



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 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10 August 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.

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.



+ THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Friday, 15 August 2025

This is a holy day of obligation in England and Wales which means all Catholics are required to make every effort to attend Mass that day. There will be two Masses at 9.30am and 7.30pm at St Joseph's

CONTACTLESS QR code
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



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.

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.

SPONSORED BIKE & HIKE— for Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust. Saturday 13 September 2025 9am—5pm. Information packs are at the back of St Joseph's Church.

MARY'S MEALS— We are still collecting foreign currency for Mary's Meals to help feed hungry children. Please drop any spare currency in the collection basket. Thank you.

ENCOUNTER GROUP—meet monthly on a Friday for faith-based input & discussion on a variety of topics. A 'Bring & Share Lunch follows and all are welcome. Eight meetings are planned; 4 in the WCC & 4 at St Theresa's from Sept 25 - April 26. Pick up a programme for more details from back of St Joseph's or St Theresa's.

MARRIAGE CARE—provides a relationship counselling service for couples when life gets tough and it is hard to find a positive solution. www.marriagecare.org.uk
TEL: 0800 389 3801

FREE ONLINE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS OF THE DIOCESE

For volunteers (especially volunteers that work in close contact with children and/or adults at risk), Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) LMS online training is strongly advised to be completed. Volunteers can access the training free of charge by following this link: <https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/> When you are logging in, please be sure to add Diocese of Westminster and your role for our records. We encourage all volunteers to complete the Level 3 course regardless of role. Please note the training will refer to reporting concerns to the Safeguarding Co-ordinator; In the Diocese of Westminster you should report concerns to: 1) Your PSR in Parish (Debbie Jackson) or 2). The Safeguarding duty inbox safeguarding@rcdow.org.uk
For assistance with safeguard training contact safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk

'Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect'

REVEREND FATHER ROBERT STYLES SJ R.I.P

Fr Peter received an email from the Father Provincial of the Jesuits this Wednesday sadly announcing that Fr Robert Styles SJ had died peacefully in the Jesuit retirement facility in Bournemouth. During his Priesthood, Fr Bob, looked after the parishioners at Holy Cross at Much Hadham and Most Holy Redeemer at Sawbridgeworth from 1997 until he retired in 2015. He was much loved and respected. Funeral arrangements will be announced in due course. A Mass intention will be offered for Fr Bob at Holy Cross on Sunday 7 September and at Most Holy Redeemer on Sunday 14 September when both churches reopen after the summer break. Please keep Fr Bob in your prayers.