

# 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.org](http://www.albanstephen.org)

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

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

Safeguarding Lead Nicky Vellacott: [stalbanssg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbanssg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07882 566 020

Youth Website: [www.sasyouth.com](http://www.sasyouth.com). We are a Fairtrade Parish.

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

John’s Gospel is sometimes referred to as the ‘spiritual Gospel,’ as it has beautiful, reflective passages. During the Easter season, we read and hear mostly from John. It is a lovely opportunity to meditate more deeply on the Word.

Today, we are given the image of Jesus as the Shepherd and of his people as the flock.

We hear the words *‘I know them.’*

Jesus knows each person intimately. He knows our deepest desires, our worries and fears, our insecurities and pain. Jesus is as close to us as our own breathing.



Nobody can interfere with this intimate friendship, even though at times we may feel differently. We may experience discrimination because of our faith, or be attacked in some way. When things are not going well, we may feel as if Jesus has abandoned us; sometimes we simply want to give up on the whole thing. We become distant. Let this passage be a reminder to us that Jesus is always very close to us and knows our struggles.

This week, can you spend five minutes each day meditating on this passage?

Focus on the breath,

a phrase to repeat might be:

*‘Jesus, I know that you are as close to me as my own breathing.’*

## **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart**

In 1857, Fr Jules Chevalier, founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, honoured Mary with the title “Our Lady of the Sacred Heart”. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is at the centre of everything that the Chevalier Family, both laity and ordained, stand for. Mary, as Jesus’ mother, offers her son to the world, so that we may join in union with Him and enter into His grace and mercy. It is Our Lady who unites us all as sons and daughters of God, and as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart on 25<sup>th</sup> May, we invite you to pray a Novena, beginning on 17<sup>th</sup> May as we come to Mary with our prayers and with our petitions, united in the faith of the Sacred Heart.



## **Novena Prayer to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart**

Remember, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the great things the Lord has done for you; He chose you for His mother, He wanted you close to His cross, He gives you a share in His glory. He listens to your prayer. Offer Him our prayers of praise and thanksgiving. Present our petitions to Him.

*Share your petitions silently with Our Lady.*

Let us live like you in the love of your Son that His Kingdom may come. Lead all people to the source of living water that flows from His Heart, spreading over the world hope and salvation, justice, and peace. See our trust in you; answer our prayer. Show yourself always, our Mother. Amen.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including  
**Sr. Eta Keane (Sister of Mercy, Birmingham),  
Eva McMahan, George Ackers  
and Margaret Norris** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including **Larry Chrimes**.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

12.5.2019

6pm Kathleen D'Arcy RIP  
8am Deceased Members of Bergin  
and Cowley Families  
9am M'wick People of the Parish  
9.30am Thomas and Mary Miskell Anniv.  
11.30am Anna Ortone Anniv.  
4pm Polish Mass  
7pm Owen & Margaret Watters RIP

### Monday – Our Lady of Fatima

10am World's Union of Catholic Women's  
Organisations Ints.  
7pm Tecla Page RIP

### Tuesday – St. Matthias

10am Nora King RIP  
NO EVENING MASS

### Wednesday – Easter Feria

10am Veronica Hamilton RIP  
7pm MSC Benefactors

### Thursday – Easter Feria

10am Priests' Intentions  
NO EVENING MASS

### Friday – Easter Feria

10am Elizabeth Ingman Anniv.  
7pm Franciszek Frosztega Anniv.

### Saturday – St. John I

NO MORNING MASS

11am **FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS**

2.30pm **FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS**

6pm Freda and Margaret Clancy Anniv.

### Next Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter

8am Veronica Hamilton RIP  
9am M'wick Arthur and Kate Ball Anniv.  
9.30am Mr. Sajish Kandaramath Anniv.  
11.30am Rita Capparelli Anniv and family  
7pm Ellen McCarthy Ints.

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

## First Holy Communions

First Holy Communions  
will be celebrated in our Parish  
on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May at 11am & 2.30pm.  
Please note that there will be no 10am Masses  
or confessions on these days.



## Confirmations

Reconciliation Service for Candidates:  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 4.30-5.30pm in the Church



Confirmation Rehearsals  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 5-6pm and 6-7pm

Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate  
the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>  
May 2019. The ceremonies will be held in the  
Church at 11am and 3pm. Please note that there  
will be no 10am Mass or confessions.

## Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held  
on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 10.30am, in Room  
1 of the Parish Centre. Parents who wish



to baptise their **FIRST** child need to attend.  
To book a place on this course, please call the  
presbytery on 01727 853 585. Office Hours: Monday  
– Friday, 9am – 1pm. If you would like to baptise  
your **FIRST** child you will be unable to secure a  
baptism date before attending this session.  
Baptisms are held on Sundays at 1pm. If you live  
outside our Parish it is necessary to have a letter  
from your Parish Priest giving permission  
to baptise here.

## Reading for the Week:

Mon: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 41:2-3,42:3-4; Jn 10:1-10  
Tue: Acts 1:15-17,20-26; Ps 112; Jn 15:9-17  
Wed: Acts 12:24-13:5; Ps 66:2-3,5-6,8; Jn 12:44-50  
Thu: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 88:2-3,21-22,25,27; Jn 13:16-20  
Fri: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11; Jn 14:1-6  
Sat: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 97:1-4; Jn 14:7-14

# Dates for May & June



## Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' prayers will meet  
on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm in room 2.**  
Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome.

Information from:  
[Office@mothersprayers.org](mailto:Office@mothersprayers.org)



## Friends of the Holy Land

Understand the daily challenges that face  
Christians in the Holy Land and how you can  
make a difference!

