



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 8 am –12pm(remote)

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

www.rcstortford.org.uk

+The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

30 August 2026

Our priests are:

Fr Peter Harris (*Parish Priest*)

Fr Marco Lazzaron (*Asst Priest*)



Fr Peter was ordained into the
Priesthood on 19 June 1994
which means up until 31/8/2026
he has served parishioners for
32 years, 2 months and 12 days

1,680 weeks

11,761 days

282,240 hours

He became our Parish Priest in
September 2012 and is the Dean
of the Lea Valley.

In our Parish, Fr Peter has looked
after families celebrating

183 Funerals

367 Baptisms

50 Weddings

962 First Holy Communions

537 Confirmations

65 RCIA Candidates

(not including the 6+ months
looking after Buntingford,
Puckeridge & Old Hall Green

He has kindly guided 4 Assistant
Priests, 1 PPC, 8+ Committees, 2
Parish Administrators, 1 office
dog, 1 Catechetical Co-ordinator,
2MC's, Sacristans, Altar Servers,
Readers, Eucharistic Ministers,
Catechists & so many more...

CONTACTLESS QR code

↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



Retirement Ode to Fr Peter

For fourteen great years, you've run the whole show,
from celebrating masses to making the finances flow.
You've welcomed parishioners, greeting the crowd,
with a warmth and a kindness that makes us all proud.

You've blessed all the babies with water galore
and guided the couples with weddings in store.
At funerals, you comforted hearts in their grief
and brought to the family a sense of relief.

With your great love of history and flair for detail,
your focus and knowledge would always prevail.
You added a brand-new sacristy with zest,
the beautiful décor was always the best

With a new floor & lighting you brightened the room,
where the stars on the ceiling chase away any gloom.
You added new heating to warm up the place
ensuring the church was a haven of grace.

You lived through COVID with distance and masks,
always keeping the faith through the strangest of tasks,
with cameras and livestreams and pews full of tape,
you kept us connected and in spiritual shape.

Even a heart attack didn't stop you for long,
your spirit was stubborn, your willpower strong!
You healed up completely, you beat all the odds
and proved that your schedule is entirely God's.

The church organ plays with a beautiful tone,
a tribute to your dear Mum, the finest we've known.
You survived church decrees & committee debate
and scraping off wax from the brass candle plates

You fixed the loos, you plunged the pan,
climbed the scaffold to meet the architect man.
You served Sawbo & Hadham & loved parishioners
there, drove through thick snow & black ice, you never
did scare!

You calmly managed our schools with a smile
and guided the youth through each lesson & mile.
At the W.C.C you kept up the pace
managed endless adjustments in every church space.



*'I always get to where I
am going from walking
away from where I have
been'*

You've heard every sin from the small to the bleak
and the same person's gossip three times in a week.
The collar is off, you can put up your feet
your days as our shepherd are finally complete.

Your homilies had flair and a fabulous touch
never too little and never too much.
You brought us the Gospel with humour and wit
keeping our attention as we'd listen and sit.

With Christmas Eve mass full of reindeer and cheer
scripted especially for children, but we all loved to hear.
Your role in our panto was elaborate and grand
your eloquent, clear voice gained many a fan!

No more parish meetings or rings on the phone
just quiet long days to call your very own.
May your blessings be many and retirement be sweet,
as you enjoy a well-deserved rest and put up your feet.

To Wapping you head from the streets of Windhill
you've served with a gentleness that inspires us still.
With all of our thanks and all of our love
may your days be truly blessed by the good Lord above.

Thank you, Fr Peter and may God bless you so,
with our prayers to East London sadly you must go.
We love you greatly and will miss you SO much
Please remember us fondly and do keep in touch!
xxx

