



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 Thursday 8:30 am to 3:00 pm Friday 8am –12pm(remote)

Administrator/ Safeguarding: Mrs Debbie Jackson | **Catechetical Co-ordinator:** Mrs Sophie Sullivan

www.rcstortford.org.uk

+The First Sunday of Lent

22 February 2026

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.

WEEKLY DONATION ENVELOPES

The new series of numbered donation envelopes start in April and we now need to place an exact order and pay for those boxes required. If you wish to continue with envelopes, then please do so. If you would rather switch to an electronic method of payment please contact the parish office ASAP so that we do not order & pay for a numbered box for you. The Finance team will assist and help to preserve any Gift Aid status. Thank you.

LENTEN TALK

Saturday, 21 March, 11.30 am at St. Andrew's with Holy Cross, there will be a Lenten Talk, given by Fr. Peter. This will be followed by lunch. This will be a 'bring and share' meal, a simple meal of bread, cheese and fruit. The talk is intended to help us as we journey through Lent. All welcome.

CONTACTLESS QR code
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



LENTEN APPEAL— Our annual Lenten Appeal across the Diocese supports one shared mission: helping people encounter Christ and live that faith in love and service. Through Education, Youth & Evangelisation, and Marriage & Family Life, the diocese forms hearts, nurtures faith, and strengthens families within our parishes. Through Social Action, that formed faith reaches outward, ensuring that no one in our communities faces life's hardest moments alone. Your generous support this Lent will enable the Church to continue walking with people at every stage of life and be a visible sign of Christ's love, both within our parishes and among our neighbours. To donate today please visit www.rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal. Alternatively, envelopes are available in church.

Thank you for your support & for helping our diocesan family to continue this vital work.

THANK YOU— to everyone for their kind wishes, cards, gifts, cake(!) and prayers on the occasion of Fr Peter's 75th birthday last week.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER—Friday 6 March 10.30am Great St. Mary's, Sawbridgeworth Refreshments to follow. All welcome!!

PARISH TABLE TENNIS CLUB—meets this Sunday evening at the Windhill Churches Centre between 7pm and 8.30pm. There is no joining fee, but we do suggest donations of £3 per person (£6 per family group) to help cover the cost of equipment and for the use of the hall. (cash only please) It is a parish community club, and all are welcome from ages 7 to 70+. At present children and teenagers under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult. Future dates for the club are 8 and 22 March.

SAVE THE DATE— **HOLIDAY BIBLE WEEK 2026**— 3– 7 August. The theme this year will be Rescue! AGM: 5 March, HBW Sunday: 8 March, Registration: 8 March, Launch night for volunteers: 18 June. Holiday Bible Week (HBW) started in 1987, drawing together children from across Bishop's Stortford and the surrounding area to learn more about the Bible together. Since 1987 Holiday Bible Week has grown to host 500+ children each year, in tents on a local school playing field. Hundreds of Christians from across our town volunteer to help make Holiday Bible Week happen. There's a role for everyone – from spending the week with a particular age group to helping keep the site safe and friendly for everyone.

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES (17 – 24 July 2026) Secure your spot by visiting the booking platform : <https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk/>

SVP AND CAFOD WORK EXPERIENCE —The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 21– 26 June in London. Candidates must be aged 18-25 years old, but priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. Applications close on the 6 April. For any queries, please contact KeziaH@svp.org.uk. To apply visit : <https://tinyurl.com/36xr7dkf>



ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 23 May 2026 at 2:30pm.

The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the parish office the following details before Monday 13 April: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email). Closer to the time, the Agency for Evangelisation will send out an invitation from the Archbishop to the couples.