



# 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. 233699

**ALL MASSES & SERVICES WILL BE CELEBRATED PRIVATELY VIA THE LIVE STREAM LINK WITH NO PUBLIC ACCESS**

**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)  
NOI MASS

Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham)  
NO MASS

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Lent feria**

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Vivien Frances Lewis RIP

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March - Lent feria**

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Livio Renato Darfi RIP

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March - The Annunciation of the Lord**

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Michael John Frost RIP

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Lent feria**

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Henry Leighton Intention

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Lent feria**

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9.30am Mass - Theresa and Mary Cannon RIP

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Lent feria**

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

5pm-5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

6pm Mass - Arthur Mc Cann RIP

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

9am Mass - Private Intention

11am Mass - Vivien Frances Lewis RIP

6pm Mass - John O' Hagan RIP

Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth)  
NO MASS

Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham)  
NO MASS



*'I am the light of the world, says the Lord'*

**NO ONE IS ALONE** - Please see the printed guide available in the Church or on our web site.

## 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/>



Mary, Mother of Jesus, pray for us  
Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us  
Mary, Mother of Joys, pray for us.  
Amen.

**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.**

**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.

**HOLIDAY BIBLE WEEK 2020 Vision** -'Seeing and Believing' Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> to 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)

**PASTORAL LETTER** - Please see the letter from Cardinal Vincent available in printed copy or on our web site which finishes with the below prayer..

*Dear Guardian Angel,*

*Go for me to the church; there kneel down at Mass for me. At the Offertory, take me to God, and offer Him my service: What I am, what I have, offer as my gift. At the Consecration, with your seraphic strength, adore my Saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me, and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all. During Holy Communion, bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus uniting Him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become His dwelling place. Plead with Him, that through His sacrifice all people throughout the world may be saved. When the Mass ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing. Amen.*

We are still surrounded by the angels and by the saints who are glorifying God and protecting and assisting mankind. Why should we not make them our particular friends and allies in situations where we are touching limits that we cannot overcome?

## LIVE STREAM

Please watch our Live stream if you have access to the internet.

[www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)

## WEB SITE

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, links to weekday and weekend Mass sheets, as well as useful resources.

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

## CHURCH OPENING TIMES

Our Churches will be open for prayer but unfortunately **not** for the celebration of Mass until further notice. We will do our best to honour all Mass intentions and will remember loved ones, recently deceased, anniversaries and those who are sick in our Bidding prayers as usual.  
HOLY CROSS / ST ANDREWS - Daily 9am-4pm  
MOST HOLY REDEEMER - Sunday only 9-10am  
ST JOSEPH'S - Daily 1pm-3pm (outside of these hours the Church will be closed for Live stream events)

*The opening times of our three Churches for private prayer could potentially change depending on the current situation but we will keep you updated via the web site. Thank you for your understanding, prayers and patience.*

**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!** - This week we have been awaiting the arrival of a new Live stream camera to be installed at St Joseph's to replace our 5 yr. old camera which unfortunately has started to experience a few issues. It was due to be installed on Wednesday but was held up in Ireland. Hopefully by the time of writing this newsletter it would have been installed! Being on 24/7 and being host to over 400,145 viewers from across the globe since we began our Live stream service in June 2015 had taken its toll! So hopefully now, for our longstanding 'Online Parishioners' and for those who are 'new' your experience should be improved with no longer the need to continually have to refresh your screen. So, as we already have wonderful lighting, our Homilies are being finely tuned, our vocals warmed, with 'Hair & Make up' on standby! We welcome you to join us to celebrate Mass together wherever you may be.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES**- The new Planned Giving Envelopes starting **12<sup>th</sup> April 2020** have arrived and will be kept here for you whilst the Corona virus situation continues. If your circumstances have changed and either you no longer wish to make your future 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!

**OTHER WAYS TO DONATE IF UNABLE TO ATTEND MASS** If you are not a Gift Aider or don't use Envelopes or don't have a Standing Order and usually donate each week by placing cash in the basket and are unable to attend Mass, don't forget that you can always make a one off donation online via our web site...

