

The Carpenter Newsletter 3rd April 2022 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

Fri 4/1/2022 3:33 PM

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

Good afternoon

Please find attached this week's edition of 'The Carpenter' newsletter. Also attached is the Sunday message from Fr Antonio on the Fifth Sunday of Lent and a sheet detailing events and Liturgies through Holy week and Easter which can be found on our website. Hard copies are also available in the Church.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the family and friends of Jaime Isaac Franco- Granja RIP who died recently at the age of 100 years old and also remember our dear Canon Eddie Matthews who died two years ago today during the first lockdown.

Eternal rest grant unto Jaime and Canon Eddie O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

This weekend there will be a service of thanksgiving to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding in 1922 of the town's branch of the Royal British Legion which will take place at St Michael's Church in Windhill on Sunday April 3 at 3pm. The car park behind St Joseph and the English Martyrs (which is not owned by us) will be used for the event and may affect traffic and parking for parishioners attending the 6pm Mass on Sunday.

I hope that you have a very happy, healthy and Holy Easter break.

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*

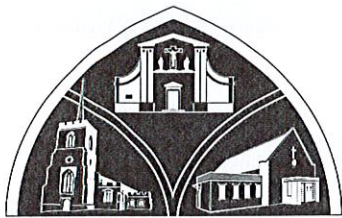
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Parish Website: <https://www.rcstortford.org.uk>

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

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The Catholic Parish
of Bishop's Stortford

the CARPENTER



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3 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2ND

Parish Office: Monday—Friday 9am to 3pm—Administrator, Mrs Debbie Jackson

Catechetical Co-ordinator— Mrs Sophie Sullivan

www.rcstortford.org.uk

The 5th Sunday of Lent

3 April 2022

Our priests are:

Fr Peter Harris (Parish Priest)
Fr Antonio Pineda (Asst Priest)

PRAY FOR UKRAINE



On 3rd April 2022, Churches and Christians from across the UK and Ireland will come together in an act of witness to pray and light candles for Ukraine, for an end to the conflict, and for all those affected by the terrible impact of war.

The Government scheme is open to those who already know a refugee family they would like to host. Most people will not be in this category. However even though you don't know a Ukrainian person you can still host & register your interest with RESET (a leading Community Sponsorship of Refugees charity) where individuals can register to be matched with a Ukrainian person or family.
www.homesforukraine.org.uk

Come and join us at
St Joseph's for ADORATION of the
Blessed Sacrament and take the
opportunity to celebrate the

Sacrament of RECONCILIATION

each Saturday
with one of our
priests
between
3pm and 4pm



CONTACTLESS QR code
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES are now available to be collected from the Sacristy. Your envelopes will have the same number as previous years. Please do not use until next weekend 9/10 April. If you no longer wish to donate using envelopes, or you would like to start using envelopes or have changed your address, please contact the office. Please see our Financial Matters newsletter on Gift aid and planned giving.

HYMN BOOKS—Through the great kindness of one of our Parishioners we have been able to buy new hymn books which will be on the shelves soon. Many of you kindly contributed financially to the old books in memory of someone special to you and we placed a label in 'their' hymn book. We are happy to 'transfer' their memory to a new book if you would please write down their name and hand it in to No 3 or the Sacristy after Mass, please mark your envelope "old hymn book name". Thank you.

HOLIDAY BIBLE WEEK –1-5 August 2022 Registration is now open! For all info visit their website www.holidaybibleweek.co.uk. Volunteers are needed.

RESONATE—7th April, 7.00-9.00pm: Westminster Youth Service Evening for Young Adults at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN. 'Caring for Creation in London and Hertfordshire.' Facilitated by Colette Joyce, Westminster Justice & Peace Coordinator. Sign up here: <https://form.jotform.com/220512808267353>

MY DAY BY DAY BOOKS—Next weekend there will be the opportunity to collect a copy of 'My Day by Day' Easter booklet which were kindly donated by a past parishioner.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE WEEKLY—The Universe Catholic Weekly have launched their new online newspaper with the full support of their first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order your Digital 4 weeks FREE trial supply by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

THE PASSAGE – a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme. Every £1 donated online by 12noon on Tuesday 19 April makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. Please visit: <https://bit.ly/BigGiveMarch22> to support the campaign

LOVE STORTFORD –Save the date-Saturday 18 June-24 June spreading kindness and taking God's love to the community. More info to follow..

'God does not require that we be successful, only that we be faithful' St Teresa of Calcutta

Please remember to complete a Parish Census Form for your household— Thank you very much!
OR preferably you can do it online via our website, it only takes a few minutes..
www.rcstortford.org.uk/register

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

Sophie Sullivan, our Catechetical Coordinator and her husband Mike shall be running the next two-part Baptism preparation course on the 25/4 & 2/5 8pm –9.15pm via Zoom. The places will be limited to a maximum of 10 couples on each. If you would like to attend this course, please contact the parish office ASAP so that we can send you an invitation in plenty of time. You are requested to attend the course prior to your Child being baptised. If you have not yet completed a Baptism application form, please contact the office or speak with Father so that we can assist you with this.

HOLY WEEK 2022



Please visit our website or colle

ct a printed sheet which will give you details of the events and liturgies through Holy Week and Easter.

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Fifth Sunday of Lent

"Go away and do not sin anymore." (John 8:11)

Jesus' words to the woman in this Sunday's Gospel sounded like instructions, orders or even a warning. Some may say they were words of advice. But in truth, Jesus was speaking healing and empowering words. He was giving her the power to go—to walk away from her former way of life—and to begin living a new way.

This is one of many stories in the Gospel of John that recount Jesus bringing healing and new life to someone. He said to a royal official, "Go; your son will live," and the boy recovered (John 4:50). He said to the man lying by the pool of Bethesda, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk," and he was healed (5:8). He said to Lazarus, "Come out," and the dead man rose (11:43). Clearly, when Jesus spoke, he was offering his listeners the power to do something new.

By saying these words to the woman, Jesus wasn't just forgiving her. He was—as Isaiah describes in our first reading—making a way for her through the wasteland of her sin and offering her strength and restoration (Isaiah 43:19).

As we approach the end of the Lenten season, you can have a similar experience when you come to Jesus in repentance, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As you open your heart and your conscience to him, let him speak words of healing and restoration to you. Let him do something new in you.

So look for an opportunity to go to Confession before Easter. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at St Joseph and the English Martyrs Church every Saturday, from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. During the Holy Week, there will be extra opportunities (see the Holy Week timetable). Confessions are also available on request. When you come to Confession, you can trust that the One who said, "Let there be light" is ready to speak words of healing and strength into your woundedness and weakness (Genesis 1:3). As the priest prays that God would bring you "pardon and peace" in the absolution, know that Jesus never tires of speaking these words to you. Every time you come to him, you can be strengthened and receive the grace you need to begin again ... and start something new.

Fr Antonio Pineda