



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

2nd Sunday of Advent

10 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.

CAROL SINGING— Churches Together will be singing carols in Jackson Square on Friday 15 December 12pm–2pm raising money for the Bishop's Stortford Child Contact Centre.

JINGLE ALL THE WAY!

Saturday 16 December 11am at St Joseph's Catholic Church - A family Christmas concert from 'The Harmonaires'. A perfect whistle-stop carol concert for you and all the family. FREE ENTRY with a collection for Crisis - helping to end homelessness at Christmas.

CONTACTLESS QR code
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



URGENT APPEAL COMPANY AT CHRISTMAS—

Company At Christmas urgently require a few more drivers on Christmas Day. This is a commitment of approx. one hour between 11.45 am - 12.45 pm to deliver a meal and bring one/two people to the Methodist Church, and about a half hour to take guests home at 5.00 pm. Please contact Steve Dale on 07769 908777 if you can help or Jenny Klincke on 07951 037851 if you have any questions before committing. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS EVE STEWARDS NEEDED AT ST JOSEPH'S— If you will be attending the 5pm, 7pm or Midnight Masses on Christmas Eve at St Joseph's and can assist Father by being a Steward at that Mass, please let Father or the parish office know ASAP. Thanks.

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.

A YOUTUBE INTERVIEW WITH FR. GABRIEL ROMANELLI— Parish Priest of the Holy Family church in Gaza. Throughout the interview, he tells us about the life of the parish of Gaza and its various pastoral activities, then explains to us the role His Holiness Pope Francis and H.B Card. Pizzaballa played in promoting hope and strengthening Christians in Gaza during the war. Fr. Gabriel shares about how the parish in Gaza is preparing to welcome the feast of the Nativity of Jesus, despite the difficult circumstances, and ends his interview by addressing all Parishioners and the world. <https://tinyurl.com/2aczuu3a>

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IN WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL— Tickets are now on sale for the annual Christmas concerts which celebrate the mystery of Christ's Incarnation in carols and readings performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, on 19 and 20 December at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or directly from www.ticketmaster.co.uk and type in Westminster Cathedral when prompted.

ADVANCED NOTICE— The Parish office will be closed 21 December —2 January 2024.

RETRouvaille — Do you need in your marriage? Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or there is a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit the website www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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.

"Christian joy is usually accompanied by a sense of humour."

"Gaudete et Exsultate" ("Rejoice and Be Glad"),