



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

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 January 2024

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.

ADVANCED NOTICE ALTAR SERVER REFRESHER TRAINING

There will be a catch-up meeting and refresher training session for Parish Altar Servers and those who are interested in becoming a Server, on Saturday 3 February 2024 between 10am—12pm at St Joseph and the English Martyrs Catholic Church with Fr Marco and Robert Purcell. Further details to be announced.

YOUTH NIGHT

Friday 19 January 2024, 6.30-8.30pm. Open to all those of secondary school age (School Years 7-13), our parish youth night takes place once a month on a Friday. This month is movie night and we will be showing "The LEGO movie". Any young person for whom this is the first time, we will ask an adult to fill in a consent form when you arrive. Popcorn and Hot Chocolate will be served. Please bring a pillow or bean bag to sit on.

CONTACTLESS QR code

↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



From the beginning of his public mission, Jesus was building a community around himself. He calls men to follow him and to share their destiny with him. It is not just a simple companionship as an antidote to loneliness.

This is why the exchanges of glances by the first two disciples, following the example of John the Baptist, and the 'rabbi' of Galilee who passes by after his Baptism in the Jordan, are particularly moving. Eyes meet, a desire emerges. Man's search meets the search for God.

This is the mystery of vocation: every human life is in itself a vocation. In a vocation, every man and woman discovers that God's coming into the world is not a question that interests humanity in general and that it remains imprinted in the pages of a history detached from itself. God's coming into the world, is the most important event for everyone's personal life. Each of us is involved in the miracle of the incarnation. Jesus enters into our unique existence.

Only God knows how to hold together the universal and the particular so well. Only God knows how to turn his gaze with the same tenderness to each of his children, giving each one the unspeakable experience of feeling unique and privileged in the presence of God. God looks at me, and asks me to look at Him!

In the discovery of our life as a vocation, we are given the secret of the journey, the keystone. Why am I in the world? What is the meaning of my existence? Where do I come from and where am I going? In these questions that cry out to heaven in a thousand tones and in a thousand harmonies, sometimes loud, sometimes silenced by pain, all the thirst for the infinite that dwells in the human heart is expressed. It is the dream of happiness; it is the yearning for freedom imprinted in our innermost being.

Here is the answer: happiness and freedom are relationships; they are a bond with the Trinity made flesh in Jesus. God has allied Himself with my joy, and my life is beautiful with Him! Only with Him! To live my life as a vocation means to respond to his call, to build intimacy, to dwell in his house.

There is nothing to be done: when we enter Jesus' house, when we stay even for a moment with him in his dwelling, we can never forget him. The mark remains indelible. For this reason, there is no other way to the fulfilment of our lives than to follow the path of the One who, when he looks at us, pierces us with love.

The joy of the encounter and connection with Jesus cannot be held back: it becomes a vital necessity, a need for truth, to build community, to seek others with whom to share God's love and to forge new intimate bonds of communion. They change our existence, they are translated into visible and concrete changes: our name now, like our whole person, returns to be His, all His, as it was for Simon (who was transformed after meeting with Christ, even in his name).

Fr Marco Lazzaron

"This holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures." Pope Francis

TABLE TENNIS CLUB—is on this week, Sunday 14 January after 6pm Mass. Future dates for the club are 28 Jan & 11 Feb. St Joseph's parish table tennis club meets on various Sunday evenings at the Windhill Churches Centre between 7pm and 8.30pm. There is no joining fee, but we do suggest donations of £3 per person (£6 per family group) to help cover the cost of equipment and for the use of the hall. (cash only please). It is a parish community club, welcoming all from ages 7 to 70+. Children and teenagers under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult.