



**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 Fifth Sunday of Easter

15 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.*

*Entry forms for those without a
computer at the back of St Josephs*

*For more info contact
wilkinsondavid@mac.com or
Angela Tyson on
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 ↓



WELCOME AND THANK YOU — to Fr Tom Forde who joins us this weekend to celebrate Mass whilst Fr Peter is away.

VACANCY—SUBJECT LEADER OF RE AT ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL— Full Time - MPS/UPS (Fringe) + TLR1c (£10,199) Pay Award Pending. Commencing September 2022 - CLOSING DATE: Tuesday 17 May 2022 10am <https://bit.ly/3FqhnDE>. There are also various vacancies posted on the school website www.stmarys.net/about-us/vacancies/

WEDNESDAY COFFEE AFTER MORNING MASS — Following a well attended gathering, we will be continuing to offer refreshments in the WCC each Wednesday after Mass from 10am-11.30am. Just drop in – catch up with old friends or make new ones! We look forward to seeing you. Thank you to Alison, Andrew and Fiona for hosting.

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Priest Training Fund and Across.

PERMANENT DIACONATE — 'COME & SEE' - 21 May 2022- The Permanent Deacon is a man who serves the Church through ministry of Word, Altar and Charity, under the direction of the Bishop and Priest. For men who may be interested in learning more about the Permanent Diaconate, they are invited to a 'Come & See' Morning on Saturday 21 May, 10am - 12noon at Church of The Guardian Angels, 377 Mile End Road, E3 4QS. For further info please contact Deacon Adrian Cullen adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk or 07961 594725 www.rcdow.org.uk/vocations/permanent-diaconate/

STRICTLY STORTFORD—South Mill Arts Centre 19 June 2.30pm & 6.30pm. Come and support some of our parishioners who are raising money for Hope for Justice whose aim is to stop Modern Slavery. It will be a great performance with dancers trained by professionals, judges, prizes and an international singer. Hope for Justice will also be giving a short presentation. Tickets £21.50+

LOVE STORTFORD — SAT 18- FRI 24 JUNE- Churches Together are organising "Love Stortford", an initiative with the aim of highlighting the Christian presence in our town, by doing activities that show the love of God to the community. The main event is getting involved in the town carnival on Sat 18th June, but there are other events, like litter-picking, acts of kindness and serving tea and coffee, that you can take part in. It would be great to have a strong presence from our church, visit our website or contact Sophie bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY—£20 every 3 months for an online subscription. Visit <https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk/>

CONGRATULATIONS— to those in our parish who will be attending the Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony at the Cathedral this weekend.

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

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!!

Thank you to everyone who has offered their services to help run the 9am & 11am refreshments after Mass so far. Before we start a rota, we really do need some more volunteers please, particularly for the 11am Mass. 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, 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!

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

At 3pm Sunday 22 May

HOLY CROSS

There will be a short service of thanksgiving in St Andrew's / Holy Cross, Church Lane, Much Hadham, to mark the departure of the Daughters of the Cross of Liege from St Elizabeth's Home, and to give thanks for all the Sisters' work there since 1903. All are invited. Tea will be served afterwards

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

The first reading this Sunday is about evangelisation. When we think of evangelisation, which all Christians are called to do, we are probably less than enthusiastic. We may lack the eagerness to go travelling far and wide as Paul and Barnabas did. We think of the “many hardships” that these two apostles experienced as they went from town to town proclaiming the good news (Acts 14:22). And perhaps we say to ourselves, “I can’t do that!”

But remember this: God does not choose the equipped, but rather equips the chosen. Paul and Barnabas’ effectiveness came from “what God had done with them,” not from their own natural abilities (Acts 14:27). Their success in one town and failure in another did not depend on their public speaking skills or their theological knowledge. The only thing they did was share the story of Jesus and their experience of his salvation. They left everything else to the Holy Spirit because they knew that only he could change people’s hearts.

And it is the same for us. Our call to become a “missionary disciple” is nothing more—and nothing less—than the call to our love of God and neighbour. We don’t have to explain all of Scripture or defend every Church teaching. Often, we don’t even have to say anything! The witness of our lives may be all that’s necessary to spark in someone a greater desire to seek out the Lord for themselves.

The key is not what we say, but what God does with what we say. It’s not about rhetorics; it’s about the power of the Spirit to touch someone’s heart. And that’s not something we control. The only thing we can do is speak from the heart and leave the rest to the Lord.

Fr Antonio Pineda