



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 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 July 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.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2026–2027

Application forms are now available in the Sacristy after Mass.

You must be 15 years or older before 31 August 2027 (Year 10 and above) and live in the parish

You will need to provide a photocopy of your Baptism Certificate if you were not baptised at St Joseph & The English Martyrs, Holy Cross or Most Holy Redeemer. The preparation sessions and a compulsory residential retreat will take place between October 2026 and July 2027, with an introductory meeting for parents and candidates scheduled in mid October. The date of the Confirmation Mass for 2027 will be allocated by the Bishop and confirmed at a later date.

Completed forms must be submitted to 3 Windhill before Monday 7 September 2026

CONTACTLESS QR code
↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027—Application forms for registration to our Parish First Holy Communion programme 2027 for children **who will be 8 years old or older on or before 31 August 2027 AND who live in the parish** are now available for collection after Mass in the Sacristy. Completed forms with a copy of a Baptism certificate must be submitted to 3 Windhill for the attention of Fr Marco **before Monday 31 August 2026**. Late entries will not be accepted.

FLAME 2027 —Saturday 6 March 2027 at Wembley's OVO Arena. FLAME is an event and the largest gathering of Catholic Young People in the country. It is an initiative of CYMFED - the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation - and is a national youth congress for young people aged 14/15 and above, as well as for university students and young adults. It really is a festival for all our young people! The trip is being kindly subsidised and the cost of this day event will be approx. £30 per young person/participant. This will cover your entry ticket and transport to the venue. If you would like to secure a place please email Sophie, bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk ASAP and **before Friday 11 September**. latest: bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk or come and chat to Sophie if you see her after Mass. Tickets will be given out on a first come, first served basis.

PARISH CATECHISTS—A day for catechists, youth workers and social action volunteers, "Called to Serve", taking place on Saturday 3rd October at the SPEC Youth Retreat Centre in Pinner, HA5 3EP. We encourage catechists and anyone in the parish working with young people to consider registering. It promises to be a very rich day: Please do contact Sophie at: bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk to let her know that you plan to go or if you would like more information

THANK YOU— to everyone who very kindly took home tablecloths to wash. It is very much appreciated. Thank you also to those parishioners who kindly offered their help.

OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE— A Private Members' Bill has been reintroduced to parliament seeking to legalise assisted suicide - the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill with a crucial vote on Friday, 11 September. "This bill is wrong in principle," says Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, "It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives. The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading."

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!**