



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

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

The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

29 October 2023

## Our priests are:

Fr Peter Harris (*Parish Priest*)

Fr Marco Lazzaron (*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**— The next two-part baptism preparation course will be on 15 and 22 January 2024 at 8:00 pm via Zoom. You are required to attend a course before you arrange a date for your child's baptism. Please contact the parish office to book.



## NOVEMBER HOLY SOULS

November is the month of Holy Souls. If you would like the names of your deceased loved ones added to our book of Remembrance this year please do email your list of names to the parish office or post to no.3.

**MARY'S MEALS**— request unwanted foreign currency, no matter how old or obscure, please drop any currency into the collection basket. Thank you

CONTACTLESS QR code  
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



**WELCOME BACK**— and thank you to Mgr Harry Turner who joins us to celebrate Mass at St Joseph's this weekend

**SICK & RETIRED PRIEST COLLECTION** —Next weekend is the annual collection for sick and retired priests in the Diocese of Westminster. Last year, the Diocese of Westminster provided care to 82 retired priests, at a cost of £850,000. The number of our priests over the age of 65 is steadily increasing, and caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. The priests in our Diocese, although retired, continue to serve long into their late seventies and eighties. They continue to work in our parishes and schools, visit our sick or elderly in hospices, and hospitals, and make themselves available, at our time of crisis and need. We continue to depend on them, in times of grief and sorrow, but also at times of joy, such as baptisms and weddings. They, however, are also dependent on us, and our generosity, for their care, and for essentials like housing, rent or any health needs. By giving to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, next week, you can ensure these needs are met. If you can, please take a donation envelope, and return it next weekend. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code, either on the envelopes or posters at the back of the church and give online. Finally, if you feel you would like to give to the SRP fund on a more regular basis, please do consider joining our Patron's Programme. You can give as little or as much as you can via a monthly standing order, and this assured income helps the Diocese plan its continued care for our retired and sick priests. Leaflets about the Patron's Programme are also available at the back of the Church with the donation envelopes. Thank you so much and please continue to pray for all our clergy: active, retired or ill.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES**— Wednesday 1 November is ALL SAINTS DAY and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be at St Joseph's at 9.30am and 7.30pm. ALL SOULS is Thursday 2 November and is not a Holy Day but tradition usually calls for a Mass and the Blessing of Graves. On ALL SOULS there will be a Mass at St Joseph's at 9.30am followed by the Blessing of Graves by Fr Peter in Bishop's Stortford Cemetery at 10.30am. Graves in the Cemetery at Perry Green will be blessed at 12.30pm and Sawbridgeworth Cemetery at 2pm. If you wish a grave to be blessed please make sure you are at the particular cemetery at the times noted above.

**NEW TO THE PARISH?** — Welcome! Please ensure that you complete a parish census form which can be found at the back of the church or alternatively on our website.

## ST JOSEPH'S PARISH TABLE TENNIS

**CLUB**—this Sunday evening at the Windhill Churches Centre between 7- 8:30 pm. Suggested donations of £3 per person (£6 per family group) to help cover the cost of equipment and for the use of the hall (cash only please). All are welcome from ages 7 to 70+. Under 18s need to be accompanied by an adult. Next on 12/11.

**SAYING GOODBYE**—A Baby loss Remembrance service 16 November 3.30pm at Central Hall, Westminster. For anyone who has lost a baby in pregnancy, birth or in early years whether the loss was yesterday or 80 years ago. Also for those grieving not being able to conceive.

[www.sayinggoodbye.org](http://www.sayinggoodbye.org)

## CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE —

Applicants for St Joseph's School for PRIMARY places in 2024 /25 who require a 'Certificate of Catholic Practice' can either download an application form from the resource page on our website or alternatively collect an application form for a certificate from No 3 Windhill, the Sacristy after Mass or the parish office in person. Once completed it should then be posted through the letter box of No 3 Windhill marked for Fr Peter's attention with a stamped addressed envelope, please. The certificate will be posted to you in the envelope that you provide. The school deadline for applications is 15 January 2024 .