

RE-OPENING ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MASS

We are pleased to announce that we expect to re-open St Joseph and the English Martyrs church for some public Masses from 1st August 2020 at 6pm. Due to the regulations the church will only be able to hold 36 people.

However please be aware there will be strict rules in operation and, for the time being, coming to Mass may not be quite how you remember it.

In order to comply with both Government and Diocesan COVID-19 regulations, there will be strict limitations on the number of people that are allowed in the Church at any one time and therefore we will be operating a '**Booking System**' for attendance at each Mass via our website or a telephone call to the Parish Office during working hours (9am – 3pm). The Church will have to be thoroughly cleaned after each Mass and closed for the rest of the day.

So, please check our Parish Website for up to date information on Mass dates and times. Bear in mind that there will be some days that no Mass will be celebrated in August and September. All persons who have Mass Intentions for those dates have been contacted.

The obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday is still suspended. We, therefore, encourage people, if it is possible, to consider attending Mass on one of the weekdays, as this will free up more places for the two weekend Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

During **August**, we think, *at the moment*, that the Mass schedule will be:

MASS DAY	MASS TIME	COMMENTS
Saturday Vigil	6pm	Places to be booked online or via the Parish Office
Sunday	9am	Places to be booked online or via the Parish Office
Sunday	11am	Mass via the livestream ONLY . This is not a public Mass. The Church will be CLOSED during this Mass
Sunday	6pm	Cancelled for August
Monday, Tuesday, (<i>NOT Wednesday</i>), Thursday, and Friday	9.30am	Places to be booked online or via the Parish Office.

The online Booking System will be open daily for booking your slot for Mass. **You can only book for one individual Mass. You cannot block book for Masses. This is to encourage everyone to have a fair chance to attend Mass at least once a week. If you do not book your slot for Mass, and your name is not on our list, you will not be able to attend the Mass.**

Places will be made available for a coming week (Sat evening Mass to Friday morning Mass, inclusive), from the Friday morning of the week before, 9am. (that means a full week ahead) . So, booking for the weeks of August are as below:

Masses Sat 1 to Fri 7 August – booking from 9am Fri 24 July

Masses Sat 8 to Fri 14 August - booking from 9am Fri 31 July

Masses Sat 15 – Fri 21 August - booking from 9am Fri 7 August

Masses Sat 22 – Fri 28 August - booking from 9am Fri 14 August

Why do I need to book to attend a Mass?

In line with the latest *Government and Diocesan Guidelines*, it is most important that we can ‘track and trace’ everyone who comes to Mass in the event that someone tests positive for COVID-19 at the Mass which you have attended. It will help us to ensure that we have the number of people permitted in the Church at any one time and keep both our Priests and Parishioners safe. Therefore, you must inform us beforehand by ‘booking’ your place via our website or telephone if you are asking to attend to a particular Mass. **You cannot ‘just turn up’ as you would have previously done. If your name is not on the list, you will not be able to enter the Church. Please understand that this is for your wellbeing and that of others.**

How do I book to attend a Mass ?

If you have access to the internet, then visit the ‘Events’ page our Parish website:

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

where you will find a list of Mass dates and times. Please do not book a place if you are feeling unwell or have COVID-19 related symptoms. Mass dates will be ‘released’ on the dates noted above.

Choose the Mass date/ time which you wish to attend and click on ‘Book Ticket’.

You will then be led through a short screen requiring you to enter your name and a contact telephone number for the particular Mass you wish to book. Once submitted, your details will be registered on the parish ‘guest list’ so that we are aware as to who will be attending. Your name will be checked off by one of the stewards when you arrive. Please arrive at least 20 minutes before the starting time of Mass to allow time for sanitising your hands and being shown to your place before the Mass begins. Your

details will be kept for 21 days following each Mass to enable us to provide details to the 'track & trace' system should an outbreak occur.

