



The Catholic Parish
of Bishop's Stortford



75th Birthday Edition

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 8 am –12pm(remote)

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

www.rcstortford.org.uk

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

15 February 2026

Our priests are:

Fr Peter Harris (*Parish Priest*)

Fr Marco Lazzaron (*Asst Priest*)

1951

The Archers begin on BBC radio

Dennis the Menace first appears
in the Beano comic

The first Miss World beauty
pageant is held as a bikini
contest

Introduction of Zebra crossings,
GCSE O and A levels

Day of the Week: Thursday

Leap Year: No

Generation: Baby Boomer

Chinese Zodiac: Rabbit

Star Sign: Aquarius

POPULATION IN 1951

BISHOP'S STORTFORD

12,772

SAWBRIDGEWORTH

1,089

MUCH HADHAM PARISH

1,172

75 years is approximately **27,393**
days, 657,432 hours,
and **39,445,920 minutes.**

OUR MONARCH

King George VI reigned
(1936–1952)

MONEY

1 Pound (£) = 20 Shillings

1 Shilling = 12 Pence

1 Pound (£) = 240 Pence

CONTACTLESS QR code

↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



This edition of the Carpenter is to celebrate and give thanks for

Fr Peter Harris, our wonderful Parish Priest

on his 75th Birthday!! Please keep him in your prayers.

(more recent news items are on our website and the separate sheet available)

FACTS ABOUT 15 FEBRUARY 1951 AND A LITTLE LATER ON....

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH— was under the papacy of His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

REDEMPTORISTS AT ST JOSEPH'S — The Rector in charge was Fr Oliver Conroy CSsR

BRITISH PARLIAMENT—a debate occurred in the House of Lords regarding a "Fixed Easter Act," which highlighted the necessity of consulting church authorities on such calendar changes.

CLEMENT ATTLEE— was Prime Minister until October succeeded by Winston Churchill

THE UK MUSIC SCENE—was characterized by orchestral dance bands. Popular tunes around this time included Billy Cotton Band with Anne Shelton ("The Petite Waltz"), Teddy Johnson & Donald Peers ("Beloved, Be Faithful") & Lita Roza ("Allentown Jail").

THE UK'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK —the Peak District was introduced. This was soon followed by the Lake District, Snowdonia and Dartmoor.

TWO MEMBERS OF A SOVIET SPY RING —Spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean leave Britain to defect to the Soviet Union. This places suspicion on two other members of the 'Cambridge Five', Kim Philby and John Cairncross who resign their official positions.

CHILDREN'S TV— included Andy Pandy, Muffin the Mule and Watch with Mother

CARS—The Austin A30 and Ford Consul motor cars were introduced.

ON THE 100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851—the Festival of Britain in 1951 showcased British achievement since the Second World War. The festival celebrated the arts, sciences and architecture. The Royal Festival Hall, on the Southbank was built as part of the Festival and remains today.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL, BISHOP'S STORTFORD— debated in parliament on 3 July 1951

HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY —forms a permanent dog section, which initially consists of just two constables and two dogs.

THE GILFRERE FUND— was formed to help the poor, sick, convalescent, disabled, or Infirm, specifically residing in the parishes of Bishop's Stortford & Thorley.

ST JOSEPH'S MONASTERY—December 1952 the St Joseph's monastery was almost destroyed when a fire raged here for more than three hours, at one point also threatening the fabric of nearby churches, St Michael's and St Joseph's. First on the scene were members of the Salvation Army who, along with locals, formed a human chain to rescue valuable items from inside. But as fifty firemen, using water pumped from the river Stort fought to contain the blaze, one of the monks, Brother Xavier, dashed back into the smouldering building exclaiming 'I've got to save my three nuns'. He then reappeared moments later holding a tin of his favourite pipe tobacco!...

The final film featured at Sawbridgeworth Cinema was 'Breaking The Sound Barrier', directed by David Lean and starring Ralph Richardson and Ann Todd, which was shown on 2 May 1953. The cinema later became 'Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church' in 1956 with the first Mass on 2 December.