

*St Joseph & English Martyrs Catholic Church  
Bishop's Stortford*

---

*Parish Liturgy Audit Report 2008*

---

**Sunday 6pm**

---

*(This document can also be downloaded from the parish website: [www.catholicstortford.org](http://www.catholicstortford.org))*

## SECTION A Tell us something about yourself

### 1. Which of the following best sums you up?

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. I am here for Mass <b>every</b> Sunday (except when away on business or holidays) | <b>81%</b> |
| 2. I am here for Mass <b>most</b> Sundays  | <b>19%</b> |
| 3. I come <b>occasionally</b> (less than 10 times a year)                            | <b>0%</b>  |
| 4. This is a <b>special visit</b> (e.g. visiting relatives or friends)               | <b>0%</b>  |
| 5. Other.....  | <b>0%</b>  |

### 2. If you are a regular worshipper, how long have you been worshipping here? (please circle)

Less than a year	1-5 years	5-10 years	More than 10 years
<b>5%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>64%</b>

### 3. Do you regularly worship at another parish?

Yes **3%** No **97%**

### 4. Which of these age groups do you fit into?

0-12 years	13-20years	21-40years	41-60years	60+ years
<b>0%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>38%</b>

### 5. Are you

Female ? **45%** Male ? **55%**

### 6. Are you

Married ? **76%** Single ? **24%**

### 7. Do you live in

Bishop's Stortford ?	Stansted ?	Sawbridgeworth ?	The Hadhams?	Other?
<b>86%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>12%</b>

### 8. Do you have a special ministry in the Liturgy?

Yes **33%** No **67%**

### If 'Yes', please specify

Reader	<b>12%</b>	Eucharistic Minister	<b>24%</b>
Altar server	<b>2%</b>	Choir	<b>0%</b>

## SECTION B

### Before Mass starts

1. How welcome do you feel when you arrive? (1 is best, 5 is worst)

1 Very	2	3	4	5 Little
<b>17%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>5%</b>

2. How helpful to preparing yourself before Mass, do you find the 'atmosphere' in church?

1 Very	2	3	4	5 Little
<b>21%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>2%</b>

## SECTION C

### The Environment

	Yes	No
Are you comfortable in the church?	<b>93%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Are you warm enough in the church?	<b>86%</b>	<b>14%</b>
Is the church clean and in good decorative order?	<b>95%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Are you satisfied with the lighting?	<b>98%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Are you satisfied with the level and quality of sound?	<b>83%</b>	<b>17%</b>
If applicable, do you find the loop system helpful?	<b>8%</b>	<b>0%</b>

## Comments on Section B & C: Before Mass and The Environment

Comments	0-12 M	0-12 F	13-20 M	13-20 F	21-40 M	21-40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60+ M	60+ F
Children noisy						2				
Children scratching pews, playing with toys						1				
playing with toys						1				
Adults noisy									1	
Microphone training										1
Poor sound system/acoustics					1					
Encourage people to greet each other before mass starts								1		
Place to congregate after mass								1		
Cobwebs, Cracks, Church looks uncared for									1	
Lots of work being done									1	
Welcomers				1			1	1	2	1
Not comfortable at Christmas									1	
More Mass Sheets for special occasions									1	
Concern about welcoming foreign young people										1

## SECTION D

## Music

	Yes	No	Sometimes
<b>1.Does the chosen music fit the seasonal theme?</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>5 %</b>	<b>23 %</b>
<b>2.Is the chosen music appropriate for the different parts of the mass?</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>3.Does the music reflect the diversity of the members of the congregation?</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>4. Does the music help your worship?</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>5. Does the music leader help or encourage you to participate?</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>6. Has any of the music been unfamiliar to you?</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>7. Would you welcome a practice session before or after mass for unfamiliar items?</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>8. Comments: See Appendix D</b>			