Full details of the Privacy Notice can be found at www.rcdow.org.uk/privacy-policy

If you want to book for a family or a household 'bubble', please do not use the website booking but phone the office direct (01279 654063), Mon to Fri, 9am – 3pm, to make your booking directly with Debbie Jackson.

What if I do not have access to the internet ?

Please contact the Parish Office on 01279 654063 on or after the booking dates listed above and your details will be entered manually onto the Booking System by Debbie Jackson so that you appear on the guest list if there are free places. If you have not supplied your details before hand you will not be able to attend the Mass.

What happens when I arrive at the Church ?

- Entry to St Joseph's will be through the main doors ONLY (If you have parked in the car park, you will be required to walk around past Windhill House to the main entrance on Windhill, being mindful that cars may be entering the main car park gate. There is a strict One Way system in operation in the Church. Cardinals Walk and the doorway nearest to the external notice board and defibrillator will be for Exit Only) The central aisle is part of the One Way route.
- Please try not to bring lots of bags, children's toys, belongings etc. with you as space will be limited in the Church.
- Please feel comfortable to wear a mask in Church to help to protect yourself and others. Volunteer Stewards and Cleaners will be provided with gloves and masks.
- You will be greeted by Volunteer Stewards who will have the 'Guest list' for that particular Mass. This list gives your name and the number of places booked only and not your contact number. As long as your name is on the list you will be invited into the church. **If your name is not on the list you will not be able to enter the church.**
- You will be asked to 'sanitise' your hands with the hand gel provided upon entry and shown to your seat. It will not be possible to sit in a particular seat. People will be seated from the front of the church in the order in which they arrive. Each seat will be at a safe distance from the next.
- There will be NO Holy water as you enter and NO hymn books provided as sadly singing is not permitted. We will also not be providing daily or weekly Mass sheets either. If you wish to print out your own Mass sheet, and bring it with you and take it home afterwards, this will be available on our website as it is currently. Please remember to take your printed copy home with you.

- The Toilets will be closed. **No Exceptions!**
- The Repository and Information Area will be closed.
- The Confessional will be closed. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) can be celebrated with Fr Carlos after weekday Mass (during August) between 10.15am – 10.45am only, and appointments will need to be booked via the office. Confessions will be heard outside and not inside the Church.
- The Lady Chapel will be closed and there will be NO Candles
- There will be NO requirement for Readers, Eucharistic Ministers or Servers to assist at Mass at the current time. The Sanctuary area and the Sacristy will be restricted and accessible only to Fr Peter and Fr Carlos
- There will be NO physical sign of peace by shaking hands.
- At the end of Mass, Communion will be distributed under one kind by Father **into your hand only**. Parishioners on each pew will be called up in turn. Please take all of your belongings with you at that time as immediately after you have received the Blessed Sacrament you will not be permitted to return to your place but will be requested to leave the Church following the signed one way system exiting down the side aisles and the side porches. The main doors are for entry only, however any Parishioners with mobility issues and who require the use of the ramp will be assisted out of these doors by the Stewards.
- Please sanitise your hands again before you leave with the hand gel provided.
- Collection buckets will be provided near to each exit point for your weekly donations under the eye of the Stewards.
- Immediately, when the Church is empty, the Stewards / Cleaners will sanitise each pew, door handles, sweep and wash the floor. Disposable aprons, gloves and cleaning equipment will be provided.
- Collection money will be ‘bagged’ by the Stewards and given to Father to be kept in the safe for 72 hours before counting and banking.
- Any rubbish (including paper, gloves, masks and aprons) will be ‘double bagged’ and disposed of in the black bins in Cardinals walk.
- Any ‘found property’ left in the pews will be double bagged and if not collected will be disposed of.

As the current situation is anticipated to continue in the months ahead, we still need more volunteers to make all this work.

We need more people to act as Stewards each time the Church is open, **and also more people to help with the cleaning of the Church after each Mass.**

If we cannot recruit enough people then we will not be able to open as often as we have said we wish to.

