



The Catholic Parish
of Bishop's Stortford

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

www.rcstortford.org.uk

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)

2 April 2023

Our priests are:

Fr Peter Harris (*Parish Priest*)

Fr Antonio Pineda (*Asst Priest*)

PRAY FOR UKRAINE



ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13 May 2023 at 2:30pm. Mass with the Cardinal for all couples in the Diocese celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023 (and every year over 60). Contact the parish office with husband and wife's names, wedding date, full address and email or telephone number.

VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

On Wednesday 17 May, there will be an open evening at St James, Spanish Place, for any men interested in learning about or discerning a vocation to priesthood. The 6pm Mass will be followed by a short presentation, informal conversations & refreshments in the Social Centre. The nearest tube stations are Bond Street and Baker Street.

CONTACTLESS QR code
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Christ redeemed humankind and gave perfect glory to God principally through his paschal mystery: dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life. Therefore the Easter triduum of the passion and resurrection of the Lord is the culmination of the entire liturgical year. Thus the solemnity of Easter has the same kind of pre-eminence in the liturgical year that Sunday has in the week.

The Easter triduum of the passion and resurrection of the Lord begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday, the Sunday of the Lord's resurrection.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper (Maundy Thursday) will take place at 7:30 pm in St Joseph's and it will be presided by Bishop Paul McAleenan, the area bishop for Hertfordshire. Fr Peter will concelebrate while Fr Antonio has chosen to join the altar servers for that evening. Parishioners will be happy to note that Bishop Paul will be doing the Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday, something our parish has not

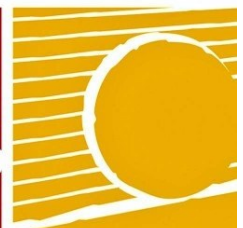
seen since the first lockdown.

Mass is not celebrated on Good Friday but we will have a service called the Celebration of the Lord's Passion at Most Holy Redeemer as well as St Joseph's. Both services will be at 3:00 pm, as is usual for the Celebration of the Lord's Passion because tradition tells us that Christ died on the cross at that time.

The Great Easter Vigil will be at 8:00 pm on Saturday when we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord. The Easter Vigil consists of four parts: the Service of Light; the Liturgy of the Word; the Christian Initiation and the Renewal of Baptismal Vows; and the Holy Eucharist.

At the Vigil, as part of the Christian Initiation, we will witness three adults in our parish being baptised. Another two are already baptised Christians but will be fully received into the Catholic Church. Three more are already Catholics but will receive the sacrament of Confirmation along with the other five. Two children of one of the adults being baptised will also be baptised.

We wish you all a grace-filled Holy Week!



WEEKDAY MASSES

There will be the usual weekday Masses on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, 9:30 am at St Joseph's. During the Easter Octave, there will only be Mass on Monday, 10 April at 10:00 am. There will be no Masses for the rest of the week, although the church will be open for private prayer from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, 11 to 14 April. Normal services resume on 15 April.

CHRISM MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL

The Chrism Mass will take place on Tuesday, 4 April at 12:00 noon at Westminster Cathedral. The Chrism Mass is the special Liturgy where Cardinal Vincent will bless the Oils (also called chrisms) that will be used in the various Sacraments throughout the year. Many priests from all our diocese will also attend and they will renew their priestly vows which is always a joy to see.

WHY WE SHOULD ALL WANT TO BE DONKEYS

How would you like to be a donkey? Your immediate answer would probably be, "No, thank you!". But wait. Let me explain.

On Palm Sunday, the King comes to take possession of his Kingdom. Who is this King? God's only Son, the Anointed One, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. What is his Kingdom? The eternal, everlasting Kingdom where God himself rules every heart.

The King's triumphal entry into Jerusalem is the first act of the sacred drama of Christ's greatest work: his passion, death, and resurrection, by which he would redeem the world and establish his everlasting Kingdom.

On Palm Sunday, we celebrate this triumph with the ancient symbol of vic-

tory: palm branches. And it is right that we should. But are we only spectators? No. We are called to be involved in Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

The clue to this fact, that we are called to be more than just spectators, is the way Christ entered Jerusalem — on a donkey. That means a bunch of things.

- It means that Christ is fulfilling his Father's will, because Zechariah had prophesied that the Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a donkey.
- It means that Christ is the Prince of Peace, because when kings in ancient times came bringing peace, they rode on donkeys, but when they came bringing war, they rode on horses.
- But most importantly, it is a parable.

On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem and Jerusalem stands for every human heart. Just as Jerusalem was surrounded by huge stone walls, every human heart too is surrounded by walls. And Jesus wants to go through those walls and win over those hearts.

And he doesn't want to do it alone. He could have walked into Jerusalem on his own feet, but he didn't. He chose to need the donkey. In the same way, in order to bring his Kingdom into people's hearts today, he chooses to need you and me.

We are the donkeys, carrying Christ into every city of the world, into every heart. Jesus wants to conquer the world through us.

Let us remember this as we begin Holy Week.

CONFESSIONS DURING HOLY WEEK

It is one of the chief commandments of the Church that we receive the sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession at least once a year. Lent is a particularly good time to come to Confession as it is a wonderful way to prepare oneself for the day of our salvation: the Resurrection.

During the Holy Week, there will be opportunities to receive the sacrament of Confession every day at St Joseph's.

- **Monday:** 10:15 to 11:15 am
- **Tuesday:** 7:00 to 8:00 pm
- **Wednesday:** 10:15 to 11:15 am
- **Maundy Thursday:** after the Mass of the Lord's Supper
- **Good Friday:** after the Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Don't forget that during "normal times", Confession is available at St Joseph's every Saturday afternoon, 3:00 to 4:00 pm during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new boxes of envelopes are **now ready for collection** in the Sacristy for those parishioners who currently use them for their offertory donations. If you no longer wish to use them, or if you would like to start using envelopes, please phone the Parish Office (01279 654063) or email bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

NOTE TO ALL GIFT AIDERS

The HMRC requires that you must pay more income tax than the total of all Gift Aid amounts claimed in a tax year and the penalties for failure to comply with this rule can be severe. The 2022-23 tax year ends on 5 April and we will claim the Gift Aid for the tax year soon afterwards. If you are registered with the parish for Gift Aid and your circumstances have changed so that you are no longer eligible, you **MUST** inform us before 5 April to ensure that our claims are correct. If you are not registered for Gift Aid with the parish but you are eligible to claim, please consider doing so as it will add 25% to your offertory donations without costing you anything. Contact the Parish Office by phone on 01279 654063 or e-mail at bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

PARISH TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The next parish table tennis club night will be on Sunday 23 April in the WCC from 7 to 8:30pm. All welcome (children and teenagers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). For info, phone Chris Brolly on 07591 838771.

Bishop's Stortford Across group's pilgrimage to Lourdes:

12-21 September 2024. We will take 7-8 VIPs from our parish on a holiday with Our Lady; travel, meals and accommodation in a four-star hotel all included. We will also need able bodied helpers, nurses, priests. Open to the young and old of the parish and a great way to help build our community — maybe something to pledge as part of your Lenten journey! Full details to come but if interested email John Wright (johncharles.wright70@gmail.com or 07739 789169).

