



# 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](mailto:bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk) • Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford>  
Live streaming from St Joseph's: [www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)  
Diocese of Westminster Charity No. 253699

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Lent feria**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am Mass – Fr Carlos' Birthday intention

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – St Patrick**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs*

9.30am Mass – Alan Reynolds RIP

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Lent feria**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am Mass – Vivien Frances Lewis RIP

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am Mass – Michael Godoy Intention

12pm Funeral Service Most Holy Redeemer

Una Ursula Guillaume RIP

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Lent feria**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9.30am Mass – Constantine Matheou intention

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Lent feria**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

5pm-5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Sacrament of Reconciliation

6pm Mass – Colin Stewart RIP

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

9am Mass – Anne Veronica Dudson RIP

11am Mass – Jennifer Ryan RIP

6pm Mass – Private Intention

**Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)**  
9am Mass – Patrick Wall RIP

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

*'Lord, I believe: help my unbelief!'*



We Send Our Love, Prayers and Best Wishes to Fr Carlos who celebrates his 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday this week

## THE REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS MARY'S DOWRY

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 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/>

**NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE** – Apologies for any inconvenience caused but the Parish office will be closed from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

**THANK YOU** – to Parishioners at Holy Cross who had a collection for the Night Shelter and raised £100 last week.

**FOODBANKS** -In light of the uncertainty over the Coronavirus, it is understandable that we want to ensure our kitchen cupboards are well stocked. However, we must not forget that this can leave foodbanks struggling. Hundreds of people rely on generous donations from our parishioners. This includes the need for hygiene items, toilet paper, sanitary products etc., as well as sealed packages of dry food, tins, and long-life milk etc. Foodbanks also welcome donations of money - please give what you can.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** with Fr Peter on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> has been **cancelled**. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. A new date will be rescheduled in due course.

**THE DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE** will be marked this year on **Friday, 3 April 2020** This is a day when we think about and pray for all those impacted directly by abuse – for the victims themselves at the heart of our prayer, their families, friends, and communities Wherever we choose to respond to this call to prayer, the resources available on our web site offer an opportunity to listen to the voices of survivors and reflect on the impact of abuse.

## UPDATE ON COVID-19

Since the time of writing (10/3) you may have already noticed that certain measures have been put in place in our Churches following advice and guidance on how best to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 infection and keep everyone safe. It is important that we all help to maintain really good hygiene whilst at Mass and protect those who are most vulnerable and susceptible to infection. Therefore the following will apply:

- Communion will be distributed under one kind in the hand of the recipient and **NOT** on the tongue
- The physical sign of peace has been suspended
- The Holy water stoups, Hymn books and Missals have been removed
- The Collection plate will not be passed around but will be available as you leave Mass
- Everyone is asked to either thoroughly wash or sanitise their hands as they enter the Church remembering 'Catch it, bin it, kill it.'
- Catering, and refreshments after Mass has been temporarily suspended, as has the meeting of the St Joseph's Magellans Toddler Group on a Monday in the WCC
- Vulnerable Parishioners with health conditions or those who are sick OR HAVE cold or flu symptoms should refrain from attending parish gatherings **AND ARE EXEMPT BY CANON LAW FROM THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION!**
- Used Mass sheets after each Mass will not be 're-issued' for different parishioners and should be discarded or taken home. The newsletter and Mass sheet is also available on our web site.
- Those unable to attend Mass can watch our Live stream if they have access to the internet. [www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)
- Further updates and a full list of measures taken are available on our web site as more information becomes available.

**Please do continue to visit our web site as we will keep this updated with any news and guidance. It will also contain scanned newsletters and Mass sheets if you are unable to attend Mass**

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford/>

**ENCOUNTER**- meet Fri.20 March at St Theresa's, Stansted. Talk & discussion led by Deacon Des Connor: **'Life as a newly ordained Deacon'**. Please bring a bible. Mass at 9.30am.10am coffee 10.30 meeting opens 12.30 Lunch: please bring your own lunch.2pm day ends. All welcome for all or part of the day. Enquiries: 814865/ 652060

**HOLIDAY BIBLE WEEK 2020 Vision** –'Seeing and Believing' Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fri 7<sup>th</sup> 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! [www.holidaybibleweek.co.uk](http://www.holidaybibleweek.co.uk)

*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 Josephs – self-guided during Church opening hours**

**Most Holy Redeemer, Sawbridgeworth**

*Fridays at 12 noon.*

**Holy Cross, Much Hadham, Ecumenical Stations**

*Mon 6 April & Wed 8<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm*

## LENT TALK for all the parish at MUCH HADHAM

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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, 25<sup>th</sup> March 10.45 for 11.00 am**

Led by Diana Dillon.

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES**- The new Planned Giving Envelopes starting **12<sup>th</sup> April 2020** have arrived and are available for you to collect 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.