If you can help, please do contact the Parish Office. Thank you very much.

Parish Note Friday 17th July 2020 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Re-opening of St Joseph and the English Martyrs Church

Bishop's Stortford - St Joseph & The English Martyr <bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk>

Fri 7/17/2020 3:30 PM

To: Bishop's Stortford - St Joseph & The English Martyr <bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk>

📎 1 attachments (26 KB)

Re Opening St Josephs Church Fr Peter.docx;

Dear All

I hope that you are well.

Please find attached this weeks Sunday message from Fr Peter which can also be found on the 'News' section of our website. This is a very **important** detailed read relating to the opening of St Joseph's Church for Mass on **Saturday 1st August 2020** and the strict rules in operation. If you know of any Parishioners who do not subscribe to receive this email or do not have access to our web site, please may you kindly notify them and consider printing off Fr Peter's message for them. Thank you.

Whilst sitting in the garden last weekend, my eyes were suddenly drawn to the blades of grass on my freshly cut lawn, which appeared to be 'rippling'. I stared at the ground for a few seconds, thinking that I really did need glasses, when I heard a 'shriek' from a neighbouring garden. In simultaneous harmony, the shrieking turned in to a chorus of perfectly pitched yells and squeals over adjacent fences, my own dulcet tones now included, with every other 'verse' appearing to feature the phrase, 'Flying Ants'. This was not a spin off of a cappella pop group from the 1980's, the 'Flying Pickets', but a swarm of winged insects which were hastily crawling out of the ground and taking off one by one, like mini 'harrier jump jets' into the blue sky aloft. Apparently, the swarm was so big in our region, that it showed up on the BBC weather radar, which is quite amazing. I must admit that ants are not really my favourite insect, but they are an important part of the ecosystem and having an ant colony also means that air can get into the soil which keeps it healthy. Ants may be small, but they can have a huge impact and are extremely hard working creatures. Accordingly to National Geographic, there are over 12,000 ant species in the world, they are the longest living insects (one Queen ant can live up to 30 years), they can carry 50 times their body weight and will work together to carry large objects as a group. Ants can be found on every continent apart from 'Antarctica' and are very social, living in a formicary. Ants arose during the Cretaceous period around 130 million years ago, the same time as dinosaurs. The largest ant nest ever found was over 3,700 miles wide in Argentina in 2000. This ginormous colony housed 33 ant populations which had merged into one giant super colony, with millions of nests and billions of workers!

Zoom - Thank you as always to John and the 9am music Group for kindly hosting the Zoom Mass every Sunday since lock down

Topic: Family Mass via Zoom during lock-down (music starting at 8:45am)

Time: Jul 19, 2020 08:30 AM London

Every week on Sun, until Jul 26, 2020,

Jul 19, 2020 08:30 AM

Jul 26, 2020 08:30 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89508074176>

Meeting ID: 895 0807 4176

Link to Calendar invite is parishioners want to add it to their diary.

One tap mobile:

+442030512874,,89508074176# United Kingdom

Dial-in by phone:

0203 051 2874

The numbers are standard rate numbers (not free unless you have inclusive minutes), but they are not premium numbers.

Hymns from Fr Carlos

Please find the hymns for Masses on the 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time for Sat 6pm and Sun 9am Masses)

Entrance Hymn - 929 - O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Words - https://hymnary.org/text/o_lord_hear_my_prayer_o_lord_hear

Melody - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f51n-yb11dY>

Recessional Hymn - 721 - O Lord, My God

Words - <https://www.music-ministry.org/hymns/o-lord-my-god/>

Melody - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87hvyppnmXq8>

'BIG Socially Distanced Clean Up' - On **Monday 27th July from 11am onwards** we will be having a 'BIG' socially distanced' clean up of the interior of St Joseph's Church. Thank you to those who have already offered their services to assist. If you are fit and healthy, not isolating and free to help, please contact the office so that we know that you are coming and we will have protective equipment ready and waiting for you (disposable gloves, mask and apron). The Church will remain closed on this day. Our meeting point for volunteers will be outside the front of the Windhill Churches Centre at 11am.

