



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 Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

16 November 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.

PARISH MISSION

**Monday 1 December to
Friday 5 December 2025**

Led by Fr Elias Gweme CSsR &
Fr Royston Price CSsR

This is a special event and time of grace in the life of our parish.

A Mission happens only once every few years. It is a great opportunity to slow down and look at your life. It is also a time to examine your relationship with God and those around you.

As well as the Masses and the Mission Services, there is plenty of opportunity to see one of the Mission Priests for Confession. If it's been a long time since your last confession, then don't worry, they are experienced in helping you come back to the sacraments.

See the poster and leaflets available for more information.
You're invited!

CONTACTLESS QR code

↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



THE SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND COLLECTION IS THIS WEEK—The second collection this week will be for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. Last year, the Diocese of Westminster provided care to 73 retired priests, at a cost of £1,270,000. Caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential costs and give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met. You will find a donation envelope at the back of the church today. Please take one home, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. You can make a one-off donation or you can set up a regular donation and become a Patron by completing section 4 on the envelope form. You can also donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations - the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill. Thank you.

COMPANY AT CHRISTMAS 40TH ANNIVERSARY—Company at Christmas is inviting anyone who might find themselves home alone on Christmas Day to join them at the Methodist Church in South Street on 25 December. There is also an appeal for volunteers and drivers to help. If you or anyone you know is going to be on their own on Christmas Day and would like to attend, please email companyatchristmas@gmail.com. It's the same email address for any people or businesses who would like to support the event by making a financial donation or volunteering their time. If you would like to be personally invited for the Christmas Day event but do not have access to email, please ring Debbie in the parish office and she will help by sending an email on your behalf.

SOUL FOOD MONDAY—Monday 17 November 7.30pm. "Sharing the Gospel Joyfully: Using Media to Communicate our Faith" At our next Soul Food Monday monthly meeting, we have the great pleasure of welcoming Helena Judd, from Radio Maria, who will be sharing with us something of her own faith journey and, of course, a bit about the work of Radio Maria England with stories of some of the fruits of their ministry. We will also consider how we can each go about sharing the Gospel with others. Do come along for another inspiring evening and feel free to bring your friends! You are most welcome, even if it's your first time. As ever, this is a free event, beginning at 7.30pm, with refreshments served from 7.15pm, in the Parish Centre (Windhill Churches Centre).

YOUTH MASS—Sunday 23 November 2025—This academic year, we are launching a termly youth mass, as a way of encouraging more youth involvement in the liturgy. We have chosen 23 November at the 6pm Mass, as it marks National Youth Sunday. We hope you will join us to celebrate our young people. Please do also pray for this endeavour, which we'll be trialling this year. Other dates for youth Masses next year (all at the 6pm Sunday evening Mass) are as follows: 18 Jan, 8 March, 12 April and 24 May 2026.

ADVANCED NOTICE – FAMILY DAY—Saturday 20 December 2025 A Christmas-themed Primary Family Day will be taking place in the WCC, the first day of the holidays from 10am and finishing with a bring and share lunch. All those of primary age are welcome to come along, with their parents. Lots of fun guaranteed, as well as some time reflecting on the gift of Christmas. We'd love to see you there! Please email bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk to register your interest.

ADVANCED NOTICE – JUBILEE ICON—Fri 12– Mon 15 December 2025 Our parish has been given the immense privilege of hosting the Icon of the Jubilee of Hope between Friday 12th & Monday 15th December 2025. The weekend will include our youth night, time for individual prayer before the icon, as well as a special Soul Food Monday where we welcome Canon Chris Vipers to talk on the theme of Hope. Our local schools & St Elizabeth's will also have an opportunity to engage. We encourage the whole community to get involved as we end the Jubilee Year in prayer & thanksgiving. More info soon...