**GIFT AID**- The Tax Year ends on 5<sup>th</sup> April and we will be submitting our Gift Aid Claim for 2019/20 soon after that. If you are registered for Gift Aid but are no longer eligible because you will have stopped paying UK Income Tax **before 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020** it is important that you let us know immediately please, with the date that you stopped paying tax. If you are eligible for Gift Aid but not yet registered we urge you to do so as we can claim back 25% of your donation back from the government which does add up!  
**ALTAR SERVERS MEETING**- for all current Altar Servers (from all three Churches) and for those who wish to join on Saturday 21 March 2020 at 10am at St. Joseph's Church.



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: 7/8 Mar 2020 Loose Coin & Envelopes / Feb S/O

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs:*

Collection: Loose- £733.35 Envelopes- £515.20 S/O £7047.34

*Holy Cross*

Collection: Loose-£0 Envelopes-£0 S/O £915

*Most Holy Redeemer:*

Collection: Loose- £63.50 Envelopes-£30 S/O £1089.33



**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 I prove my holiness among you,  
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;  
and I will pour clean water upon you  
and cleanse you from all your impurities,  
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

**COLLECT**

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,  
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving  
have shown us a remedy for sin,  
look graciously on this confession of our  
lowliness,  
that we, who are bowed down by our  
conscience,  
may always be lifted up by your mercy.  
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**

Exodus 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt?" they said. "Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?" Moses appealed to the Lord. "How am I to deal with this people?" he said. "A little more and they will stone me!" The Lord said to Moses, "Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink." This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, "Is the Lord with us, or not?"

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 94

Response:

O that today you would listen to his voice:  
"Harden not your hearts."

- 1 Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
- 2 Come in: let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
- 3 O that today you would listen to his voice!  
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my  
work." (R.)

**SECOND READING**

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

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

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we  
are judged righteous and at peace with God,

since it is by faith and through Jesus that we  
have entered this state of grace in which we  
can boast about looking forward to God's  
glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the  
love of God has been poured into our hearts  
by the Holy Spirit which has been given us.  
We were still helpless when at his appointed  
moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not  
easy to die even for a good man – though  
of course for someone really worthy, a man  
might be prepared to die – but what proves  
that God loves us is that Christ died for us  
while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of  
God!  
Lord, you are really the saviour of the world;  
give me the living water, so that I may never  
get thirsty.  
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of  
God!

**GOSPEL**

John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

(a longer version may be read: John 4:5-42)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called  
Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his  
son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus,  
tired by the journey, sat straight down by  
the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a  
Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus  
said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples  
had gone into the town to buy food. The  
Samaritan woman said to him, "What? You  
are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a  
drink?" – Jews, in fact, do not associate with  
Samaritans. Jesus replied:

"If you only knew what God is offering  
and who it is that is saying to you:  
Give me a drink,  
you would have been the one to ask,  
and he would have given you living water."

"You have no bucket, sir," she answered "and  
the well is deep: how could you get this living  
water? Are you a greater man than our father  
Jacob who gave us this well and drank from  
it himself with his sons and his cattle?" Jesus  
replied:

"Whoever drinks this water  
will get thirsty again;  
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall  
give  
will never be thirsty again:  
the water that I shall give  
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up  
to eternal life."

"Sir," said the woman "give me some of  
that water, so that I may never get thirsty  
and never have to come here again to draw  
water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers  
worshipped on this mountain, while you say  
that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to  
worship." Jesus said:

"Believe me, woman, the hour is coming  
when you will worship the Father  
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.  
You worship what you do not know;  
we worship what we do know;  
for salvation comes from the Jews."

But the hour will come – in fact it is here  
already –  
when true worshippers will worship the  
Father in spirit and truth:  
that is the kind of worshipper  
the Father wants.  
God is spirit,  
and those who worship  
must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah  
– that is, Christ – is coming; and when he  
comes he will tell us everything." "I who am  
speaking to you," said Jesus, "I am he."  
Many Samaritans of that town had believed  
in him on the strength of the woman's  
testimony when she said, "He told me all I  
have even done," so, when the Samaritans  
came up to him, they begged him to stay with  
them. He stayed for two days, and when he  
spoke to them many more came to believe;  
and they said to the woman, "Now we no  
longer believe because of what you told us; we  
have heard him ourselves and we know that  
he really is the saviour of the world."

