



## The Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford

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

### Our priests are:

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

### PRAY FOR UKRAINE



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### ST ELIZABETH'S SUMMER FAYRE

25 June 2022 12pm-4pm

Family Fun—Live Music—Craft Stalls  
BBQ & Afternoon Tea

[www.stelizabeths.org.uk](http://www.stelizabeths.org.uk)

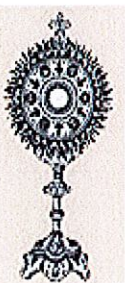
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### MUCH HADHAM OPEN GARDENS DAY

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

Come and join us at  
St Joseph's for EXPOSITION 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](mailto: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 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 June 2022

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**—the Children of our parish who shall be receiving the sacrament of their First Holy Communion this Saturday and next weekend. Thank you to Fr Peter, Fr Antonio, Sophie and our amazing team of Catechists and parents who have supported them, as well as everyone who has helped to make the day a very special one, including our flower arrangers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and Musicians.

**ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD**— We also remember and pray for the four Deacons who will be ordained into the Priesthood this Saturday at Westminster Cathedral.

**CAFOD GAP YEAR PROGRAMME**— CAFOD's Gap year programme, Step into the Gap, is a great opportunity for Young Adults aged between 18-30 to immerse themselves in interactive experiences, develop leadership skills while exploring their faith, and meeting new people. This is a chance to reflect on your role in global society while spending a year inspiring other to act for the poor and most marginalised. Based in the UK in a retreat centre or Catholic secondary school with accommodation, travel and stipend included.

For more information and how to apply for September 2022 go to [cafod.org.uk/gapyear](http://cafod.org.uk/gapyear)  
**REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET**— There is a sign-up sheet in the Sacristy with dates until the end of the year to volunteer to help with refreshments after Sunday Mass at St Joseph's. If there is no one to assist, unfortunately there will be some weeks with no refreshments on offer. Please help where you can. Thank you very much.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**— to parishioners, Gillian and Bertie Napier and Fran and Martin Agnew for their fantastic achievement in the recent 'Strictly Stortford' competition.

**CAN YOU HELP?**— Starting Thursday, 7 July between 10.30am—12.30pm, we hope to host an exercise/ Yoga session in the Windhill Churches Centre for our Ukrainian guests and their supporters. Ideally, we would like to have 2 additional helpers on site each week to welcome everyone, be a friendly face and make a cup of tea after the session. We particularly need helpers for 14 & 28 July at present. If you are free to help on those dates, please do let the parish office know ASAP. Many thanks

**UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY**— The Universe Catholic Weekly newspaper is available in a digital format on-line. Order your Digital copy by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: [michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER ENRICHMENT WEEKEND**—16-17 July 2022. St Joseph's Pastoral Centre in Hendon Marriage Encounter are hosting a non-residential marriage enrichment weekend. This is a wonderful opportunity for couples to spend time reflecting on, refreshing and rejoicing in their wonderful vocation. For details go to: <https://wwme.org.uk/weekend/me-weekendhend-on-16th-to-17th-july-2022/>

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)

### THE WELL BELOVED CLUB

On the 1st Sunday of the month, they provide a tasty two-course lunch with unlimited refreshments to people aged 65+ who are feeling lonely or socially isolated in the Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth and surrounding areas. They also run a number of different activities throughout the year.

Arrival: 12pm

Lunch: 12.30pm

Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall,  
The Forebury, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9BD  
01279 755452 • 07906 873939

Save the date....



### A PARISH PICNIC

Sunday 10 July 2022

after the 11am Mass

A chance to gather together in the Monastery gardens and enjoy a summer picnic & drinks

Sunshine 'hopefully' guaranteed!



### The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's readings are about God's call and man's commitment in answer to that call. They ask for total commitment made in total freedom with the spirit of patient love, — that is, to say an unconditional "Yes" to Jesus and to the Christian life, as a true disciple of Christ.

Jesus' response to the three would-be followers, described in the second part of the Gospel, exemplifies the wholehearted constancy and sacrificial ministry that the Christian mission requires. Jesus' response to the first man may sound sharp given that he showed willingness to become a disciple. But no doubt, Jesus saw more deeply into the man's heart than we can. Jesus was simply honest about the demands and cost of a commitment we might make too lightly and a journey we might undertake too easily.

"Let the dead bury their dead," Jesus responded to another man. This response may also sound too harsh. But this man's father was not dead or sick. He simply wished to stay with his father until his death. Jesus knew that later he would find another reason to delay the call. Jesus did not want another would-be follower to go home and bid farewell to his dear ones. Hence, Jesus rebukes him saying that the ploughman must look ahead rather than back. Looking back while ploughing causes crooked lines in the field.

We all know there is a tremendous shortage of priests and religious men. One reason could be that our young people are unwilling to make commitments to God by committing themselves to life-long celibacy, to a diocese or to the vowed life of a religious community. The argument, "I don't want to make that commitment because I don't want to give everything away," shows an incorrect notion of Christian freedom. We begin to be free only when we start the process called commitment, and our freedom is realised only when we give ourselves away in love.

Could it be that, like those three would-be followers, many people today are still confused and ill-prepared for any kind of mission for their lives? As a result, they become adept at evading Christ's call to discipleship.

*Fr Antonio Pineda*