



The Catholic Parish
of Bishop's Stortford

the CARPENTER

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📍 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 Fourth Sunday of Easter

26 April 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.

SOUL FOOD MONDAY

On 11 May at 7.30pm we will be welcoming an outside speaker, Fiona Whitehead. Fiona will be sharing an introduction to the Theology of the Body, which is a ground-breaking teaching developed by Pope St John Paul II, and centered around the dignity of the human person, especially as it pertains to relationships and sexuality. It is an incredible treasure of the church, so do come along to find out more. All welcome, from older teens upwards.

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

If you would like to talk to someone about a vocation to the priesthood, contact the Vocations Promotion Team:

Canon Roger Taylor

vocationspromoter@rcdow.org.uk

Fr Mike Maguire

vocations@rcdow.org.uk

CONTACTLESS QR code

↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



A PASTORAL LETTER FROM + ARCHBISHOP RICHARD MOTH — Printed copies are available in church and on our website, along with a video version.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND—Today, on Good Shepherd Sunday, there is a second collection for the Priest Training Fund. This fund supports the formation of men who are responding to God's call to serve as priests in our diocese. Their journey involves years of preparation — human, spiritual, and pastoral — equipping them to serve parish communities in the years ahead. Your support helps make this formation possible. It is a direct way of strengthening the life of the Church and ensuring that future generations will continue to receive the sacraments and pastoral care. If you are able, please give generously in today's collection. You may also donate via rcdow.org.uk/PriestTrainingFund. Please also continue to pray for vocations and for those currently in formation.

WIDOWED, SEPARATED AND DIVORCED WEEKEND— 8-10 May Worth Abbey, West Sussex. Beginning Experience is a peer ministry to the widowed, separated and divorced led by trained volunteers. Please contact Mary on 07730 884315 for more information.

CONFIDENT PARENTING IN A WORLD OF SCREENS— 29 April 8pm .Worried about the impact of phones and social media on your teen? A helpful webinar with Kate Duroux from Care for the Family, offering practical advice for supporting teenagers growing up in a digital world.) To reserve your place, www.celebratetrust.org/faith-parenting

RAISING TEENAGERS IN A CATHOLIC FAMILY—2 June 8pm As children enter adolescence, parenting can feel brand new. Mike and Alicia from the Messy Family Project share faith filled wisdom and practical tools to help parents guide their tweens and teens with patience, modelling, and stronger relationships. To reserve your place, book now by visiting <https://www.celebratetrust.org/faith-parenting>

CONGRATULATIONS— to seven of our adult parishioners who received the sacrament of confirmation on Saturday afternoon at the Cathedral.

MARY'S MEALS—We are still collecting foreign currency for Mary's Meals to help feed hungry children. Please continue to drop any spare or old currency in the collection basket. Thank you

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE— takes place every year on the fifth Tuesday of Easter. This year, it is Tuesday, 5 May.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY— We send our love and prayers to Mathilde, who is a longstanding and faithful parishioner at St Joseph's and celebrates her 100th birthday this week.

'I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord. I know my sheep and my own know me'

IMPORTANT - ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER IN OUR PARISH?

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) have made Level 3 Safeguard training mandatory for all Clergy, staff, and **Volunteers** regardless of their role within a parish and whether or not they have a DBS. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility!**

Volunteers can access the Level 3 training free of charge by following this link

<https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk> The online training does not have to be done in one sitting as progress will be saved. When you are logging in, please be sure to add 'Diocese of Westminster' and your 'volunteer role' for our records.

We ask that when volunteers have completed the CSSA level 3 module please let your Parish administrator know your name, your volunteer role and the date you completed the Level 3 training module so that parish safeguard training record can be updated. Parish training records throughout the Diocese will be subject to a CSSA safeguarding audit and review so your assistance and commitment to completing the training is very much appreciated. **Thank you very much to everyone for their response so far!**