



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

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

The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

12 November 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.



They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
age shall not weary them, nor  
the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning,  
We will remember them.

CONTACTLESS QR code  
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



## FR PETER WRITES:

As you may have heard on the grapevine, last week the Cardinal appointed me as Parish Administrator of the two Parishes of Buntingford and Old Hall Green & Puckeridge in addition to my present responsibilities. This was as a result of the removal of Fr Cyril Chiaha as Parish Priest on 3rd November.

This means that Fr Marco and I are now responsible for providing three Masses at Buntingford, one on Saturday evening at 6pm and two on Sunday at 9.15 and 11am. This brings the total number of Masses that need to be celebrated by us from six to nine....

You will all realise that this is impossible for the two of us. Thus it is necessary to bring in other priests for "supply" but such priests are not easy to find these days. There are now four Parishes in Hertfordshire without a Parish Priest that are being "covered" by Parochial Administrators such as myself.

I believe that we will be able to cover everything but it will mean that we will all be moving around to the different churches for a while but I am very anxious not to lose touch with any of you and Fr Marco and I intend to spread ourselves over the weeks ahead across all the churches, celebrating Mass in each equally.

I am very grateful to Fr Marco, Deacon Paul O'Connor and our own Parish Secretary, Mrs Debbie Jackson, for all the help they have given me over this last week since we found ourselves with these extra responsibilities.

It is the intention of the Cardinal that a new Parish Priest will be appointed to the two Buntingford Parishes, but we cannot say how long it might take but I do hope that they might be able to celebrate Christmas with a new Priest.

Meanwhile please pray for all those affected by this temporary change, Priests, Deacon and People alike and also do not forget to pray for vocations to the priesthood and the Religious life.

*Fr Peter*

### ST JOSEPH'S PARISH TABLE TENNIS

**CLUB**— This Sunday evening at the Windhill Churches Centre 7pm -8.30pm

**ZAMKNIT**— Tuesday 14 November 2pm-4pm. in MHR Extension. All are welcome

**ENCOUNTER**— meet next Fri 17 November in Windhill Churches Centre, looking at 'The Art of Advent' inspired by the book by Jane Williams 10am Coffee; 10.20 am meeting opens; 12.30 lunch. Please bring food to share. Day ends 2.00pm. All welcome for all or part of the day. Enquiries: B/S 652060 or 816916.

**THANKYOU**— Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sick & Retired Priest collection last week.

### 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.