



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

The Third Sunday of Lent

23 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.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday of Lent after the 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's, there will be Stations of the Cross, led by a parishioner. All are welcome

TABLE TENNIS

Sunday 23 March after 6pm Mass (7-8.30pm) in the WCC.

SCRUTINY MASSES

ST JOSEPH'S

Sunday 23 March 9am Mass
Saturday 29 March 6pm Mass
Sunday 6 April 11am Mass

THE PARISH OFFICE

will be closed on
Tuesday 25 March 2025
as Debbie will be at a Diocesan meeting in Welwyn Garden City.

THE PASSION OF CHRIST

Performance in Trafalgar Square on Good Friday, 18 April 2025.

www.wintershall.org.uk

CONTACTLESS QR code
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2025

—This Holy Year invites us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. We invite you to consider supporting work being done in the Diocese of Westminster to bring hope into many lives. Your contributions will help fund vital projects across our Diocese, including Youth & Evangelisation, Social Action, Marriage & Family Life, and Catholic Education Initiatives. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, extends his heartfelt thanks to all who give what they can to this meaningful cause. Donation envelopes are available and you can also contribute online using the QR code. Thank you for your kindness & support.

SOUL FOOD MONDAYS —During Soul Food in Lent (Mondays 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! We start the evening at 7.30pm, with refreshments served from 7.15pm and finish around 9pm.

NOTE TO ALL GIFT AIDERS —The HMRC requires that you must pay more income tax than the total of all Gift Aid amounts claimed in a tax year and the penalties for failure to comply with this rule can be severe. The 2024/25 tax year ends on 5 April and we will claim the Gift Aid for the tax year soon afterwards. If you are registered with the parish for Gift Aid and your circumstances have changed so that you are no longer eligible, you MUST inform us before 5 April please to ensure that our claims are correct. If you are not registered for Gift Aid with the parish but you are eligible to claim, please consider doing so as it will add 25% to your offertory donations without costing you anything. Contact the Parish Office by phone on 01279 654063 or e-mail at bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk

WHAT ARE THE SCRUTINIES? —The Scrutinies are Rites celebrated on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, by those who preparing to be baptised at Easter, known as "The Elect". They are important and special rites of the Church. Whenever they are celebrated, the Scripture readings of Year A of the liturgical cycle are used. The "Elect" along with their sponsors, kneel before the celebrant and the assembly, who pray for them silently with a series of intercessions culminating in a prayer of cleansing and protection (exorcism) with the laying-on-of-hands. Each Scrutiny is a step in preparing the Elect for the celebration and initiation soon to come. The Scrutinies are God's way of taking a close, loving look at the Elect. God does not scrutinise the Catechumens in order to find what's wrong with them but to celebrate all that's beautiful, good, and true in them. Jesus "scrutinises" us with Divine Light, revealing all that is valuable within each of us. He also reveals to us the ways in which we are hurting, or sick, or sinful. This is not to reject us, but to call us to new life and to healing. May these Scrutinies call both our Elect and us into the living waters of baptism, to the light of holiness, to a new life in Christ, through His Resurrection. The first Scrutiny Mass is this Sunday at 9am. Please keep our Elect, Sponsors, Catechists and Priests in your prayers.

HOLIDAY BIBLE WEEK 4-8 AUGUST

The location is Herts and Essex High School. We will mostly be under canvas again this year! The theme is 'Once Upon a Time', looking at some of the parables Jesus told. **Registration for children and adults opened on Sunday 9 March.** We have tent leaders in place for all age groups. We need volunteers to help the children with games, craft and learning. We also need people to help look after the site. If you have previously helped with puppets, music or technology we would like you to register again. A crèche is available for the children of helpers while they are on site.

For info. speak with Clare Wright.

Please register on the website: holidaybibleweek.co.uk

