



The Catholic Parish
of Bishop's Stortford



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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 First Sunday of Advent

30 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 ↓



THIS SUNDAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—which marks the new Liturgical Year, and the Church moves into a new Lectionary Cycle for Sundays, with 2025-26 returning to Cycle A, the Gospel of St. Matthew

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.

THE 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...

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.

ENCOUNTER meet next Fri 5 Dec in St Theresa's, Stansted. 'Reflection on the readings for the 2nd Sun of Advent; bring favourite seasonal pictures/ artwork, poems & prayers to share' 10am coffee 10.30 meeting opens 12.30 Shared Advent lunch 2pm day ends.

All welcome for all or part of the day. Enquiries: 01279 656482 or 01799 542385
THE ADVANCED NOTICE— The bottom of South Street through to the end of North Street B/S is closed from 6am to 7pm next Saturday 6 December and strictly no vehicle access is permitted during those hours for the Christmas market. Please be aware if you are coming to Confession/ Adoration or Mass on this date at St Joseph's.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR— Tuesday 2 December at St Joseph's after the 9.30am Mass. All are welcome.

FLOWERS DURING ADVENT— There will be no flowers in the church during Advent.

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

A Reflection on the First Sunday of Advent from Marriage Matters

(Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14: Matthew 24:37-44)

God's Word is clear – we can only be certain of each current moment in our day-to-day lives. To live as couples in the 'present moment' more often, we need to apply ourselves to today's call from Jesus to "stay awake". Also St Paul tells us, "the time has come: you must wake up now", because now is all we have...