

NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE PARISH OF SS ALBAN & STEPHEN

This Parish is served by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Parish Priest: Rev. TJ Plower MSC, Rev. Jimmy Stubbs MSC, Rev. Alan Neville MSC, Deacon Steve Pickard.

Tel: 01727 853 585 Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 1pm

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB. Parish Website: www.albanstephen.com

Items for the bulletin – e-mail: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk by 12noon on Wednesdays

Youth Co-ordinator Sr. Anita O’Leary SSJG, e-mail: anitaoleary@rcdow.org.uk

Safeguarding Lead Nicky Vellacott: stalbanssg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07882 566 020

Youth Website: www.sasyouth.com. We are a Fairtrade Parish. Parish Secretary: Ivana Mearns



12th August 2018

When a prophet sits under a bush, it’s usually a sign that things are not going well! At a particularly low moment in his relationship with God, the prophet Jonah sits, in an angry sulk, under a bush. While there he encounters God and learns a valuable lesson about mercy.

In today’s first reading, it is the prophet Elijah who sits under a bush. He is on his last legs, having escaped into the desert to avoid capture and death. At this low point, a day’s journey into the wilderness, he has had enough. He finds himself begging God to take his life.



It is a moment that will speak to many of us, particularly those of us facing struggles. Things can get on top of us. We sometimes feel alone, that our road is all uphill, that we are in the wilderness and there is nothing to do but give up. Yet when Elijah is at his lowest point, even getting ready to die, he finds he is not alone. The comforting presence of God is with him, offering sustenance to help him on his journey.

Elijah’s response to God is at first reluctant; he lies straight back down again. But with a second round of encouragement (and some more food) he is on his feet and able to continue his journey, replenished and renewed. At the moment he felt the most abandoned and alone, God was closer than ever.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Holy Communion 2018

Enrolment forms are now available at the back of the Church. If you have a child who will be in Year 3 or above in September and they would like to join the Parish Programme for First Holy Communion, please fill in the enrolment and consent forms and return them to the Parish office for the attention of Sr. Anita **on or before Sunday 26th August 2018.**

Please note: If your child was baptised outside our Parish you need to send in a copy of his / her baptismal certificate with the forms. If your child was baptised here there is no need to send in a copy of the certificate.



Communion Services

We have six weekend Masses in our parish. As may happen some weekend, there may be only one priest resident. Should this occur, there is no possibility of having all six Masses. We try to find a priest to help us through the diocese, but this is not always successful. Consequently, it will be necessary to have a Communion Service in place of some weekend Mass. This service will fulfil the Sunday obligation for those who participate.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation Wednesday 15th August

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **Elisabeth Page, Wolrad Kleinau, Margaret Taylor, baby Benedict Buller** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including John Miskell, Philomena Lines, Francisco Diaz, Catherine Elkin, Avenal Jenkins, John Moloney, Rita Carter, Liz Smith, Bernadette Marron, Mark Norris, Patrick Foley, Jim O’Neill, Mike Smith, Jack O’Mahoney, Carmaline Xavier, Kathleen Murphy, Jim O’Connor, Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM, Geraldine McBride, Becki Vousden, Vertina Fernandes, Veronica Hamilton, Claire Whitehead, Alice Daly, Sheila Doohan, Janet Szymczak, Noah Gregorio, Edie Hale, Gerry Smith, Edmond Mansfield, Teresa Hill, Ida Daswa, Catrin Rees-Doherty, John Rowland, Margaret Moloney, Jim Moss, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O’Gorman, John Baxter, Derita Whyte, Carmen Mincuta & Teresa Virrueta; may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

12.8.2018

6pm Kate Kelly RIP
8am Sr. Fabian White of Maryland RIP
9am M'wick Mike McElroy RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11.30am Leonardo Venetico RIP
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Carmel and Aggie Whyte RIP

Monday – Ss Pontian and Hippolytus

10am Richard Adair Ints.
7pm Shamus Nagle

Tuesday – St. Maximilian Kolbe

10am Robert Gregory RIP
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

10am Sr. Mary Dominic Ints.
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. Stephen of Hungary

10am Fr. Sandy Murray MSC - RIP (Birthday)
NO EVENING MASS

Friday - Feria

10am Priests' Intentions
7pm Joseph Deacy Anniv.

Saturday - Feria

10am Sr. Fabian White RIP
6pm Patrick Marron Anniv.

Next Sunday

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Jean Bergin RIP
9am M'wick Pete Helliwell Anniv.
9.30am Pamela Wood Anniv.
11.30am John Knowles & Iyi Palmer Anniv.
7pm People of the Parish

Mass Intentions are subject to change if there is a funeral.

Maximilian Kolbe

Feast day 14 August

St Maximilian Kolbe was born as Raymund Kolbe on 8 January 1894, in Poland. He was very active in promoting the Immaculate Virgin Mary and is



known as the Apostle of Consecration to Mary. He was strongly influenced by a vision he had of the Virgin Mary when he was 12. Kolbe joined the Conventual Franciscans and was later ordained a priest. Kolbe founded a monthly periodical and also operated a religious publishing press. Kolbe also founded monasteries in both Japan and India. To this day, the monastery in Japan remains prominent in the Roman Catholic Church in Japan.

