



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– Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

18 October 2026

Our priests are:

Fr Axcel Soriano (*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, 4.30 to 5.30 pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27/11—7pm Installation Mass of
Fr Axcel as our Parish Priest

3/12—7pm Volunteer Day. More
info to follow

5/12 –10am Altar Server Training

12/12—9.30am Eucharistic
Ministers Day. More to follow..



NOVEMBER

is the month of Holy Souls.

If you would like the names of
your deceased loved ones added
to our Book of Remembrance
this year displayed at St Joseph's
please email your list of names
to the parish office or post
through the door of number 3.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

Our Priests will attend Bishop's
Stortford Cemetery on

Monday 2 November 2026 at
11am for the blessing of graves.
Other cemeteries by arrangement.

CONTACTLESS QR code

↓ PARISH OFFERINGS ↓



FR MARCO— We send our best wishes and prayers to Fr Marco as he celebrates his birthday next week.

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING— There will be Altar server training on Saturday 5 December 10am at St Joseph's. This is compulsory for our current Altar servers and for those who are interested in becoming an Altar server. Please speak with Fr Axcel or Fr Marco.

PARKING REMINDER—We do NOT own any of the private car parks behind or to the side of St Joseph's church but have 'unofficial' limited permission to use the large gravel car park at the back of the church for the duration of Mass only on a weekend. Despite several announcements there are still some parishioners who are regularly parking in the small front car park near to the entrance gate where parking is NOT permitted. **PLEASE** do NOT park here! This private restricted area and the gate is covered by CCTV and 24/7 parking access is required by the business that owns those spaces at all times.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL— will be having open days for prospective Reception 2027 parents on the following days: Tuesday 20 October @ 9:30am and Thursday 26 November @ 9:30am To book a space contact the school office 01279 652576. Applications for Reception 2026-27 open on 2 November 2026 and close on 15 January 2027. To apply please make an application online via your local council and by completing a Supplementary Information Form which can be downloaded via the school's website. To support your child's application you will be asked for a copy of your child's baptism certificate.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME IN 2027? — We are seeking expressions of interest from those who would like to attend a Parish Pilgrimage to Rome 29 March—3 April 2027 with Northern Star Travel. Some details are below. Please let Fr Marco or the Parish Office know if you are interested before Monday 2 November..

Dates: 29 March – 3 April 2027

Cost: Approx. £1,300 per person sharing; £1,650 single room. **Deposit:** £300 per person

Minimum: 20 paying pilgrims

Includes: Return flights from Stansted, 20kg luggage, 5 nights dinner/bed/breakfast, English-speaking guide and daily Mass

Programme: St Peter's, Papal Audience, St John Lateran, Scala Santa, St Mary Major, St Paul Outside the Walls, Catacombs, Colosseum, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps and Piazza Navona, plus one completely free day.

THE EXCHANGE—based at the B/Stortford Baptist Church, and is open on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1-4pm. It accepts good quality second hand items and passes them on free of charge to those in need.

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE— TOILETS AND CANDLE SAFETY

Please be advised that NO children are permitted to visit the toilet area of the church unaccompanied. This is not only for safeguarding reasons but last weekend we had the unpleasant task of clearing another blockage of excess toilet paper with additional accompaniments! We may have to consider locking the toilets if this continues. It has also been reported by parishioners that children are lighting candles without parental supervision. This must not happen. When children reach up or lean over the candle stands it poses a real danger of them catching their hair or clothing alight on already lit candles and being severely burned. Parents, please ensure that you know where your children are and what they are doing in the church at all times, especially after mass. We want to ensure that everyone is kept safe and that our church buildings remain in a beautiful condition for everyone to enjoy. Thank you very much.