



The Catholic Parish
of Bishop's Stortford

the CARPENTER

☎ 01279 654063 | ✉ 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

The 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

5 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.



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 ↓



SICK & RETIRED PRIEST COLLECTION —Our second collection today will be in support of the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. Most priests offer their resignation as a parish priest at the age of 75, but many continue to serve their communities, working in our parishes, schools, hospitals and chaplaincies. We must ensure no priest is worried about meeting essential costs during their senior years and, as such, Cardinal Nichols and the Diocese of Westminster are committed to ensuring that no retired or sick priest is left without support. Last year, the Diocese provided care to 82 retired priests, at a cost of £850,000. By giving a gift to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund today, you can help us to ensure all of our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need. The fund is used to meet essential costs, like making a flat accessible to a disabled priest, or that a priest has regular visits from a carer after undergoing surgery. If you do not have an envelope, there are some available at the back of the church. If you are able, please consider filling out a standing order form, meaning you become a Patron and make a regular gift to support our sick and retired priests. By becoming a Patron, and assuring income to the fund, the Diocese can plan its continued care for our retired and sick priests. Thank you.

OUR NEXT YOUTH NIGHT —takes place on Friday 10 November 2023 from 6.30-8.30pm and will be a GAMES NIGHT. We will have board games and card games, as well as table tennis available, ending the evening with a time of prayer, as usual. The evening is open to all those of secondary age (school years 7-13). If coming for the first time to a youth night, you will need a parent to drop you off and fill in a permission form. For any queries, please email Sophie: bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

CAR PARK ST JOSEPH'S— The car park behind the back of St Joseph's Church will be used for a private function on Saturday 11 November and not available for 6pm Mass.

CLOSURE OF PARISH OFFICE— The office will be closed between Monday 13 November—Friday 17 November. The answerphone will be checked daily for urgent requests. **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HERTFORDSHIRE**— are seeking a webmaster to maintain the charity's IONOS account, develop the website and social media presence, providing ongoing updates as required. The candidate will have up-to-date knowledge of website design and availability of a few hours per month starting from January 2024. Please contact: Rev Dr David Chapman david.chapman@behdistrict.org.uk for more details.

NOVENA— The next Novena at St Joseph's will be Tuesday 7 November immediately after the 9.30am Mass. Everyone is welcome.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS— every Wednesday after the 9.30am Mass refreshments are served in the Windhill Churches Centre. Why not come across and chat with fellow parishioners, make some new friends and enjoy some good company over tea and cake. Thank you to Alison, Fiona and Andrew who make this happen.

NEW TO THE PARISH WITH A BABY OR TODDLER? — Majellans is a Parent and Toddler group for babies and children 0-4 years old, it is held every Monday in term time from 9:30-11:20am in St Joseph's Parish Hall in the Windhill Churches Centre. £1.50 per family, all parents and carers welcome.

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.