

BLESSING OF THE CRIB AT HOME

Heavenly Father, bless us as we gather here
and bless this crib that we have prepared.
Let it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
Son of God and Son of Mary.

We thank you because you have loved us so much
that you sent your only Son to bring us eternal life.
We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

*Fr Peter and Fr Marco and the Pastoral Council
and Committees of our 3 Churches,
send you their thanks for the past year
and every prayer and good wish for
a Happy and Blessed Christmas
and a prosperous New Year !*



Christmas 2025



The Catholic Parish
of Bishop's Stortford

**This leaflet will give you details of our Christmas
Masses and Services and much more**



**Today a Saviour has been born to us,
He is Christ the Lord.**

A SIMPLE FORM OF BLESSING THE CHRISTMAS TREE AT HOME

When the tree has been prepared, the household gathers around it. All make the sign of the cross.

The leader begins:

Blessed be the name of the Lord

Now and for ever.

The leader continues:

Two thousand and twelve years ago, amid signs and wonders,

Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. We will celebrate his birth on Christmas Day.

But even today the memory of his birth brings joy to our hearts and light to our minds.

We have decorated this tree in his honour. May we welcome Christ among us.

May the lights of this tree remind us of his perfect light.

Reader:

A reading from the first letter of St John:

God is light; in him there is no darkness.

If we walk in light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

and the blood of his Son Jesus, cleanses us from all sin.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

After a moment of silent prayer the leader might want to invite those gathered to offer prayers for those in special need at this time, for themselves and their families and friends. These prayers of intercession finish with the Lord's Prayer.

Then the Leader says the Prayer of Blessing:

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation:

the sun, the moon and the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets,

and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:

he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,

who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If you have lights on your tree then this is when you switch them on

The blessing continues with a verse of 'O Come, O come, Emmanuel'

All sing:

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer

Our spirits by thine advent here;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night

And death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.

The leader concludes the blessing by making the sign of the cross and saying:

May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and for ever.

Amen.

4th Sunday of Advent

Sat 20 December Vigil Mass of Sunday at St Joseph's at 6pm

(Confessions and Adoration from 3pm –4pm)

Sunday 21 December

at St Joseph's, Bishop's Stortford Masses at 9am, 11am & 6pm

Most Holy Redeemer Mass ,Sawbridgeworth 9am, Holy Cross Mass , Much Hadham 11.30am

Christmas Eve Masses



at Most Holy Redeemer at Sawbridgeworth

Carols and Readings 7.30pm - Vigil Mass at 8.00pm

at St Joseph's

5pm...Mass especially for families with younger children,
our children are invited to come dressed as Shepherds or Angels.

7pm 2nd Vigil Mass of Christmas (priority seating for older parishioners)

11.30pm Carols and Readings followed by

MIDNIGHT MASS at Midnight ! - Come early to get a seat !



Christmas Day Masses

St Joseph's at *Bishop's Stortford* MASS at 9am and 11am

Holy Cross at *Much Hadham* at MASS at 11.30am

NO Mass at Most Holy Redeemer at Sawbridgeworth

Friday 26th - St Stephen's Day MASS only at
St Joseph's, Bishop's Stortford at 10am

SATURDAY 27 December and SUNDAY 28 December 2025

WEEKEND MASSES AS USUAL IN ALL CHURCHES

NO MASS Monday 29– 31December

Thursday 1 January 2026

Mass at 10am, St Joseph's