



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 Second Sunday of Advent

7 December 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.



FOR EACH OF THE CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S WE NEED THE HELP OF AT LEAST 6 ADULT STEWARDS PLEASE.

The role includes welcoming parishioners, ensuring that the aisles and all exits are kept clear from any obstruction and to assist Father in the event of an evacuation. If you are new to the parish or have never helped before, this is your chance to really get involved!

It is a very easy and joyful team task and instructions will be given.

The Christmas Eve Masses are at 5pm, 7pm and Midnight (carols at 11.30pm)

We ask you to arrive around 1 hour before the start please.

The sign up sheet is in the Sacristy.

Thank you very much.

CONTACTLESS QR code
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



THANK YOU— to everyone who supported the Parish Mission with Fr Elias and Fr Royston this week and made it a such a very special event. If you were not able to come, we recorded every evening service which can be viewed on the live stream link www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford

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 Icon will arrive for our youth night on the Friday, travel to St Elizabeth's on Saturday morning, return to St Joseph's over the weekend for all Masses and to our schools on Monday morning. There will also be a special Soul Food Monday where we welcome Canon Chris Vipers to talk on the theme of Hope. We encourage everyone to get involved as we end the Jubilee Year in prayer & thanksgiving.

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.

ADVANCED NOTICE— The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 22 December—Friday 2 January 2026 inclusive and will re-open on Monday 5 January 2026 at 9am—**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 **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES—** A Christmas Mass leaflet is available listing the times of the Masses over the Christmas period as well as a blessing for your Christmas tree. This can also be found on our website.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE—7pm on Wednesday 17 December at St Joseph's and the English Martyrs. There will also be a collection taken on behalf of Mary's Meals, which they have been supporting as part of their Advent Charity efforts. Everyone is also welcome to the Parish Hall afterwards for refreshments and a Christmas raffle.

A Reflection on the Second Sunday of Advent from Marriage Matters
Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12)



Advent – a new beginning for us?

Today, Isaiah talks about trust and Matthew focuses on forgiveness. Advent is the opportunity to discover new ways to help our partner to trust us and to share themselves.

Our prayer can be that we drop our defences, become more vulnerable and have the courage to open ourselves to be able to really listen, to share and to change.

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight'