



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

+ Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

23 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 all invited!

CONTACTLESS QR code

↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



THE SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND COLLECTION— Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection last weekend. Your generosity means our sick and retired priests will receive the care and support they need. If you haven't had the chance to make your donation, there is still time. You will find envelopes at the back of the church or you can donate online through the Diocese website – look out for the 'QR Code' on the envelopes and poster. Please do consider giving on a regular basis, assuring the care of our priests in their old age, or at a time of illness. This fund is a priority of the Church, and it provides us a chance to come together and say 'Thank you' to the priests who have served us. May God bless you for your kindness.

WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY—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 and hope you will join us to celebrate and pray for our young people. 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...

ST ELIZABETH'S REFLECTIONS SERVICE—Tuesday 25 November at 3.45pm. The season of Advent marks a period for quiet contemplation and spiritual preparation in advance of the joyous celebrations to come. The readings and music at our popular Reflections Service provide a peaceful setting and opportunity to reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas whilst giving thanks for the lives and memories of loved ones who, for whatever reason, will not be here to share the Christmas celebrations. To make personal candle or written dedications, please email pauline.meaney@stelizabeths.org.uk

ADVENT 2025 BIBLE STUDIES—Free weekly studies on the Advent Sunday Gospels for 4 Wednesdays. Starts Wed 26 November, 2025, 3 Dec, 10 Dec, 17 Dec 7pm—8pm. Join Catholic speaker Mauro Annicelli for live-streamed talks with engaging interaction. Register on comeandsee.org/advent25

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS NEEDED AT ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL—St Mary's Catholic School, is seeking practising Catholics to serve as Foundation Governors. This voluntary role offers an opportunity to contribute to the strategic leadership of the school and to support the Head teacher and staff in ensuring that the Catholic life and mission of the school remain central to all that we do. Training and support are provided, and governors come from a variety of backgrounds—no prior experience in education is required, only a commitment to our faith and to the future of Catholic education. If you would like to know more or express an interest, please contact Deirdre McHugh Head teacher at d.mchugh@stmarys.net or 01279 654 901 ext. 232

THE GIVING TREE— is our annual charitable present-giving endeavour to support children of the St Francis Family Centre in Poplar, East London. The gift list is available on Amazon website and app - Gift registry list: 'St Joseph's Church Bishop's Stortford- Giving Tree 2025'. Info leaflets are available in the church or please visit the parish website.