Canon Eddie Matthews RIP - We have placed on the ' News' section of our web site the full Obituary for Canon Eddie RIP.

Canon Eddie died peacefully at the East Surrey Hospital on 1 April 2020. He had written down what he would like at his funeral – as much music as possible, both hymns and the parts of the Mass, and he had chosen the scripture readings. He could not have foreseen the restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic and he did not have the funeral he envisaged, but he did have, and has, the prayers of all who knew him – prayers in thanksgiving for his life and ministry and for the repose of his soul.

May this faithful Priest rest in peace and rise in glory.

Canon Eddie's funeral took place on 24 April at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Crawley with Bishop John Sherrington presiding.

On Thursday 1st April 2021 we hope to hold an evening Memorial Mass in memory of Canon Eddie RIP at St Joseph and the English Martyrs. More details will follow in due course, but please make a note of the date in your diary.

Sunday reflection kindly produced by Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, for 'The God Who Speaks' initiative
Meditate

In all these agricultural parables the farmer appears as the main character. He has confidence that the fruit will come. We are called to learn patience from the farmer, who waits for the produce to come up. Our task is to sow the seed. God will give it growth in due season.

Act

Darnel produces a fruit which can be poisonous. Take a moment to see what are the actions you are doing and words you are using and if the time has come try to stop those which are not healthy.

Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage As the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage cannot take place this year, a virtual pilgrimage will take place instead from 26th June to 1st August, with a full programme of Masses and devotions. Full details can be found on the events page of the diocesan website. All are welcome to join in this virtual pilgrimage on the dedicated Westminster Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9AT-YIsH22Hbp2rnIG7jsA>

A Catholic Response to George Floyd and Black Lives Matter Westminster Justice and Peace Commission are running an event exploring how we respond to racial injustice and discrimination as a diverse and multicultural Catholic community. This online event takes place on 24th July from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Guest speakers include Baroness Scotland (London, UK) and Leslye Colvin (Alabama, USA) who will guide a reflection on responses and what action to take. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-catholic-response-to-george-floyd-and-black-livesmatter-tickets-112811815176>

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the Pupils, Parents, Teachers, Staff and Governors of St Joseph's and St Mary's Schools as they break for a well deserved summer holiday following what has been a very challenging term.

Progress on the Underfloor Heating Project - We have uploaded photographs on to the News section of the web site so that you can see the progress of the work on the new floor at St Joseph's. On 20th - 22nd July inclusive, work will begin on connecting us to a 3 Phase electricity supply and new meter installed which will involve digging up the pavement outside of the Church.

CAFOD has joined forces with the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to help millions of vulnerable people whose lives are at risk as the coronavirus pandemic spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. Families who have been forced to flee their homes in places including Syria, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, now face another deadly threat as coronavirus takes hold in new areas. Donations to the DEC's Coronavirus Appeal will support vulnerable families by providing handwashing facilities, clean water, soap, and hand sanitiser, promoting public information messages on ways people can stay safe and protect others and supporting health systems and aid workers by providing training, personal protective equipment, and medical supplies for frontline responders.

You can visit [CAFOD's secure donation page](#) to support the DEC appeal.

BBC Radio 4 this Sunday morning, at 8:10am, BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship programme comes from Yorkshire with a special service "A Word for All Seasons". Fr Michael Hall will reflect on how the 'God who Speaks' meets us in the changing circumstances of our lives – especially significant at a time when many Christians will have been turning to the Bible for comfort through the coronavirus pandemic.

