



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](http://www.rcstortford.org.uk)

The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 March 2025

## 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.



**ANNUAL MASS OF  
THANKSGIVING FOR  
MATRIMONY AT  
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL**  
Saturday 17 May 2025 at  
2:30pm

The Cardinal invites couples in the Diocese celebrating in 2025 their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and any year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage. **Please give the parish office** these details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email (or phone number, if no email) **before 1 April 2025**

Details of attendees are then sent by the parish to [family@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:family@rcdow.org.uk)



Wednesday 5 March  
9.30am & 7.30pm  
Mass at St Joseph's

with the distribution of ashes

**CONTACTLESS QR code**  
↓ **PARISH OFFERINGS** ↓



**SOUL FOOD MONDAYS** — this coming Monday, 3 March 2025, you are all invited to join us for some special time of prayer and reflection as we anticipate the beginning of Lent next week. Fr Marco will share a few thoughts on the meaning of Lent in the parish hall, before we head over to the church itself for a time of Adoration, finishing with Night Prayer. Everyone is welcome - young and old. We start the evening at 7.30pm, with refreshments served from 7.15pm and finish around 9pm or just after.

**ADVANCED NOTICE** — during Soul Food in Lent (Mondays 10, 17, 24 and 31 March and 7 April), we will be running a five-part sycamore course, reflecting on some of the key aspects of our Catholic Faith. Again, all are welcome to join us. It can be used as a great opportunity for deeper reflection and sharing in preparation for Easter. If you've never come before, there's always a first time - you'll find a warm welcome!

**MOST HOLY REDEEMER** — is hosting the World Day of Prayer this year on Friday 7 March at 10.30am. Everyone is very welcome to attend. It will last for about 30-40 minutes and there will be refreshments served afterwards

**WEEKLY DONATION ENVELOPES** — The new series of numbered donation envelopes will start in April and so we now need to place an exact order and pay for those boxes required. If you wish to continue with envelopes, then please do so. Alternatively, if you would rather switch to one of the electronic methods of payment then please contact the parish office ASAP so that we do not order a numbered box for you. The Finance team will assist with this and help to preserve any Gift Aid status. Thank you.

**JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM** — Saturday 12 April 3pm an ecumenical service for our young parishioners in Holy Cross at St Andrews.

**YOUTH NIGHT** — Thanks to those young people who came to our bowling night - a great time was had by all! Please note the change of date of our next youth night in March - it will take place on Friday 21 March (and NOT 14 March, as previously advertised). On 21 March, we will be doing a Stations of the Cross prayer in the church, plus a Lenten Soup Night. We invite those coming to contribute something towards the soup, as part of their Lenten alms-giving. All money donated will go to charity. All those in years 7 - 13 at secondary school are most welcome to come along.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** — our young people in this year's confirmation group who are away on retreat this weekend, that the Lord will richly bless them and help draw them closer to Him.

**COMBONI MISSION COLLECTION** — Next weekend will be a collection for the Comboni Missionaries. We were blessed to meet Fr Xavier a few weeks ago at St Joseph's and learn about the work of the Mission. A return visit is planned for Holy Cross and Most Holy Redeemer on Sunday 15 June.

**LENT EXTRA** — a booklet of daily reflections from Ash Wednesday, 5 March, through the 40 days of Lent. A few copies still left! Pick one up from the back of St Joseph's for £2.50.

**NO FLOWERS DURING LENT** — a polite reminder that during Lent we do not display any flowers in the church.

## CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

Applicants for St Joseph's School for NURSERY places in SEPTEMBER 2025 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.