



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 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

27 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 ↓



THANK YOU AND WELCOME BACK TO FR TONY CONVERY— who joins us this weekend to celebrate Mass at St Joseph's whilst Fr Peter is away.

WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY—The theme of the Fifth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, is this Sunday 27 July, is "Blessed are those who have not lost hope" (cf. Sir 14:2). Taken from the Book of Sirach, this highlights the blessedness of old age. It indicates hope placed in the Lord, as the Christian way to a reconciled old age. The Catholic Grandparents' Association (CGA) provides ways to help and support grandparents in passing on their faith in God to their grandchildren. CGA host a monthly Faith Café sharing session via Zoom. www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

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.

HOLY CROSS SUMMER PARTY— Unfortunately, due to the wet weather last weekend, the party was postponed. Apologies for any disappointment caused and thank you to everyone for their kind efforts and understanding.

SOUL FOOD MONDAY— Save the date! As part of our Soul Food Mondays, Fr Marco will give an introduction to Mary and Nazareth on Monday 8 September at 7.30 pm in the WCC. It will be a great opportunity for those preparing to attend the Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham on 20 September, but all are very welcome to attend.

ADVANCED NOTICE WORK IN THE WCC— From Monday 11 August—Friday 15 August there will be a schedule of works in the WCC to cover the large windows in the foyer areas and both halls with a protective film. All events for both churches during this week have been cancelled and the WCC closed to all parishioners during this time. The Parish office will be open to receive telephone calls, emails and pre-arranged meetings only.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE— We have received a great response to our pilgrimage and now wish to arrange a coach for those parishioners wishing to travel. The number of confirmed passengers will affect the size of the coach we order and obviously the price varies depending on numbers, **so it is really important that you please let us know now if you wish to travel with us or not** as the price for a seat on the coach will be the same for adults and children. We have 50 people interested and can either order a 53 seater coach or a 39 seater, so please do let us know if you have not already advised Fr Marco. **If you have previously told Fr Marco that you wished to attend but have not received either an email or telephone call from him, please contact him ASAP. Thank you**

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.