



**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](http://www.rcstortford.org.uk)

The Third Sunday of Easter

1 May 2022

## Our priests are:

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

## PRAY FOR UKRAINE



*Calling All Golfers!  
The Charity Golf Day is back....*



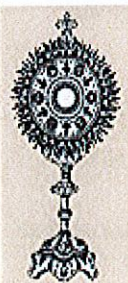
FRIDAY 10 JUNE 2022  
at  
GREAT HADHAM COUNTRY CLUB.

*Starting with coffee and bacon rolls,  
18 holes of golf and carvery dinner in  
the evening - all for £60.*

*Previous players will receive an  
email from David Wilkinson.*

*For more info contact  
[wilkinsondavid@mac.com](mailto:wilkinsondavid@mac.com) or  
Angela Tyson on  
[angelatyson2021@hotmail.com](mailto:angelatyson2021@hotmail.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 ↓



**PRIEST TRAINING FUND COLLECTION**—Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend.

This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 58 men studying at Allen hall seminary, 17 of whom are from our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also from our Diocese. Last year four men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood to service as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd.

Donation envelopes are available at the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can make your donation online by visiting [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations). Thank you for your generosity.

**ACROSS**—On Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 May, after all Masses at St Joseph's we will have the opportunity to hear more about the wonderful work of Across – a local organisation which takes people with special care needs on a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Some of the Across team have just returned from a trip to this beautiful place and would love to tell you a bit more about it, in anticipation of our own parish pilgrimage with Across planned for October 2022. As a special one-off, they will also be serving donuts after every Mass outside the church. Bacon rolls & hot drinks will also be on offer in the parish hall after the 9am and 11am Masses.

**GIRLGUIDING VOLUNTEERS**—wanted in Bishop's Stortford. Since 2020, 2 Rainbow, 2 Brownie and 2 Guide units have closed— this is due to leaders retiring, ill health or moving away. This has meant the loss of 120 places for girls in the local area. Sadly at the end of the summer term 2 more are going to close. If interested visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved) or email :[bishopsstortforddistrict@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk](mailto:bishopsstortforddistrict@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk)

**GREAT ST MARY'S SCULPTURE EVENT**—Great St Mary's Church, Sawbridgeworth is going to be holding a churchyard sculpture event during the first weekend of July 2022, and they are inviting Sawbridgeworth schools and organisations to create and contribute their own sculpture. For more details and to register your interest, please contact: [office@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk)

**REPOSITORY**—Thank you to Ann, Giovanna & Yvonne who restocked the Repository this week and a reminder that we now accept card payments via our contactless machines!

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](http://www.rcstortford.org.uk/register)

## YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!!

We would like to be in the position, to be able to start to offer regular refreshments after Mass again at St Joseph's, HOWEVER, this is completely reliant on parishioners being willing and able to volunteer to help to make this happen. It would involve setting up, serving tea/coffee, clearing away and cleaning the hall/kitchen afterwards and ensuring that the WCC is left clean and secure after each session. The more volunteers we have to be able to share the tasks each week to run a rota system, the better! If you would like to come and join the team, get involved to serve others and make new friends, please let Father or the Parish office know. Thank you!

*The Universe Catholic Weekly is  
thrilled to announce a launch of a  
new online newspaper.*

*Order your Digital 4  
weeks FREE trial supply by calling  
Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or  
email: [michelle.jones@universecat-holicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecat-holicweekly.co.uk)*



### The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Third Sunday of Easter

Peter in this Sunday's Gospel reminds me of stained glass windows. Stained glass windows get their name from the stains that colour them. Artisans add impurities such as metallic salts to the glass, which produce the rich, deep colours. These glass panes exude beauty at all times but it is only when the sunlight illuminates them that their true splendour appears.

We can imagine Peter's discomfort when Jesus asked, "Do you love me?" not once, but three times. Peter could not have missed the link between Jesus' threefold questioning and Peter's threefold denial. His flaws and failures were all suddenly revealed for everyone to see. It was as if a spotlight were shining on Peter and his "impurities." He could only reply, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you".

But Jesus was as loving and as merciful as ever. He did not berate or even correct Peter. Instead, he immediately commands him to feed his sheep. Had denied Jesus three times but this did not disqualify him from following Jesus or serving him. Rather, they served as lessons in humility and prepared him for his mission.

We all make mistakes. We all struggle as we try to follow the Lord. Our weaknesses and sins hinder us from loving and obeying Jesus as we should. But like Peter, we can learn from our failures and humbly return to the Lord for the grace to begin again. Nothing disqualifies us from our call to be Jesus' disciples and feed his sheep. Just as impurities in stained glass bring forth beauty when the sun shines upon it, our weaknesses can show the Lord's grace when we come into his light. The moral of this Sunday's Gospel is that we should not stay in the darkness counting our stains. Jesus invites us to come into the light and let it shine through us.

*Fr Antonio Pineda*