



**The Catholic Parish
of Bishop's Stortford**

the CARPENTER

Tel: 01279 654063 | Email: bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

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 Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

24 April 2022

Our priests are:

Fr Peter Harris (Parish Priest)

Fr Antonio Pineda (Asst Priest)

PRAY FOR UKRAINE



Flower Arrangers wanted!

St Michael's Church are holding a Flower Festival in aid of their Bell's Restoration Fund. The dates of the Flower Festival will be 2nd – 5th June 2022 and will be celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. They would like to invite flower arrangers to take part in this festival, the theme being "Through the Years", bringing together local churches, schools, flower clubs and communities in this event.

The set-up date will be the 1st June.

For further info, please email

Claire Conquest

claire.conquest62@gmail.com

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 ↓



REQUIEM MASS IN WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL—SATURDAY 28 MAY AT 12.30PM

celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols for those priests who died during the coronavirus lockdown when churches were closed and during the time of restricted numbers at funerals in churches. These measures impacted the funerals of 19 priests including that of our former parish priest, Canon Eddie Matthews RIP. The Mass will be live streamed: <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk>

SHORT PLAY—Saturday 7th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Charis Centre, Churches Together is hosting a performance of 'My Place' by Riding Lights Theatre Company in partnership with Home for Good, a Christian charity which encourages and supports individuals, families and churches to provide safe and loving homes for children in the care system, through fostering and adoption. Tickets £10 (£8 conc) from Riding Lights 01904 613000 or online at ridinglights.org/my-place.

MASS FOR MIGRANTS—Monday 2nd May 2pm Banner procession and 2.30pm Mass at Westminster Cathedral

PRAYER VIGIL OUTSIDE THE HOME OFFICE—with Westminster Justice & Peace and London Catholic Worker to pray for migrants seeking safe passage to the UK. Monday 25th April, 12.30-1.30pm: Contacts Barbara Kentish (J & P) barbarakentish@talktalk.net and Brother Johannes Maertens (LCW) johanmaertens@hotmail.com

VOLUNTEERING IN HERTFORDSHIRE—<https://www.govolherts.org.uk/> Visit the link to search the wealth of exciting volunteering opportunities currently available in Herts.

A DAY WITH MARY—Saturday 14 May 2022 10am—5.30pm at Most Precious Blood & St Edmund, Hertford Road, London N9. A day of instruction, devotion and intercession based on the message given at Fatima in 1917. Visit www adaywithmary.org

CONCERT FOR UKRAINE—A special fund-raising concert, welcoming the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral Choir of London and a host of Ukrainian musicians, including the Zhayvir Bandura Ensemble. Saturday, 7 May 2022 at 19:30 Kings Place

90 York Way, N19 London <https://m.facebook.com/events/427182089213935/>
MARY'S MEALS—A Catholic charity serving nutritious school meals to children living in some of the poorest countries. £15.90 will feed a child for a whole school year. Please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk

THANK YOU—to everyone who helped raise £477.77 for the Holy Places collection.

'Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world'

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

Catholic Listeners

A new confidential listening helpline will launch this month. Catholic Listeners, Diocese of Westminster, has been set up for those who are returning to the faith. The helpline is all about listening to others, listening to those who might have become isolated due to the pandemic. This service is based on the Landings ethos of compassionate listening. Although not a counselling service, we have a professional team trained on signposting to other services and agencies. Sometimes just communicating with someone who listens and understands can help clarify a way forward. Simply talking about a problem can ease a burden. We aim to help those in need of a safe space to talk. Contact Ade at Catholiclisteners@gmail.com or 0800 4480704

ZamKnit & Chat



The Knitting Group Zamknit will meet on Tuesday, 3rd May at 2pm in the Most Holy Redeemer Extension.

Knitters and non-profits are most welcome.

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

The second Sunday of Easter is also Divine Mercy Sunday. At first glance, the Gospel this Sunday, well known though it is, doesn't have mercy as its theme. But read it more closely and you'll soon realise that the famous story of the Doubting Thomas has mercy at its core.

You might expect Jesus to be disappointed in Thomas when he didn't believe the other apostles that Jesus was risen from the dead. But Jesus wasn't upset. Instead, he was compassionate and appeared again when Thomas was present. He was patient with Thomas' weakness, and went up to him, offering his hands for Thomas to probe the nail marks. This astonishing mercy drew forth from Thomas a profound profession of faith: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

That's what mercy does: it leads us from unbelief to belief. It draws us to a deeper faith in the Lord. Why? Because, like Thomas, it surprises us. It undercuts our defenses and sweeps us off our feet. We come face-to-face with a God who doesn't simply forgive our sins from afar but who comes close to us. Confronted by our weakness, he doesn't get annoyed or angry. When he sees our failings, he is full of compassion. He shows us the mercy that "endures forever" (Psalm 118:2).

St Faustina, called the "Apostle of Divine Mercy", heard Jesus tell her, "I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My Merciful Heart" (Diary, 1588). This is just what Jesus did for Thomas and it is just what he wants to do for us.

This Divine Mercy Sunday today, let us think about the ways in which we've experienced mercy from God. Let the memory of these experiences fill us with a greater love for Jesus—who is Mercy incarnate—and draw us to a deeper faith.

Fr Antonio Pineda