



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 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 August 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 ↓



NEXT WEEKEND— will sadly be the last weekend in the parish for Fr Peter as our Parish Priest. He will be celebrating all Masses at St Joseph's.

NOVENA— Our next Novena will be on Tuesday 1 September after Mass. All welcome.

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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A REGULAR DONATION TO OUR COLLECTION?— Our DONA card machines have been a little bit temperamental over the last few weeks whilst we await the arrival of our new replacement machines. The QR code on this newsletter links to the DONA page and there is also a link on our website. If you would like to make a regular weekly/ monthly donation by a standing order without the need to use the machines or having to raid your child's money box or dig down the back of the settee before Mass (!) please collect a standing order form from the back of the church. If you are a Gift Aider, even better! Thank you. The Parish Bank details are :

Sort Code: 40 05 20

Account Number: 31094629

Account Name: WRC DT Bishops Stortford

IF YOU GO IN TO HOSPITAL— Please do let us know! Anyone can contact the main hospital Chaplaincy Team at 01279 973407 or email paht.chaplaincy@nhs.net and the ward staff can also contact the on call chaplain. Father Felix Adiele serves as the Catholic chaplain at the hospital. He can be reached directly regarding patient visits, Holy Communion, or receiving the sacraments at 01279 973183.

CAN YOU HELP? — We would like to increase the number of Eucharistic Ministers who visit the sick and housebound to distribute the blessed sacrament within our parish when people are unable to attend Mass. This is a role that requires a current Diocesan DBS (which lasts for 3 years) and a Level 3 CSSA safeguarding certificate (as advertised below). If you would like to help, please contact Debbie in the parish office. It is a simple process and she can guide you through it.

'O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands'

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!**