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**

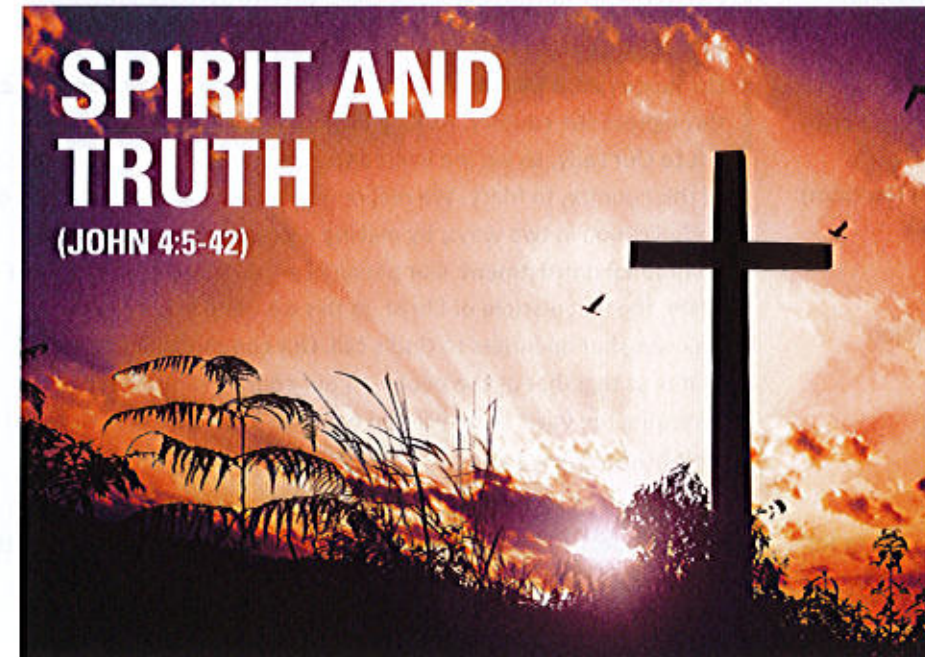
Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial  
offerings,  
and grant that we who beseech pardon for our  
own sins,  
may take care to forgive our neighbour.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,  
the water I shall give will become in him  
a spring welling up to eternal life.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

As we receive the pledge  
of things yet hidden in heaven  
and are nourished while still on earth  
with the Bread that comes from on high,  
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,  
that what is being brought about in us in  
mystery  
may come to true completion.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**THE WORD**

### The characters who appear with Jesus in the Fourth Gospel represent different kinds of persons and different reactions to Jesus.

In today's extract from the Gospel according to John, we meet the familiar figure of the Samaritan woman at the well. She is, first and foremost, a woman. She belongs to a group of people, the Samaritans, whom the Jewish people regarded as not being members of the people of Israel, no matter what their claims about their origins: their rival sanctuary to Jerusalem had been destroyed by the warrior Jewish high priest roughly 150 years earlier. We find traces of the hostility of the Samaritans towards Jewish pilgrims from Galilee in the Gospel accounts.

Yet here, Jesus takes the initiative in speaking to this woman, much to her surprise. As they talk, her understanding of who Jesus might be develops: she refers to him as a Jew, then as a prophet, and ends up wondering if he might be the Messiah/Christ. Although she does not come to believe in Jesus herself, her wondering about him to the townspeople leads them to believe in Jesus. She is thus the catalyst for their putting their faith in Jesus, not on her word, as hearsay is not enough, but because they have experienced him for themselves. ■

**DO**

Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water. Consider using the rest of Lent to decide whether or not you really want to renew your baptismal promises.

**LEARN**

The Jews held that the Samaritans were settlers imposed by the Assyrian conquerors in place of the Israelite population of the northern kingdom after the defeat in 722 BC.

The Samaritans claimed that they were true Israelites left behind after the deportation.

The Samaritans built a rival temple on Mount Gerizim: this was destroyed by the high priest, John Hyrcanus, in 129 BC.

**REFLECT**

Today, and on the next two Sundays, we hear a long reading from the Fourth Gospel. These extracts are given for us to reflect upon as we approach Easter, when new members will be added to our community as disciples of Jesus.

For John the evangelist, faith is not something we possess, but something we do. It is also a decision. Many "cradle Catholics" are somewhat envious of converts: they feel that they would like to have had the chance really to decide for themselves, rather than having been baptised as infants and brought up in the faith without having to make their own mind up and say for themselves, "Yes, Lord, I believe." Somehow, renewing their baptismal promises is not quite the same. One of the reasons people leave the Church is because they never truly believed to begin with: the mere fact of being baptised does not confer faith. Baptism is (ideally) the external sign that we have made our own decision. We may have difficulties with certain aspects of our faith, but the essential point is that we have a real, personal relationship with Jesus, which must develop as we ourselves grow, otherwise it will wither and die. These three Gospel extracts illustrate for us how a person's faith develops through questioning.

The woman tries to engage Jesus on details in the differences between their two traditions, but Jesus brushes these aside. Worship in spirit and truth, that is, worshipping God with one's whole life, is what true, authentic faith means: questions of place and ritual are secondary. Quarrels about liturgy and the like can be a useful distraction from the deeper questions of faith. ■

**SAY**

Lord, I believe:  
help my unbelief!

(Mark 9:24)