



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*)



**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 ↓



# 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/ Safeguarding:** Mrs Debbie Jackson | **Catechetical Co-ordinator:** Mrs Sophie Sulli-

**Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)**

**7 May 2023**

## Spiritual growth is a life-long process



We see in the First Reading this Sunday that even at the very beginning of the Church there were disagreements among believers. The Greek-speaking believers complained about being treated as second-class Christians. This is an important point because it tells us that our faith in Christ doesn't make us perfect right away, just as it did not make the first Christians perfect right away. Spiritual growth is a life-long process. The first Christians had to work through conflicts and selfish tendencies. So do we all. Becoming a mature Christian is a life-long process, both for us as individuals and for us as a Christian community.

If we persevere in this process, never giving up and never falling into what can be a dull routine, we will gradually but steadily grow in wisdom, courage, joy, and holiness. And that is what our hearts thirst for.

**REPOSITORY**— New stock for First Holy Communion and Confirmation seasons: cards and gifts, now in the 'shop' at back of St Joseph's church. Other devotional items and second hand books also available, after 9am & 11am Sunday Masses.

**PARISH YOUTH NIGHT**—The next parish Youth Night is a Quiz & Adoration Night. It is on Friday 19 May from 6.30-8.30pm. We meet in the church hall in the parish centre. All young people of secondary school age are welcome. We just ask that any newcomers fill out a consent form on arrival. We look forward to seeing many of you there. We will be enjoying a general knowledge quiz, with snacks served as usual. After that, we will move to the church, where we will experience some quiet prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. We will pray especially for those doing exams, but also for our schools, our teachers and for the term in general, as we ask God to bless us and be with us in our studies.

**THANK YOU**— to Alison and Fiona who have now been running the Wednesday refreshments after Mass for 1 year now, kindly giving up their time each week and raising funds for the WCC from donations kindly made.

**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI EXHIBITION**—6 May to 30 July, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square. Art and imagery of Saint Francis (1182–1226) from the 13th century to today.

**LAUNCH OF NEW PRINT EDITION OF CATHOLIC WEEKLY** — 19 May 2023 contact Michelle Jones on 07436 617650

**DEACON PATRICK**— will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday 24 June 2023 at 10.30am at Westminster Cathedral. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

## Prayer for Survivors of Abuse 2023

### Serenity Prayer

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.*



The Bishops of England and Wales have chosen Tuesday 9 May as the Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse. It is a day of prayer for those who have been abused in a season of hope and new life. *The Isaiah Journey* has prepared a range of resources for prayer, action and reflection for use throughout the year which are launched on the day of prayer. Go to: [www.cbcew.org.uk/the-isaiah-journey](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/the-isaiah-journey)