



The Catholic Parish  
of Bishop's Stortford

# the CARPENTER

☎ 01279 654063 | ✉ [bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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

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

Second Sunday of Lent (A)

5 March 2023

## Our priests are:

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

## PRAY FOR UKRAINE



## 90TH GUILD ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, 12 March, we will celebrate the 90th year of our affiliation with the Guild of St Stephen. Servers will renew their Guild promises and one of our them will be awarded a gold Guild Medal to acknowledge his amazing 50+ years of dedicated service to the Church. All welcome.

## SCRUTINY MASSES

This weekend sees the first of the three Scrutiny Masses for the elect in our RCIA programme. The First Scrutiny takes place at the 9:00 am Mass in St Joseph's. The Second Scrutiny will be at the 11:00 am Mass on 12 March, while the Third Scrutiny will take place at the Vigil Mass on 18 March.

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



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## RCIA PRESENTATION OF THE CREED

On Tuesday, 7 March at 8:00 pm, there will be a special Mass at St Joseph's for the Presentation of the Creed to the elect. The Creed is the heart of our faith. It embodies what we believe which is why a special liturgy is celebrated to present it to those seeking full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Since the early centuries, the Creed has been presented to the elect in the weeks prior to Easter to help them prepare for the sacraments of initiation. The special liturgy

is designed to help the elect understand "the meaning and importance of the Creed in relation to the teaching that the elect have already received and to the profession of faith that they must make at their baptism and uphold throughout their lives" (RCIA 159). The Mass is open to everyone, so please come and witness this very special moment in the journey of the elect, and our journey as a parish community as well.

**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.

**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.

**FLOWER ARRANGERS** — If you are interested in joining our small team of flower arrangers at St Joseph's please contact the parish office.

**THE WINTER NIGHT SHELTER** — has now closed, but successfully moved six guests onto permanent accommodation and had 22 different individuals who stayed over the three months that the service was open. If you are concerned about anyone who is rough sleeping please visit [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk). They will notify the relevant authority.

**PARISH TABLE TENNIS CLUB** — we are relaunching the table tennis club with a social gathering in the Parish Centre (WCC) on **Sunday 12 March from 7:00 to 8:30 pm**. If you might be interested in playing a few friendly games of table tennis on a Sunday evening, or just want to come along and meet some fellow parishioners, then please join us. The club is suitable for all ages. Children and Young persons under the age of 18 **must** be supervised by a parent or responsible adult. For further info phone Chris Brolly 07591 838771.

**CHRISTIAN SCHOOL TAKELEY** — If you are looking for a small-scale school setting, The Christian School (Takeley) is a co-educational school for children in years 1-11, where pupils are valued, and able to learn and grow in the love of Christ. Children are taught a broad curriculum in very small classes, where teachers encourage them to become confident, creative, caring and responsible members of their communities. To find out more please speak to Kate Wilkinson (9:00 am Mass) or [www.tcst.org.uk](http://www.tcst.org.uk)

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*'May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.'*