



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

3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

17 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.

THE EXCHANGE— is based at the B/Stortford Baptist Church and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1.00–4.00pm. It accepts good quality second hand items and passes them on, free of charge to those in need.

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS OF THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

can be found on our website
www.rcstortford.org.uk/the-christmas-octave/



"Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy."

"Gaudete et Exsultate" ("Rejoice and Be Glad"),
Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on holiness

CONTACTLESS QR code

↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



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. Ideally we need 4 Stewards per Mass please. Thank you.

"A BEAUTIFUL THING PODCAST" WITH ANGELA WARD— Come on a journey with the women in scripture! A UK produced catholic podcast with amazing audio dramatisations, reflections and interviews. Angela's Advent series, looks at the women in the genealogy of Jesus - Tamar, Rahab and Ruth. Available on most major podcast platforms, including Spotify and Apple podcasts, Find out more at: bit.ly/abeautifulthingpodcast

HUMMINGBIRD CANCER SUPPORT GROUP— a charity based in Bishop's Stortford offering physical support through complementary therapies as well as social, psychological and emotional support. They meet every Monday (except bank holidays) from 10.30am—1.30pm at South Mill Arts, 1-3 South Street, CM23 3JG.

www.hummingbirdcancersupportgroup.org Tel: 07510 178200

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES 2024— If you are an adult who is a baptised catholic, but have never been confirmed and would like to be, please get in touch with Sophie as soon as possible, ahead of an adult confirmation class beginning in 2024 email: bstortfordcatchist@rcdow.org.uk

BSL MASS— 7 January 2024, 4:30pm - 5:30pm. Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Ave, London SW1P 1QW. A monthly Mass in British Sign Language and Spoken English, organised by Caritas Deaf Service. Mass starts at 4:30p.m. and there will be the opportunity for confession before.

SCHOOL LAY CHAPLAIN VACANCY AT ST MARY'S— 36 hours per week, Term time only + 5 inset days. H7:19-23 Fringe £29,777 - £32,076 + £689 (FTE) (Pro Rata £24,671 - £26,532) Required from Spring 2024. Would you like to start, or develop your career further as a School Lay Chaplain in our Community minded, values driven Catholic school? We are looking for a well-qualified, energetic and enthusiastic School Lay Chaplain to join our school community. Visit. www.stmarys.net for more info. Enquiries and applications to: Recruitment@stmarys.net .Closing Date: Monday 8 January 2024 10.00 a.m. Interviews: shortly thereafter

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 www.retrouvaille.org.uk

'I will sing for ever of your love, O' Lord'

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.

ADVENT RESOURCES

www.rcstortford.org.uk/advent-and-christmas-resources/