



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 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

20 July 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.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 22 November

Calling all our young people aged between 14-17 years of age. Sat 22 November 1-7pm is the Hertfordshire "Big Summit" at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, WGC, AL7 3TP. An afternoon of encounter with the Lord, through prayer & fellowship, drawing on inspiration from soon-to-be Saint Carlo Acutis as to how we can strive for holiness as a teenager today. We want to take a big a group as possible - especially suitable for those about to embark on their confirmation, as well as the last two years confirmation groups and others - whether you have been confirmed or not. To express interest, email Sophie: bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk and get the date in your diaries!

✠ "Blessed are those who have not lost hope" (cf. Sir 14:2)

CONTACTLESS QR code
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM— Fr Marco will be leading the parish to this year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, celebrated by Cardinal Vincent on Saturday 20 September, with the theme in this Jubilee Year of 'With Mary, we are Pilgrims of Hope, Sharing Mary's Joy'.

Outline programme for the day:

10.00am Arrivals begin

10.30am Sacrament of Reconciliation available (priests are asked to volunteer for this)

11.30am Welcoming of parish and other pilgrim groups and banners

12.00pm Pilgrim Mass

1.30pm Picnic lunch

2.15pm Gather for the procession along the Holy Mile

3.45pm Prayers, Benediction and final prayers in the Abbey Grounds

4.30pm Departures Saturday

If you would like to come, please **contact Fr Marco to express your interest ASAP and before Monday 21 July**. If we have sufficient numbers, we will look towards arranging a coach. There is only room for 60 coaches at Walsingham, so the sooner we book, the better. The cost will be a pilgrim levy of £5 per pilgrim to cover the costs of entry to the Abbey Grounds plus the cost of transport (to be confirmed depending on numbers).

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2025-2026— If you are in year 10 from September 2025 (and turning 15 by 31 August 2026), and you live in the parish, then you are eligible to apply to join our confirmation preparation programme this coming academic year. If you are not from the parish, you will need to apply to make your confirmation at your local church. The Sacrament of Confirmation offers a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on those who seek to go deeper in their faith. The preparation programme helps candidates to come to a place of readiness to make their own "yes" to being a practising catholic. It requires some maturity and a willing to be open to learn and grow in faith during the academic year ahead. Anyone who would like to apply should write an email to: bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org and ask for more details. We will then let you know when you can pick up an application form. In the email please write a few lines outlining a bit about yourself and why you feel this is the right time to make your confirmation. All applications will need to be completed by Monday 8 September 2025 and no later.

DID YOU KNOW?— that our public access defibrillator at St Joseph's been called into action by the Ambulance service 11 times since 24 June 2021. It has saved at least one life that we know of. The British Heart foundation has 'RevivR' a free, interactive, online CPR training course. In just 15 minutes, you can learn how to save a life and receive your very own CPR certificate. It couldn't be simpler – you just need your mobile phone or tablet and a cushion to practice on <https://revivr.bhf.org.uk/>

NO SUNDAY MASSES AT MOST HOLY REDEEMER OR HOLY CROSS DURING AUGUST

As has been our custom for some years now, there will be no Sunday Masses at Most Holy Redeemer or Holy Cross during August. This will allow Fr Marco to be away on holiday for the first half of August and Fr Peter for the second half.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026

Application forms for registration to our Parish First Holy Communion programme 2026 for children who will be 8 years old or older on or before 31 August 2026 and who **live in the parish** are now available for collection at Mass in the Sacristy. Completed forms with a copy of a Baptism certificate must be submitted to 3 Windhill, before Monday 4 August 2025. Late entries will not be accepted.