



The Catholic Parish
of Bishop's Stortford



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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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15 December 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.



THE GIVING TREE



<https://www.amazon.co.uk/registries/guest-view/3ARKRSAPOW4J2>

Thank you to everyone who has bought a present for the St Francis Family Centre in Poplar, East London via the Giving tree

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

You are now welcome to make an early Christmas donation using our DONA machines, via our website or by using one of the Christmas Offering envelopes at the back of the Church. Thank you.

ST MARY'S CAROL CONCERT

Wednesday 18 December 2024
at 7pm

in St Joseph and the English Martyrs Catholic Church.

Refreshments afterwards in the Windhill Churches Centre.
All welcome

CONTACTLESS QR code

↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



SOUL FOOD MONDAYS—This Monday 16 December, is the second talk by Fr

Peter on Church History, to conclude this first term of Soul Food. All are most welcome, even if you have not been before. We begin at 7.30pm, with refreshments served from 7.15pm in the WCC. <https://rcstortford.org.uk/soul-food/>



NATIVITY FAMILY FUN MORNING—On Saturday 21 December, starting at 10.30am – 1pm in the parish centre, we are offering a special nativity-themed family gathering for all those of primary age and their parents. We will be exploring the meaning of the nativity, playing games, doing some art and craft and finishing up with a bring & share lunch. There is no need to book – just come along! Please bring your contribution for the bring & share with you when you arrive. Children should be accompanied by their parents for the duration of the event. We look forward to welcoming you and seeing you all for this family celebration! For more information, please contact Sophie by email on: bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL SINGING IN JACKSON SQUARE—HELP NEEDED! Saturday 21 December between 11am-12pm in Jackson Square with a warm up, run through and prayer at St Michael's Church beforehand 10-10.45am. We need Singers (to be part of the official choir) people to give out leaflets and also people to sing happily along from the crowd so that shoppers feel comfortable to stop and join in. Please contact Nathan Collins via email: churchestogethercarols@gmail.com

STEWARDS STILL WANTED FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES— We require at least 6 adult Stewards please especially for the Christmas Eve 5pm and Midnight Masses at St Joseph's. If you are able to help at one of the Masses, please sign your name on the Steward sheet in the Sacristy ASAP. The role involves welcoming parishioners, distributing Mass sheets, collecting money, tidying away sheets at the end of the Mass, ensuring that all exits are kept clear and assisting Father in the event of any evacuation. Thank you very much to everyone who has volunteered so far.

ADVANCED NOTICE — The Parish Office will close at 3pm on Friday 20 December and reopen at 9am on Thursday 2 January 2025.

THE SVP— are distributing over 10,000 homeless packs (Vinnie Packs) during the extreme cold weather. Would you like to sponsor a pack at a suggested donation of £4.10 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 so much for your support.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT—with carols and readings performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, on 18 and 19 December at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or from Ticketmaster.

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY!— We welcome back and thank Fr Carlos Quito this weekend, who will be celebrating the Sunday 6pm Mass at St Joseph's. Fr Carlos is now the Parish Priest at Our Lady, Queen of Heaven at Queensway in West London.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

Applicants for St Joseph's School for PRIMARY places in 2025/26 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 with a stamped addressed envelope, please. The certificate will be posted to you in the envelope that you provide. The school deadline for completed applications is 15 January 2025.