In 1936, Kolbe returned home to Poland, and once the WWII invasion by Germany began, he became one of the only brothers to remain in the monastery. He opened up a temporary hospital to aid those in need. On 17 February 1941, the monastery was shut down; Kolbe was arrested by the German Gestapo and taken to the Pawiak prison. Three months later, he was transferred to Auschwitz. Never abandoning his priesthood, Kolbe was the victim of severe violence and harassment. When the Nazi guards selected 10 people to be starved to death in punishment, Kolbe volunteered to die in place of a stranger, a man with a family. It is said during the last days of his life Kolbe led prayers to Our Lady with the prisoners and remained calm. After two weeks, he was the last of the group to remain alive. After a lethal injection of carbolic acid he calmly awaited death.

Recognised as the Servant of God, in 1982 Kolbe was canonised by Pope John Paul II who declared Kolbe not a confessor, but a martyr. Kolbe is often depicted in a prison uniform. He is the patron saint of drug addicts, prisoners, families, and the pro-life movement and his feast day is celebrated on 14 August, the day he died.

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:4-8

Elijah, God's messenger, became discouraged and depressed at the resistance he encountered. God permitted this, yet he looked after his messenger.

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:30-5:2

In this letter, St. Paul reminds the Ephesians that simply having God's spirit within us won't magically make us live in accordance with it.

Gospel Reading: John 6:41-51

In the Old Testament, God's people complained even as they were fed in the wilderness. Now, in the Gospel, the people are complaining to each other about Jesus, even after he has fed them in the wilderness.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Ezek 1:2-4.24-28; Ps 148:1-2.11-14; Mt 17:22-27

Tue: Ezek 2:8-3:4; Ps 118:14.24.72.103.111.131; Mt 18:1-5.10.12-14

Wed: Apoc 11:19, 12:1-6.10; Ps 44:10-12.16; 1 Cor 15:20-26; Lk 1:39-56

Thu: Ezek 12:1-12; Ps 77:56-59.61-62; Mt 18:21-19:1

Fri: Ezek 16:1-15.60.63; Ps 12:2-6; Mt 19:3-12

Sat: Ezek 18:1-10.13.30-32; Ps 50:12-15.18-19; Mt 19:13-15

Dates for August & September

Traidcraft - 12th August

Traidcraft this Sunday morning
after 9am mass at John Fisher School

Parish Friends - Film

Parish Friends will be showing the
film **Paddington 2, This Sunday**
12th August from 2.30-5pm.

Popcorn, biscuits, squash, tea and
coffee will be served. This is a
charming family film and admission is
free but we will be having a raffle.

All are welcome. If you require a lift or further
details please contact Helen Bassill
phone 01727 852 250,
email helen.bassill@ntlworld.com

SOS from Open Door

Our Local Centre for the Homeless

Open Door would be most grateful for the
following items: Re-usable water bottles, sun cream,
after-sun, men's toiletries - i.e. deodorant, shaving
foam, shower soap, shampoo. Please leave **NEW,**
UNOPENED items in the church porch or at the
Mass Centre this Weekend, **11th / 12th August.**

Children's Liturgy

Next session: **Sunday 9th September,**
9.30am in the Parish Hall

Toddlers Group

Back on **Monday 10th September**
at 10.30am, in the Parish Hall.

English Conversation Classes for Ladies

English conversation classes for ladies whose
first language is not English will start again
on **Monday 10th September,** 1pm until 2.30pm
in the Parish Hall.

Thinking Lunch

Thursday 6th September, 12.30 to 1.30pm
At Marlborough Road Methodist Church,
St Albans AL1 3XG

Matthew Forsyth, Churches and Volunteers
Officer (London and the South East),
All We Can

What needs to go: the 0.7% to overseas
or the overseas development charities?
Tea / Coffee / Squash provided, but bring your
own sandwiches. Half an hour talk and then
discussion. Donations to cover expenses and any pro
fits will be given to All We Can
(formerly Methodist Relief and Development)



Recognising Modern Slavery

How can we spot slavery?

What can we do?

What support is available?

A talk by Duncan Montague

Detective Sergeant Operation Tropic,
Anti-Trafficking & Modern Slavery Team
7.30pm, Thursday, 6th September, Parish Hall

Tea and coffee available from 7.00pm

ALL WELCOME

CTSA Autumn Prayer Walk 2018

The annual CTSA Prayer Walk will take
place on **Sunday, 16th September,**
starting at 2pm from our church and
finishing at St Albans Cathedral. Please
come and join in this gentle stroll
around our city, pausing at some of the
churches to pray for the people of St Albans. The
afternoon includes a short break for tea and cake at
St Michael's parish hall. Join us for all or any part of
the walk. Detailed timings on the posters and flyers
at the back of church.