Speaker: Brendan Metcalfe,  
Friends of the Holy Land

**7.45pm Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, Ss Alban &  
Stephen Parish Hall, Beaconsfield Road**  
All Welcome



## Echoes from The Youth Synod - Reflections for Young Adults

A further meeting of young adults at  
Archbishop's House will take place on **Tuesday  
21<sup>st</sup> May, 6.30pm, Archbishop's House, Victoria,  
London.** These meetings are an opportunity for  
young adults to come together following the  
Synod of Bishops meeting on youth last October,  
pray, have input from one of our diocesan  
bishops, reflect and discuss the place of faith in  
the life of young people. Bishop John Wilson will  
be leading our reflections, this time focusing on  
the recently published exhortation from Pope  
Francis addressed to young people. All young  
adults are invited to attend. Please let the Diocese  
know your intention to attend by emailing  
[youth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk). For more details, go  
to [www.dowym.com/events](http://www.dowym.com/events)



## Catholic Worker Farm - Open Day

**1<sup>st</sup> June 3pm till late, International Buffet at 6pm**  
**The Catholic Worker Farm, Old Uxbridge Road,  
Rickmansworth, WD3 9XJ**

Meet the team and learn about the work they do  
with homeless women and children. Life  
performance from Ooberfuse, Face Painting,  
Henna Tattoos, Trampolining and more  
[www.thecatholicfarm.org](http://www.thecatholicfarm.org) / 07983 477 819



## Spirit in the City Festival,

**31<sup>st</sup> May & 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019.**

**Theme 'Life to the Full'.**



Catholic Faith Festival celebrating and  
witnessing faith in London's Leicester  
Square. Starts Friday evening from 7pm in Notre  
Dame de France Church.

Saturday all day in the Square gardens. Includes  
live stage music, street evangelisation, prayer  
teams, all day Adoration, Confessions, feet  
washing, activities for children, talks, etc. For  
more information, contact Allegra,  
[info@spiritinthecity.org](mailto:info@spiritinthecity.org) or call 0791 5537125.  
To register as a helper, visit [spiritinthecity.org](http://spiritinthecity.org)



## Northern Catholic Conference

*"Love one Another as I have loved you"* is the theme  
at the Northern Catholic Conference 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> June  
at Liverpool HOPE University. Mass, Adoration,  
healing service and inspiring speakers.  
[northern catholic@outlook.com](mailto:northern catholic@outlook.com) / 07543 800 812



## Life Ascending (Ascent) Retreat

Aylesford Priory, Kent.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June.**

Led by Fr. Peter Griffiths SJ.

Full board accommodation £205.

Details: David Edwards,

Tel: 01727 765 216



## City of London Church Pilgrimage

**Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup>**



A walking pilgrimage through the City  
of London is being organised to  
celebrate our patrons St Alban (the first  
martyr of England) and St Stephen (the  
first Christian martyr).

The walk will include visits to churches associated  
with Saint Alban and Saint Stephen as well as  
Mass at a City church.

If interested in joining in the walk, please contact  
Richard on 07740 265 947  
or (preferably) email [rconeill@btinternet.com](mailto:rconeill@btinternet.com)

# NEWS BULLETIN

## **Light a Candle for The Hospice of St. Francis Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

The Hospice of St. Francis will be recreating the silent Prayer Vigil that was held at St Peter's Church in Berkhamsted on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1979, which was the catalyst for the founding of the hospice.



St Peters in Berkhamstead will be open this year from 4pm until 8pm providing a multi-faith, contemplative space to give thanks for our Hospice and to pray for our future.

The Lady Chapel in St Albans Cathedral will also be open from 1pm-3pm.

You are invited to Come and light a candle for the hospice!

For more information, please visit:

[www.stfrancis.org.uk/prayervigil](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/prayervigil)

Tel.no: 01442 869 550

## **Walsingham Weekend 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Open to anyone, this silent retreat will be led by the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk and will include joining them in their rhythm of prayer.

Some walking will be involved and please 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 is £116 per person for a standard room and £145 per person for an en-suite room, whether single or shared.

For further information and booking form pick up a leaflet from the back of the church or Mass Centre or contact

Krystyna

[krystyna@faithknowledge.org](mailto:krystyna@faithknowledge.org)

Tel. 01727 751 094



## **Watford, Hemel & St. Albans NHS Hospital Chaplaincy**

On admission to hospital, please ensure that your religion is registered and ask for this information to be given to the hospital chaplaincy team.

Chaplains visit the wards during the week and will organise sacramental and pastoral care; they also provide an 'on-call' service in case of emergency. Please let your parish clergy know if you or a close relative are in hospital or you can contact the hospital chaplaincy directly by calling 01923 217994 referrals can also be made via email: [spiritualcare@whht.nhs.uk](mailto:spiritualcare@whht.nhs.uk)

## **TWAM - Tools with a Mission**

### **Tool Collection**

at Dagnall Street Baptist Church

(Hall below the church,  
Dagnall Street AL3 5EE)

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019,

12noon - 7pm

*Yes please: All hand, electric & garden tools,  
IT equipment, sewing & knitting machines  
& haberdashery.*

*No thank you: Broken tools, lawn mowers, bicycles,  
disability aids, printers, typewriters.*

More details: [www.twam.uk](http://www.twam.uk)

Twam collects unwanted tools and equipment and enables people to switch from Aid dependency to self-sufficiency



## **Missing Keys**



A set of church keys is currently missing.

If you borrowed keys from the Parish Office recently and haven't returned them yet, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

## **Walk to Mass in June**

The summer is nearly here; have you considered getting out your walking shoes and taking a stroll to Mass rather than using the car?

Perhaps leave a few minutes early and enjoy the quiet of a Sunday morning.

## **Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen**

Confessions: Sat 10.30-11.30am & 6.45-7pm

Baptisms: by appointment