Why we need art during this pandemic - An interesting article written by Fleur Dorrell, the Catholic Scripture engagement Manager for the Bible Society and the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales.

https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/content/explore_the_bible/bible_in_transmission/files/2020_summer/Alchemy_for_the_masses.pdf

The Art of Dying Well Podcasts - These programmes aim to make death and dying something we can talk about openly without discomfort or fear. The latest episodes include 'Lockdown, loss and pandemic trauma' and 'Dying, Recovering and Caring during the COVID-19 Pandemic'

First Holy Communion 2021 - Applications are now open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2021 for those Children who live in the parish, which will take place on Saturday 8th May 2021 at St Joseph and the English Martyrs and on Sunday 9th May 2021 at Most Holy Redeemer and Holy Cross. The preparation programme is only for those children who will be receiving the Sacrament within the parish and not elsewhere. It will start between November 2020 - May 2021 and will consist of 10 separate sessions. There will 3-4 sessions for Parents. The Children are expected to attend each session and the 9am Mass that Sunday. **Children should be 8 years old on or before 31 August 2021.**

What do I need to do to register my Child for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2021?

- Firstly check that your Child qualifies under the above conditions i.e. they will be 8 years old on or before 31st August 2021, that you live in the parish and your Child will be receiving the Sacrament in the parish and not elsewhere.
- Email the parish office on **bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk** requesting a First Holy Communion application form **for your child only** giving the **FULL NAME** and **DATE of BIRTH of your CHILD**.
- A personalised application form containing your Child's name and date of birth will then be emailed to you as a PDF document.
- Please print off the PDF form, fill in the remaining details requested on both sides of the form, sign and post back the hard copy in an envelope to 3, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 2ND
- When you have submitted the 'hard copy' of the form, please then email **fhcstjosephs@gmail.com** so that the First Holy Communion Catechist can send you an acknowledgment email and keep you updated of proposed sessions.
- The Cut off date for the hard copy of all forms to have been received at 3, Windhill is **Tuesday 1st September 2020 with no exceptions..**
- If your Child has any special needs, requirements, medical conditions or needs additional support, please ensure that your form is submitted as soon as possible. This is to ensure that we can contact you early and have plenty of time to better understand what support may be required and also make any necessary arrangements.
- If you have any questions re the application process please contact the Parish office - Thank you
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Parishioner of the week - Another joint award this week. Stewart and Anne Woods, throughout lock down have been regular viewers of our live stream service and will always contact with the office with positive offers of information, ideas and advice which is much appreciated. Stewart noticed recently that a Church in Hampstead had a particular contact less card machine for donations. This is something which we are now considering following further advice from the Diocese and will be discussed with our Finance Committee at their next meeting. Our lovely St Joseph's Choir with our very talented organist Duncan Lane have been busy and have created a CD from rehearsals gone by which was kindly dropped off this week by Ann Wocjik. It was truly wonderful to be able to hear their singing again ! Fr Peter now has the CD and hopes to play it in the Church.

To finish off this week on the odd subject of ants, it is interesting that they have often been used in fables and children's stories to represent industriousness and cooperative effort. They also are mentioned in the Book of Proverbs 6:6-11 'The Idler and the Ant'.

*Idler, go to the ant;
ponder her ways and grow wise:
no one gives her orders.
no overseer, no master,
yet all through the summer she makes sure of her food,
and gathers her supplies at harvest time.
How long do you intend to lie there, idler?
When are you going to rise from your sleep?
A little sleep, a little drowsiness,
a little folding of the arms to take life easier,
and like a vagrant, poverty is at your elbow
and, like a beggar, want.*

Please don't forget that if you are able to help with the Big clean up on Monday 27th July at 11am please contact the Parish Office and also if you are able to Steward and Clean for when we do open the Church for Mass on Saturday 1st August. Thank you very much!

Have a very happy and healthy week.

Best wishes

Debbie

Parish Administrator

(Mon- Fri 9am - 3pm)

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*

3 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 2ND
Telephone: 01279 654063

email: bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

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

Follow our Live streaming on www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford

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