North Wales Retreat

21st - 24th September

Leader: Sister Seraphim. Includes Padre Pio day at
the national shrine of St. Pio at Pantasaph. Full
board accommodation at St. Winefride's Guest
House, Holywell, run by the Bridgettine sisters.
Opportunity to visit the centuries old shrine and
well of St. Winefride. Cost £175 per person - £152
shared room. Details: David Edwards 01727 765 216

Finding Silence Weekend

19th - 21st October 2018

Walsingham, Norfolk

Anyone interested and those already booked are
invited to a meeting on **Thursday 13th September,**
8pm in the parish hall to look at practicalities and
discuss travel arrangements. **Please note the
deadline for final payment is 14th September
2018.** Whilst only one

en-suite rooms currently remain free, more standard
rooms are available. We will be led by and join the
Community of Our Lady of Walsingham in their
daily prayer as well as attend Sunday Mass at the
RC national shrine of Our Lady. Some walking will
be involved and note that none of the rooms have
full disabled access. Rooms are available from 3pm
on Friday and the retreat will end with lunch on
Sunday. The cost of either single or shared
accommodation with full board is £110 per person
for a standard room or £138 per person for an en-
suite room. The community also ask for a separate
minimum donation of £10 from individuals at the
weekend for organising the talks. If there are
enough people we will organise a coach, the cost of
which will be from about £45 depending on
numbers. For further information and booking form
pick up a leaflet from the back of the church or
contact Krystyna krystyna@faithknowledge.org Tel.
751094 or Mike whitemw@talktalk.net Tel. 854596

NEWS BULLETIN

CAFOD – Film

Saturday, 6th October after 6pm Mass

Save the date for the next soup and film evening.

For this CAFOD family fast day's event we will be showing "Summer in the forest" [PG], a film about the people who live in the L'Arche community and about what it means to be truly human. Tickets available nearer the time. All proceeds to CAFOD. Placed by the parish JPIC group.



Tea and Coffee after 11.30am Mass

on 1st Sunday each month

We are hoping to re-start the tea and coffee get togethers after 11.30am Mass on the 1st Sunday each month. We hope you will join us and let Melanie (07900 051956) know if you are able to help. (Remember to park in Loreto, so that the church car park is available for baptisms.)

ADULTS JOURNEYING IN FAITH (R.C.I.A.) NEWS

Our adult journeying in faith programme will commence in September in the Parish Centre (Room 1), date to be agreed.

If you, a friend or relative: -

Want to complete your Catholic initiation e.g. to be Confirmed in your faith

Are the spouse / partner of a Catholic and would like to know more about joining our Catholic community
Want to become a Christian e.g. Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation

Just curious about the Catholic Christian way of life
Want to share and know more about your faith as a Catholic

Please contact Deacon Steve Pickard on 01727 863 925 or e-mail stephenpickard@gmail.com or any of our priests on 01727 853 585 or e-mail stalbens@rcdow.org.uk

Sponsored link www.life4seekers.co.uk (seeking, exploring, finding)

Growing in Faith Campaign

The parish's involvement in this diocesan campaign ended in July 2018 after 5 years. Very many thanks to all parishioners who contributed in any way to making it so successful. Parishioners need to check that their banks have cancelled any standing orders or direct debits either in July or at the end of their pledged period of time. Full financial details will be provided when the campaign has ended.

The Feast of the Assumption

15th August

Pope Pius XII solemnly defined in Munificentissimus Deus on 1 November 1950 that "the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

Although the solemn definition may have been at the midpoint of the twentieth century, the belief in the Assumption of our Blessed Mother exemplifies the dynamism of revelation and the Church's ongoing understanding of it as guided by the Holy Spirit.

Mary moves us by example and prayer to grow in God's grace, to be receptive to His will, to convert our lives through sacrifice and penance, and seek that everlasting union in the Heavenly Kingdom.

In 1973, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in their letter Behold Your Mother stated, "Christ has risen from the dead; we need no further assurance of our faith. Mary assumed into heaven serves rather as a gracious reminder to the Church that our Lord wishes all whom the Father has given Him to be raised with Him. In Mary taken to glory, to union with Christ, the Church sees herself answering the invitation of the heavenly Bridegroom."



Safeguarding Valuables

It is sad to report that money was stolen from the Traidcraft stall last Sunday morning. A couple of visitors from outside of the parish entered the church halfway through 9.30 Mass then one distracted the stall holder whilst the other took the money. Given the hot weather and the necessity to keep the doors open means there is easier access to church from the outside. Therefore, it would be wise to safeguard your valuables, in particular, it would be best to keep them with you whilst receiving Holy Communion.



Theatre Trips



For Theatre going parishioners, if interested in trips to London incl. coach. please contact Janet Audley Charles on jactheatretrips@gmail.com up and coming trips are King and I, Lion King, School of Rock, Kinky boots, Les Mis and More!

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

Confessions: Sat 10.30-11.30am & 6.45-7pm.
Baptisms: by appointment

