up," he said "do not
be afraid." And when they raised their eyes
they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain
Jesus gave them this order. "Tell no one
about the vision until the Son of Man has
risen from the dead."

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 sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,
cleanse us of our faults
and sanctify your faithful in body and mind
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am
well pleased;
listen to him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive these glorious mysteries,
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,
for allowing us while still on earth
to be partakers even now of the things of
heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, depicted in stained glass in Votivkirche (Votive Church), Vienna

At the beginning of his ministry in Galilee, Jesus is revealed as the Son of God at his baptism.

Matthew tells us about a similar event when Jesus is about to begin his journey towards Jerusalem and his ministry in Judaea: we hear about that episode today in the extract presenting the transfiguration. Matthew describes it as a vision of Jesus in glory, of who and what he will be in the fulfilled kingdom of God. Moses and Elijah represent the Jewish Law and the prophets; but there is more to them than that. The end of the lives of both was shrouded in mystery: Moses died after being granted a glimpse of the land of Canaan which he would not enter; he was buried, perhaps by God, and no one knew where his grave or tomb might be. Elijah was taken up into heaven in a blazing chariot and was expected to return. In this sense, they would be suitable persons to be talking with Jesus about the events to come. The cloud is a symbol in the Hebrew Bible of the presence of God: we find it mentioned in the Exodus journey and in Moses' meeting with God on Mount Sinai. When Moses came down the mountain, his face was shining so brightly from being in God's presence that he had to wear a veil over it so that the Israelites could look at him.

There are echoes of the book of Daniel and its visions of the end of time and the establishing of God's kingdom. The transfiguration is an experience of that future glory which tells the disciples that the cross will not be the end: Jesus hints at this when he instructs them to tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead. ■

LEARN

A cloud is often a biblical symbol for the presence of God.

The transfiguration event is a vision of Jesus in heavenly glory: it is full of symbolic references.

Peter, James and John are present at several intimate scenes in the story of Jesus.

DO

Consider the cross as you go about your daily life. What is your cross? How could it be your means to glory?

SAY

Lord, it is good for us
to be here!

(Matthew 17:4)

REFLECT

If we reflect on the transfiguration experience of the three disciples as a vision of the glorified Jesus, we can set the events of the passion in their context: Matthew is presenting Jesus as the fulfilment of the Hebrew scriptures and traditions by showing him speaking on equal terms with the two great representative figures of Judaism, Moses and Elijah. He is also telling us that Jesus' teaching about his disciples taking up their cross and following him should be seen against the background of the resurrection.

The vision is given to the disciples to strengthen them in the events to come, and during Lent we are invited to enter into those events. We are also invited to see our lives as they involve the cross, whatever form that might take for us individually, and to realise that accepting the cross was the sign that Jesus is the Son of God. To be a disciple of Jesus involves sacrifice of one kind or another: if we consider the sacrifice God and Jesus made for us, then we might see our own cross in a different light. Lent is a joyful season: there is glory after Calvary. ■

