



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



CELEBRATION: 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFFILIATION WITH THE GUILD OF ST STEPHEN

On Sunday, 12 March, our parish is celebrating the 90th year of its affiliation with the Guild of St Stephen. The Guild is an international organisation of altar servers, given papal approbation in 1905. We will celebrate our 90th anniversary at the 9:00 am Mass on 12 March. All current and former altar servers in our parish are warmly invited to attend that Mass during which they will renew their Guild promises. We will also be presenting one of our servers with a gold Guild Medal to acknowledge his amazing 50+ years of dedicated service to the Church. More details to follow.

Come and join us at St Joseph's
for EXPOSITION of the Blessed
Sacrament and celebrate the
sacrament of RECONCILIATION
each Saturday
with one of our priests
between 3:00 and 4:00 pm



CONTACTLESS QR code
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



the CARPENTER

☎ 01279 654063 | ✉ bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

📍 3 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 2ND

Parish Office: Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Administrator: Mrs Debbie Jackson | **Catechetical Co-ordinator:** Mrs Sophie Sullivan

First Sunday of Lent (A)

26 February 2023

ACCOMPANYING THE ELECT THIS LENTEN SEASON



On 25 February, those seeking full communion with the Catholic Church attended the Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral. From being catechumens (those not yet baptised) or candidates (those already baptised but seeking to be received into the Church), they became

the elect and will remain so until the Easter Vigil when they will receive the sacraments of initiation as appropriate (baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation). Between now and then, we as a parish community will walk with them with continuous prayer and special liturgies at St Joseph's. These include three Scrutiny Masses: 5 March, 9:00 am; 12 March, 11:00 am and 18 March, 6:00 pm). They will also be presented with the Creed on 7 March (8:00 pm) and the Lord's Prayer on 21 March (8:00 pm). Please note these dates in your diaries and attend if you can. The elect need our support!

LENTEN ACTIVITIES — Do pick up a leaflet at the back of the church with details of our Lenten objectives and activities this year. Make this solemn period of preparation more meaningful by going to Confession, attending Stations of the Cross, etc. There will also be regular Lenten reflections on the website. A main theme this year is the call to volunteer. There are many ways to contribute to life in the parish and really make a difference.

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2023—Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity — please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more info. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you

CAFOD SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL — CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY— Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13 May 2023 at 2:30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact the parish office with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) which will be forwarded to the Marriage and family life office.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER—Friday 3 March at 10:30am in Gt. St. Mary's Church in Sawbridgeworth. The focus this year will be 'Taiwan'. Everyone welcome There will be refreshments served afterwards.

CONFIRMATION GROUP 2023 —please check your emails for important information about our retreat in March sent on 14 February. Do check your inbox and junk/spam folder if necessary and ensure you respond as appropriate and in a timely manner.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY—Friday 3 March—Please take an envelope from the back of the church—every donation, no matter how small, helps. Thank you.