

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Stevenage

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How Long, O Lord?

During the past few months, you may have felt like saying, "How long, O Lord, is this pandemic going on for?" Well, it's (slightly) comforting to know that this is a very biblical prayer! We find in the psalms, for example: "How long, O Lord, will you forget me? How long will you hide your face?" (Psalm 11:2). God doesn't always seem to answer, but we know that he has a plan, and we are part of the plan! As we continue to pray for our sick and those who feel isolated or troubled at this time, we take heart, knowing that so many of our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world are praying for a way out of this terrible situation.

Gabrielle Aplin sings in the song *November*: "I always used to love November, but now it always floods with rain" - appropriate words! Despite the gloom of this time of year, we note that November begins with All Saints - as we celebrate our brothers and sisters now in glory - and continues with an emphasis on prayers for our deceased loved ones, especially those who've left us in the past year. Among these is the Catholic artist Stephen Foster, whose work adorns so many churches around the country; his last work (completed after his death by his brother Peter) was the beautiful reredos now installed around the tabernacle of St Joseph's. We give thanks for this gentle, prayerful man who used his considerable artistic talents to give glory to God.

We include all the deceased of our parish and of the world especially in our November Masses:

***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen!***

This is what the new carving around the tabernacle represents:

Temple (Holy Spirit)

Burning Bush

Bread of Heaven

Prayer - incense - life pattern

Star (4 cornered star) monstrance

Host - Crucifix"

Stars - (teaching)

Baptism

St Joseph's, Bedwell	St Hilda's, Shephall	Transfiguration, Old Town
Private Individual Prayer:	Private Individual Prayer:	Private Individual Prayer:
Whole church: Sunday 10am - 12 noon	Monday 9.00-10.00am	Monday 9.00-10.00am
Porch: Monday to Saturday (except Tuesday): 8.30am - 6pm	Tuesday 9.00-10.00am	Friday 9.00-10.00am
Please wear a face-covering and sanitize kneeler and chair when arriving and leaving.	Saturday 9.00-10.00am Saturday 6.00-7.00pm	Saturday 5.00-6.00pm
	Sunday 10.00am-12noon	Sunday 9.00-10.00am
	Please wear a face-covering.	Please wear a face-covering.

A special prayer for those housebound, lonely and anxious.