## Appendix D: Comments about Music

Sunday 6 pm	0 - 12 M	0-12 F	13-20 M	13-20 F	21-40 M	21-40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60+ M	60+ F	TOTAL
excellent job choir & organist									2	1	3
younger people want hymns sung by them in school								1			1
go more for lovely modern hymns, update hymns				1				1			2
want more traditional hymns & music										1	1
not the Latin every week/ too repetitive/uninspiring					1						1
Latin is too complex/unfamiliar to follow/obstacle					1			1			2
no music wanted							1				1
Better musical direction/leadership									1		1
Poor use of mic, switch off between performing									1	1	2
Want music			1			2	2			2	7
11am Mass is a barrier					1			1			2
11am Mass is too much of a performance					1						1
11am worse than no music at all					1						1
Cater for polish						2					2
11am cantor voice not good						1					1
Caters for under 6's and over 60's only							1				1
6pm Sat overwhelms								1	4	2	7
11am Choir monopolizes major feasts								1			1
11am hymns ancient								1			1
6pm Sat too many solos										1	1
6pm Sat should not dominate										1	1
Unaccompanied singing best										1	1
6pm Sat musicians good										1	1
Music usually uplifting										1	1
Music not relevant/engaging							1				1

## SECTION E Leaflets, hymn books, etc

	Very useful	useful	Not useful	Don't know						
<b>1. How useful do you find The Sunday Plus Mass Leaflet?</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>2%</b>						
<b>2. How useful do you find the other printed resources to use and follow?</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>						
	Yes	No								
<b>3. Is the print large enough for you to read?</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>5%</b>								
<b>4. Any other comments or suggestions about the hymn book, mass leaflet or other items provided to enable you to participate in the Mass?</b>										
Comments	0-12 M	0-12 F	13-20 M	13-20 F	21-40 M	21-40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60+ M	60+ F
Not enough sheets									1	1
Need Mass Books				1				1		
Need to have ALL music available for congregation, ALL numbers put up					1				1	
Use overheads instead of books							1			

# SECTION F

# Silence

	Yes	No								
<b>1. Are you aware of the times of silence at different parts of the Mass?</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>0%</b>								
<b>2. Are these silent times sufficient to be of value to you? (long or often enough)</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>10%</b>								
<b>3. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about times of silence during the different parts of the Mass? (e.g. Readings, Intercessions, Prayers, After Communion etc.</b>										
Comments	0-12 M	0-12 F	13-20 M	13-20 F	21-40 M	21-40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60+ M	60+ F
Longer silences			1	1						
Longer silence after Communion								1	1	
Pause between Readings								1		
Silence before 'I Confess'								1		
Children to pay more attention						1				
Parents to control children							1			
Good balance									1	

# SECTION G

## Homily, Readings, Prayers

	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Usually</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Not really</u>
<b>1. Do you find the sermon/homily clear &amp; understandable?</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>2. Do you find the sermon/homily challenging or thought provoking?</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>3. Any other comments about the sermon/homily</b>	<i>See Appendix G</i>			
<b>4. Are the Readings delivered in a meaningful way?</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>5%</b>
	<u>Clear</u>	<u>Reasonably clear</u>	<u>Difficult to hear</u>	
<b>5. Generally how audible are the Readings?</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>2%</b>	
<b>6. Any other comments about the delivery of the Readings?</b>	<i>See Appendix G</i>			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	
<b>7. Do the Homily &amp; Intercessions help to connect the Mass to your daily life?</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>26%</b>	
<b>8. Any other comments about the Liturgy of the Word?</b>	<i>See Appendix G</i>			

## Appendix G: Comments about Homily, Readings, Prayers

Comments	0 - 12 M	0-12 F	13-20 M	13-20 F	21-40 M	21-40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60 + M	60+ F	TOTAL
<b>HOMILY CLEAR</b>											
well researched and prepared								1		1	2
Always focused								1	1		2
Never attacks us									1		1
Excellent							1				1
interesting							1				1
Good					1	1	1				3
<b>HOMILY CHALLENGING</b>											
relate better to today's life								1		1	2
sometimes goes on for too long								1			1
Not too long									1	1	2
<b>READINGS DELIVERY</b>											
to read clearly and with feeling							1				1
more preparation							1				1
Too fast							1		1		2
Excellent							1				1
Good							2				2
Readers should make eye contact										1	1
More different readers										1	1
<b>READINGS AUDIBLE</b>											
need to make better use of microphone					1		1	1	1	1	5
Children noisy, can't hear						1					1

## SECTION H

## Ministries

To what extent do the following ministries enhance your experience of the Mass?