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



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)



Collections: 14/15 Mar 2020 Loose Coin & Envelopes / Feb 5/O

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:

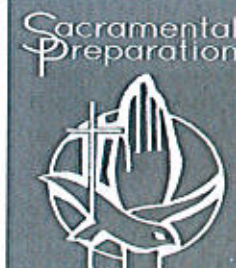
Collection: Loose- ETBC Envelopes- ETBC S/O E7047.34

Holy Cross

Collection: Loose-ETBC Envelopes-ETBC S/O E915

Most Holy Redeemer:

Collection: Loose- ETBC Envelopes-ETBC S/O E1089.33



**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.*



# Sunday Message

Year A • Psalter Week 4

**FIRST READING** 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel.  
The Lord said to Samuel: "Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons." When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him," but the Lord said to Samuel, "Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart." Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." He then answered, "Are these all the sons you have?" He answered, "There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes." Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, "Come, anoint him, for this is the one." At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** Psalm 22

Response:

**The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

- The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
- He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your  
staff;  
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
- You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
- Surely goodness and kindness shall  
follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. (R.)

**SECOND READING** Ephesians 5:8-14

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

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.**

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

**GOSPEL** John 9:1-41

(For shorter form read between &gt;&lt;.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

>As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.< His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?" "Neither he nor his parents sinned," Jesus answered "he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

"As long as the day lasts  
I must carry out the work of the one who sent me;  
the night will soon be here when no one can work.

As long as I am in the world  
I am the light of the world."

Having said this, >he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam" (a name that means "sent"). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "Yes, it is the same one." Others said, "No, he only looks like him." The man himself said, "I am the man." < So they said to him, "Then how do your eyes come to be open?" The man called Jesus" he answered "made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, 'Go and wash at Siloam'; so I went, and when I washed I could see." They asked, "Where is he?" "I don't know" he answered.

>They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, "He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see." Then some of the Pharisees said, "This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath." Others said, "How could a sinner produce signs like this?" And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, "What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?" "He is a prophet" replied the man.<

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, "Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?" His parents answered, "We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself." His

parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, "He is old enough; ask him."

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, "Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner." The man answered, "I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He replied, "I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" At this they hurled abuse at him: "You can be his disciple," they said "we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from." The man replied, "Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing." >"Are you trying to teach us," they replied "and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!" And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Sir," the man replied "tell me who he is so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You are looking at him; he is speaking to you." The man said, "Lord, I believe," and worshipped him.<

Jesus said:  
"It is for judgement  
that I have come into this world,  
so that those without sight may see  
and those with sight turn blind."

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, "We are not blind, surely?" Jesus replied:

"Blind? If you were,  
you would not be guilty,  
but since you say, 'We see',  
your guilt remains."

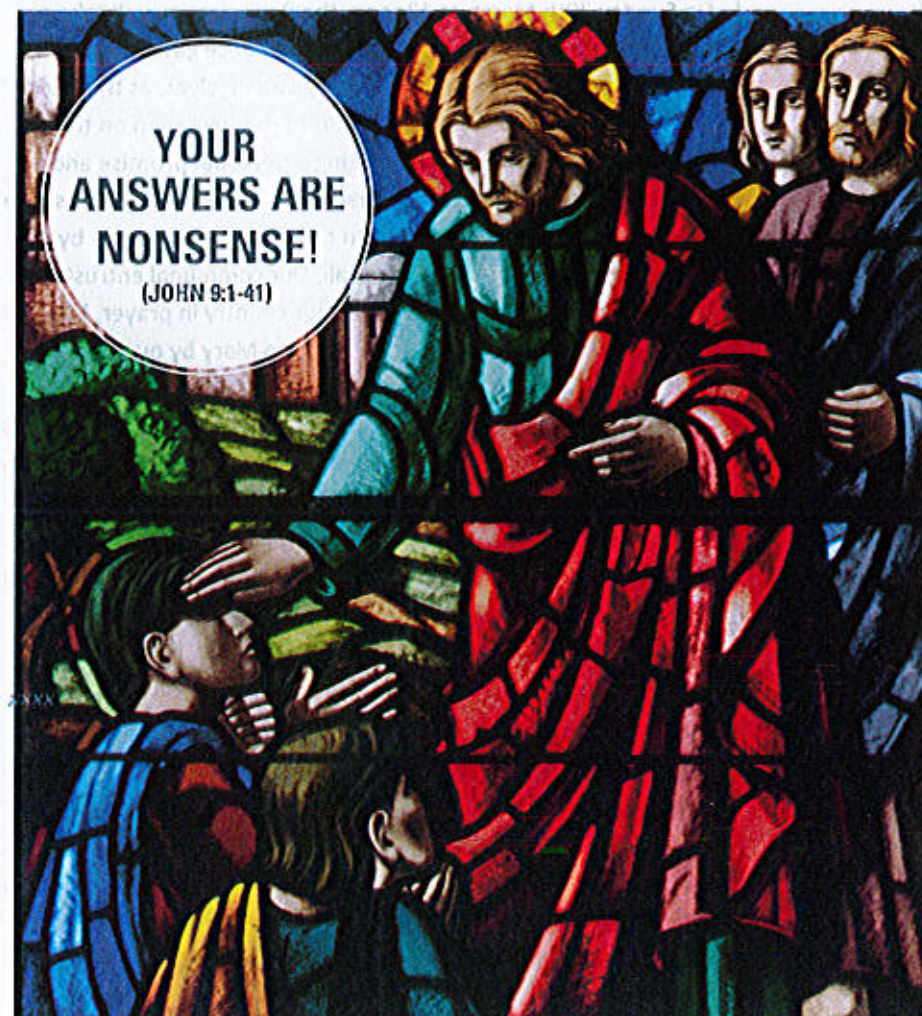
>The Gospel of the Lord.<  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**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.**

