



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)

1st Sunday of Advent

3 December 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.

## NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR —

Next Tuesday 5 December 2023 after the 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's will be the monthly Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. All are welcome.



## THANKYOU AND WELCOME

To Fr Tony Convery who joins us this weekend to celebrate Mass at St Josephs

CONTACTLESS QR code  
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



**ADVENT WREATHS**— are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple, and one is rose. The purple candles symbolise the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when our priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolises the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. Thank you to those who have prepared our wreaths this year.

**ENCOUNTER**— Encounter meet next Fri 8 December in Windhill Churches Centre 'Reflections on readings for 2nd Sun of Advent: bring favourite seasonal paintings, poems & prayers' followed by an Advent Lunch. 10.30 coffee 12.30 shared lunch 2.00pm meeting ends. All invited to or all or part of the day. Enquiries: 01279 652060/656482

**FR ANTONIO PINEDA**— Please keep Fr Antonio in your prayers as he officially becomes installed by Bishop John Sherrington as Parish Priest at Headstone Lane this Sunday 3 December at 10am.

**VINNIE PACKS**— The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please consider sponsoring a pack at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack. Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you

**FIRST RECONCILIATIONS**— Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our First Holy Communion children who will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation this coming week. We thank our wonderful team of Catechists and Priests who will be supporting them.

**YOUTH NIGHT** - Fri 15Dec 2023 6.30pm-8.30pm Advent Art & Adoration Prayer Night— open to all of secondary age (school years 7-13). This month we'll be in the season of waiting, spending time reflecting on Advent through art and with a time of special prayer with Jesus in the church. Amidst all the hussle and bussle of the other preparations for Christmas, this will be a little oasis of peace in a friendly atmosphere - see you there and do invite your friends! Parents of first timers will be asked to just fill in a short consent form upon arrival.



**THE GIVING TREE**— As we begin Advent, it's that time of year where we start to turn our minds towards preparations for Christmas. As in previous years, we would like to encourage parishioners - especially during this continuing cost of living crisis - to prayerfully consider digging deep and offering your support to the "Giving Tree". This is our annual charitable endeavour to gift disadvantaged children and families of the St Francis Family Centre in Poplar, East London, with presents they would otherwise ill-afford. Please see the news section of our website for all the details: <https://rcstortford.org.uk/support-the-giving-tree-2023/> Thank you.

**NO FLOWERS?** — During Advent we do not have any flower displays on the altars.

## 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.

**HOLY TRINITY NIGHT SHELTER** — needs volunteers. Please contact David Perry via email [htnsmanager@outlook.com](mailto:htnsmanager@outlook.com) or call 01279 651671