	Positive	Indifferent	Negative	Nil response
<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>18 %</b>	<b>15 %</b>
<b>READERS</b>	<b>50 %</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>19 %</b>	<b>19 %</b>
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	<b>71 %</b>	<b>7 %</b>	<b>7 %</b>	<b>14 %</b>
<b>PRIEST</b>	<b>83 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>6 %</b>	<b>11 %</b>
<b>MUSICIANS</b>	<b>41 %</b>	<b>11 %</b>	<b>35 %</b>	<b>14 %</b>

## SECTION I

## As the Mass concludes...

**1. Does your experience of the Mass make you feel part of the Congregation?** (please circle)

Yes	No
<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>

**2. Do you find the announcements at the end of Mass**

Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not really helpful
<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0 %</b>

**in making you aware of the faith life and pastoral activity of St. Joseph's as a Community?**

**3. Do you feel encouraged to participate in the ongoing work of the Church?**

Yes	No
<b>100%</b>	<b>0 %</b>

<b>Comments:</b>	0-12 M	0-12 F	13-20 M	13-20 F	21-40 M	21-40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60+ M	60+ F
More Music					1					
Refreshment after Mass					1					
More warning about retiring collection					1					
Announcements good backup to newsletter							1			
Announcements: more detail & encouragement needed								1		
Announcements too short								1		
Announcements, more one-liners									1	
Need to use other forms of communication							1			
I am Foreign						1				

## SECTION J      What *I* think, what *I* can do....etc

	0-12 M	0-12 F	13-20 M	13-20 F	21-40 M	21-40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60+ M	60+ F	Total
<u>Things I Like</u>											
Community				1			1	1			3
Clear				1							1
Easy to Follow				1							1
Everything									1		1
Variety of Masses										1	1
Welcome/Friendly/Familiar feeling										2	2
Music/Singing								1	1		2
Readings/Readers					1				1		2
Bidding Prayers										1	1
Silences										1	1
Newsletter										1	1
Well Presented, Dignity, thoughtful, correct, authentic							7	2	1		10
Sign of Peace						1					1
Canon Eddie, Homilies					1	1	2	1	1		6
Latin									1		1
English							1				1
No singing of responses and Prayers							1				1
<b><u>Things I would like to see done differently</u></b>											
Better PA system/Use of PA system				1						1	2
More Musical Direction, Improve Music					2		1	1	2	2	8
restrict singing to certain masses							1				1
Meditative music at end of Mass								1			1
more banners, decoration							1				1
Tea after Mass/Social Interaction					1						1
Different people do readings										1	1
Welcomers							1			3	4
Sign of peace at beginning of Mass							1				1
Promote other liturgies/devotions									3		3
More inclusive for migrants							1				1

(Continued on next page)												
<b>Things I would like to see done differently (Continued)</b>	0-12 M	0-12 F	13-20 M	13-20 F	21-40 M	21-40 F	41-60 M	41-60 F	60+ M	60+ F	<b>Total</b>	
Youth Involvement				1		1		1		1	<b>4</b>	
No Latin				1				1			<b>2</b>	
Less Latin									1		<b>1</b>	
Nothing							5		2		<b>7</b>	
<b>Things I could get involved with</b>												
Reading					1	1	2	2	1		<b>7</b>	
Eucharistic Minister							1				<b>1</b>	
Music/Singing						2	1				<b>3</b>	
Prepare bidding Prayers							1				<b>1</b>	
Welcomers							1			2	<b>3</b>	
Not sure how or what							1		2		<b>3</b>	
Youth Group				1							<b>1</b>	
Teas, Coffees after Mass					1						<b>1</b>	
Visiting the elderly								1			<b>1</b>	