**THE WORD**

The story of the man born blind is regarded as one of the best-written narratives in the scriptures.

The healing by Jesus leads to the person coming to faith in him by clinging to his own experience in the face of challenges from the highly educated religious authorities. All that the man in question knows is that Jesus has cured him, and so cannot be a sinner, whether he has acted on the sabbath or not. By remaining true to his convictions, his appreciation of Jesus deepens, from being the man called Jesus, to a prophet and, finally, Lord, and worshipping him. The leaders remain true to their convictions, but these lead them deeper into unbelief. Their initial efforts to disprove the healing fail, so they argue from theology: because Jesus does not keep the sabbath, he cannot be from God. They cannot match the arguments of their irrepressible opponent so end up resorting to insult and excommunication.

It is by remaining faithful to his own experience and rejecting seemingly logical arguments from the religious authorities that the former blind man finds himself in the presence of Jesus and makes his act of faith. This is the culmination of a gradual process in understanding, and an example of how a person can come to faith in Jesus. ■

**DO**

If you can see, thank the Lord for your ability.  
Give some of your Lenten alms to a charity  
for the blind.

**SAY**

**I am the light of the  
world, says the Lord  
(John 9:5)**

**REFLECT**

Some people imagine that the Gospels simply relate historical events which have little bearing on the present day. This applies especially to those who imagine they understand fully how God operates, people who devise a theological system and feel that everything is now worked out: Jesus' criticism of the religious authorities of his day cannot possibly apply to those of our own. But the Bible warns us that this is a dangerous way of thinking. The book of Job is the classic critique of conventional theological wisdom.

The Gospel passage today is a masterpiece, comical in places, of the (formally) uneducated person who defeats the theologically qualified simply by pointing out the flaws in their argument. The most telling comment about the religious authorities in the story (and sometimes in our own day) is that they simply will not listen to the story of other people whose experience does not fit with their well-worked-out abstract theories. They accuse the healed man – and, implicitly, his parents – of being in bad faith, instead of thinking, maybe we should look at this again.

It is by not accepting the easy answers but by remaining true to himself and his experience that the person in the story, who represents anyone in a similar position, comes to true belief in Jesus. Unless we examine what we believe, we will not grow in our faith and understanding of Jesus and our relationship with him. This is not to doubt the truth: it is saying that the way we understand it has to change as we do. Pope St John XXIII famously said that the deposit of faith is one thing: the way it is presented is another. Yesterday's answers may not be sufficient for today's questions. ■

**LEARN**

The expression "the Jews" in the Fourth Gospel usually applies to the religious leaders, not to the people as a whole.

The Pharisees feature in the story today: the term is interchangeable with the Jews.

Both groups are presented as being opposed to Jesus.