



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 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3 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.

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.

MARRIAGE HELP

Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 17-19 October Tel: 0788 7296983 www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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

CONTACTLESS QR code
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



WELCOME BACK FR PETER AND BON VOYAGE TO FR MARCO who now goes on the first part of his summer break during which time he will be accompanying a group of young people to Rome for the celebration of the Jubilee of Youth with Pope Leo. Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayers.

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.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR— Tuesday 5 August 2025 immediately after the 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's. 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.

FOUND PROPERTY— There are a number of items still at the back of the church which have been left behind after Mass including hats, glasses, cuddly toys, walking sticks, water bottles & more. Please check if anything belongs to you.

YOUNG ADULTS ASSUMPTION OF MARY MINI RETREAT— with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 9 August 2025, 2.30pm – 5.30pm. Venue: Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH Donations only. Email rebecca@assumpta-eu.org

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.

CHILDREN EAT FOR FREE OR LESS THIS SUMMER IN HERTFORDSHIRE— Hertfordshire families can enjoy free or reduced cost meals for children at a host of venues during the school holidays. <https://orlo.uk/deKwQ>

THINGS TO DO FOR FREE— www.bishopsstortfordtc.gov.uk/town-trails Download six trails around Bishop's Stortford along with a colouring book.

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.

HOLIDAY BIBLE WEEK— We keep in our prayers all those involved in Holiday Bible week

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026— LAST WEEKEND TO COLLECT FORMS!

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.