



The Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford

www.rcstortford.org.uk

Our priests are:

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

PRAY FOR UKRAINE



St Elizabeth's Summer Fayre

25 June 2022 12pm-4pm
*Family Fun—Live Music—Craft Stalls
BBQ & Afternoon Tea*
www.stelizabeths.org.uk

Much Hadham Open Gardens Day

Sunday 26 June 2022 12pm—5pm
Entrance £5 (*accompanied children
free*)
*Registration & free parking at the
Village Hall*
*Gardens large & small will be open,
with access to the High Street*
Enquiries Boo Williams
01279 842805
boo@booandjames.co.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 ↓



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

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

29 May 2022

CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS— have you ever thought about supporting the parish by becoming a catechist? It sounds like a very formal term, but a catechist is simply an ordinary member of the parish who helps to "echo", or pass on, the Good News of Jesus to others. There are a number of children, young people and adults who would greatly benefit from having you journeying alongside them as they discover more about the Catholic faith. We have a number of very dedicated catechists, but we are always in need of more! Expertise not required, but a willingness to share a little of your own faith and to learn, so that you can pass on the faith effectively to others. We are sure you will find that you grow in your own faith by volunteering to help others. Training and support can be given to anyone willing to assist this vital work of handing on the faith. The main areas of need are: Baptism and First Holy Communion (children), Confirmation (young people) and RCIA & Marriage (adults). You could volunteer individually or as a married couple. Please contact Sophie to ask any questions by emailing bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk or chat to one of our priests after Mass. Visit our website <https://rcstortford.org.uk/ministries/catechists/>

ADVANCE NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE—The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday 2 & Friday 3 June for the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday.

NO MASS will be celebrated at St Joseph's on Friday 3 June. The Mass on Thursday 2 June will be at the slightly later time of 10am.

ST JOSEPH'S PRE SCHOOL—is open for new applications. It will be under new management as of September when Mrs Kim Foster will head up the school. She has been a teacher at St Joseph's Catholic School for the past 9 years, working in KS1 and more recently, the EYFS. Wrap around care is also available for 2 to 5 year olds. Funded and private places. Please pop in, call us on 07720948441, or email on stjoespre@gmail.com
THANK YOU—to everyone who helped to organise and attended the Thanksgiving service at Holy Cross at St Andrews last Sunday afternoon.

CAR PARKING—Please be reminded that we do not actually own the car park behind the back of St Joseph's Church. Spaces are rented and paid for by local businesses/individuals. There are 2 clearly marked spaces reserved for our Priests which are needed by them at all times, so we kindly ask that you do not park here please. For the last two Sundays, Father has returned from celebrating Mass at Most Holy Redeemer and Holy Cross and unable to park in his allocated space so had to try to park elsewhere. Thank you.

HOLY CROSS AT ST ANDREWS— Wednesday 1 June 7pm, a Taize service led by Diana Dillon with contributions from members of both congregations and prayers for the Queen's Jubilee. All are welcome.

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

THE VIGIL PROJECT

Come and join us for a "true presence night" of adoration and prayer, led by a talented musical collective called the Vigil Project. This is an event for all ages and it takes place on Sunday 12 June at 7pm in Stonebridge, NW10. All are welcome. It's a free event and a wonderful opportunity to experience Catholic worship and song in a prayerful and uplifting atmosphere. Please email or call Sophie via the parish office or bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk



ZAMKNIT

The Knitting Group Zamknit will meet on

Monday, 6 June at 2pm- 4pm
in the MHR Extension.

All are welcome.

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

This Sunday's readings are about bearing heroic witness to Jesus through life and death. They urge us to work for greater Christian unity and to consider the power of Christian witness.

The first reading describes the martyrdom of Stephen, showing us how he bore witness to the forgiving love of Jesus by his last prayer. In the second reading, taken from the Book of Revelation, Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, is pictured as having all the forces of Heaven and earth at his disposal, standing ready to help us in our Christian witness-bearing. It is relatively easy to acknowledge our oneness with Stephen and to long for the experience of eternal oneness with "all those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb" (Rv 22:14). But to remain truly one with all of our brothers and sisters continues to be a daily challenge.

The Gospel is the last part of the "priestly prayer" of Jesus after the Last Supper. This chapter of John has been called "The Testament of Jesus" or "Jesus' High Priestly (or Intercessory) Prayer." During that long prayer, Jesus prayed first for himself – for his own glorification as he faced the cross. Then, he prayed for his disciples that they might be unified and protected in the face of opposition from the world, and finally, he prayed for those in distant lands and far-off ages, including ourselves, who would enter the Christian faith through the witness-bearing of the Apostles and their successors. This, then, is Jesus' prayer for each one of us. We have complete faith and certainty because Jesus put his confidence in God and entrusted us to Him.

We need to pray for unity and serve one another in unity. We must discuss the similarities we share with others as well as our differences. Along with prayer, we must put our words into action. This means that we are to serve one another and to love one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord. What unites us is greater than what divides us. As we move nearer to Jesus Christ, in him we move nearer to one another. Such unity is ultimately a gift of the Holy Spirit and of His guidance.

The soul of the ecumenical movement, then, is spiritual. Only by a renewal of the spiritual, by common prayer and common listening to the Word of God, can we hope to overcome the present ecumenical impasses and difficulties. In the words of Pope St John Paul II: "The door to ecumenism is opened only on our knees." In other words, ecumenism is only possible through prayer. However, we need to have a clear idea about the Catholic stand on ecumenism. In his encyclical *Ut Unum Sint*, Pope St John Paul II warns against diluting the faith for the sake of unity. He states, "the ultimate goal of the ecumenical movement is to re-establish full visible unity among all the baptised [77.1]." He adds, "It is already possible to identify the areas in need of fuller study before a true consensus of faith can be achieved."

Fr Antonio Pineda