



The Catholic Parish  
of Bishop's Stortford

# the CARPENTER

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📍 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)

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

30 April 2023

## Our priests are:

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

## PRAY FOR UKRAINE



## PLANT SALE

SATURDAY 20 MAY 11am to 1pm  
EMMAUS CENTRE, THORLEY



## ADORATION AND CONFESSION



Come and join us at St Joseph and the English Martyrs Church for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation each Saturday, 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

## BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

Our next two-part baptism preparation course will be on Monday 26 June and Monday 3 July at 8:00 pm via Zoom with Sophie and Mike. It is a pre-requisite to attend a course before you arrange a date for your child's baptism. Please contact the office if you would like to attend.

CONTACTLESS QR code  
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



## GOOD SHEPHERD/VOCATIONS SUNDAY



God works through messengers. All of us are God's messengers. We have all received the Holy Spirit, first at baptism, and then more abundantly at confirmation. This gift is meant both to help us in our personal relationship with God — the most important relationship of our life — but also to help us be better messengers, better ambassadors for Christ in this fallen, suffering world. Even so, God does call some of his children to be messengers in an even fuller sense. Every Christian is a soldier, but God sets some Christians apart to be officers and special agents. These are the vocations to the priesthood, religious and consecrated life, and full-time missionary life. Without these vocations, the supply lines for the rest of the army break down, and the soldiers on the battlefield can't fulfil their mission. Not all of us are called to be priests and religious, but all of us are called to encourage these vocations.

## PRIEST TRAINING FUND

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. Please support the Priest Training Fund which pays for the formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 48 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 14 of whom are from our own diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also from our diocese. Last year, five men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Use the QR code to make your donation or visit [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations).

## HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT BEING A PRIEST?

On Wednesday 17 May, there will be an open evening at St James, Spanish Place, for men interested in or discerning a vocation to priesthood. The 6:00 pm Mass will be followed by a short presentation, informal conversations and refreshments in the Social Centre. The nearest tube stations are Bond Street and Baker Street.

## BS CHURCHES FOOTBALL KICKABOUTS—GRANGE PADDOCKS

Sundays 30 April/ 14 May/ 21 May/ 4 June at 2pm. All welcome ages 15 and up. Email Tom Amos at [tom@thecommunitychurch.org.uk](mailto:tom@thecommunitychurch.org.uk) or call 07910050122.

## RETROUVAILLE

### A PROGRAMME FOR COUPLES STRUGGLING IN THEIR MARRIAGE

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about Retrouvaille or to register for the next programme (commencing with a virtual weekend on 6–9 July 2023 or a face-to-face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 13–15 October 2023) call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com). Or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk).