

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

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



17th February 2019

What's so great about being poor, or hungry or sad? On the surface, these Beatitudes of Jesus seem very strange: 'How happy are you who are poor.' Surely it is better to be wealthy, to be well fed, and to enjoy good times - or to at least be comfortable and content?

But Jesus is not interested in comfort, or in maintaining the status quo.

The Jesus of Luke's Gospel is something of a revolutionary. He has come to turn the social order on its head: last becomes first and least becomes greatest. His concern is always for the poor and marginalised.



Jesus' vision is of a world where the unjust structures that cause poverty, hunger and oppression are swept away. Sadly, we hear on the news every day, inequalities in our world with regard to wealth, education, health and opportunities remain as stark as ever.

Speaking about how we can tackle injustice today, Pope Francis has offered six 'new Beatitudes' for the modern Christian. Like the teaching of Jesus, they remind us that the task of the Christian is to tackle injustice and to act in solidarity with those on the margins of society.

Pope Francis 'new Beatitudes' include:

Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.

Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalised and show them their closeness.

Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Joy of Hope

Thursdays 9.45am to 12.00

repeated 7.45pm to 9.00pm

7th, 14th, 21st and 28th March in the Parish Hall

An inspiring and practical new DVD course from CaFE. Filmed on the stunning Holy Greek island of Patmos where Scripture says St John had a life-changing revelation of our future eternal destination. Each session includes an engaging mix of teaching, scripture meditation and prayerful response. These four enjoyable sessions will help you to face the challenges of everyday life with renewed hope and joy. Light refreshments provided for the morning course and a light buffet in the evening. Everybody is welcome to as many sessions as they can make.

Men's Film Night

There is a men's film night coming up **on Friday 22nd February in the Parish Hall**. This month we are going for a 1980s classic, "the Mission" about two Jesuits working in South America in 1700s, starring Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons. You can join us for drinks and pizza from 7.30pm and then we will watch the film at 8.30pm. You are very welcome to bring one or two friends along from within or outside the parish.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **Fr. Pat Courtney MSC, Fr. Henry Twohig MSC, Liam Hessian, Zbigniew 'John' Frosztega, Conway Berners-Lee, Carmela Martin, Nora King, Tecla Page** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including **Jimmy Loughlin and Oswald McCarthy**.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Adrain McDonagh, Mary Watkins, Frances Flavin, Sue Gavin, Joe Smalls, Margaret Norris, Betty Nicklin, Joe Spatafora, Mark Norris, Magdalena Pedroz, Teresa Hill, Callum Gathard, Ida Daswa, Patrick Doran, Gerry Smith, Hannah Barquerro-Stack, Adrian Stack, Patricia McCarthy, Liz Smith, Philomena Lines, Francisco Diaz, Catherine Elkin, John Moloney, Carmen Mincu, Teresa Virrueta, Mike Smith, Bernadette Marron, Margaret Moloney, Alice Daly, Jim Moss, Patrick Foley, Jim O'Neill, Jack O'Mahoney, John Baxter, Carmaline Xavier, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O'Gorman, Jim O'Connor, Kathleen Murphy, Edie Hale, Becki Vousden, Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM, Geraldine McBride, Becki Vousden, Vertina Fernandes, John Rowland, Veronica Hamilton, Claire Whitehead, Catrin Rees-Doherty, Sheila Doohan, Noah Gregorio, and Edmond Mansfield may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

17.2.2019

6pm Family and Friends of Freda Clancy Ints.
8am People of the Parish
9am M'wick Arthur and Kate Ball Anniv.
9.30am Christopher Brennan RIP
11.30am Michael Finucane Anniv.
7pm Catherine Mayes RIP

Monday – Feria

10am Deceased members of the Moore Family
7pm Manuel Paz Anniv.

Tuesday – Feria

10am Priests' Intentions
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Feria

10am Richard Richardson Ints.
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. Peter Damian

10am **FUNERAL OF NORA KING**
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

10am Caroline Sobieraj RIP
7pm Maura Connellan Anniv.

Saturday – St. Polycarp

10am Joan Davis RIP
6pm Mary and Andrew Brady Anniv.

Next Sunday

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am People of the Parish
9am M'wick Ken and Mary Neal Anniv.
9.30am Antonio Gramegna Anniv.
11.30am Thomas Kiely Anniv.
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Mary Curran RIP

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

This weekend, there will be an exit collection
for Racial Justice.

Racial Justice Sunday

17th February marks Racial Justice Sunday, which focuses on the experiences of ethnic communities in England and Wales. It is a day on which we are all called to earnestly pray for an end to racism and racial inequality in our country. The theme this year is Dignity of Work, looking at how all people must not be exploited or face discrimination and hatred in their work. In a world steeped in violence, conflict and discrimination, the Gospel demands that we acknowledge the dignity of the human person, the necessity of building peace, prosperity, justice for all.

Parish Friends – Film

Parish Friends will be showing
the highly acclaimed film
"Mama Mia-Here We Go
Again" **this Sunday 17th
February** in the Parish Hall.



Refreshments will be served from 2.30pm and the
film will be shown at 3pm.
All Welcome.

Churches Together in St. Albans

Discussion on "The State of Unity
- how do different churches view & express unity"
Monday 18th February at 8.15pm,
preceded by refreshments at
7.30 pm & AGM at 7.45pm at **Homewood Rd.
United Reformed Church.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

The prophets always had their work cut out for them, when it came to leading people to trust in God. In this respect, human nature has not changed.

Second Reading: Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Some of Paul's community are denying the very heart of the faith, saying that there is no such thing as resurrection from the dead.

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:17.20-26

Before teaching his people, Jesus 'fixes his eyes on them.' The Lord sees us in depth, not only with sight, but with insight.

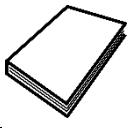
Reading for the Week:

Mon: Gen 4:1-15.25; Ps 49:1.8.16-17; Mk 8:11-13
Tue: Gen 6:5-8; 7:1-5.10; Ps 28:1-4.9-10; Mk 8:14-21
Wed: Gen 8:6-13.20-22; Ps 115:12-15.18-19, Mk 8:14-21
Thu: Gen 9:1-13; Ps 101:16-00.29.22-23; Mk 8:27-33
Fri: 1 Pet 5:1-4; Ps 22; Mt 16:13-19
Sat: Heb 11:1-7; Ps 144:2-5.10-11; Mk 9:2-13

Dates for February and March

Rejoice and be Glad – a Lenten Resource

In his third Apostolic Exhortation "Gaudete et Exsultate", Pope Francis reflects on the call to holiness. In response to that call, the Lenten faith sharing booklet, written by Monsignor Keith Barltrop of Bayswater Parish, focuses on the joy of being a missionary disciple. Copies of the Lenten faith-sharing booklet "Rejoice and be Glad" will soon be available in the church porch and at Marshalswick Mass centre [£3]. Intended for use in a small group or in the setting of one's own home, either as a family or alone,



"Rejoice and be Glad" explores how the themes of joyful evangelisation of recent Pope's can bring a new sense of missionary purpose in our parish and help us to grow in holiness.

Launch Event: Saturday 23rd February 10.45am – 1pm in the Parish Hall. To launch this Lenten resource, Mgr Keith will explore themes in "Gaudete et Exsultate" to show us what holiness means and why in the Beatitudes, Jesus tells us to "Rejoice and be Glad".

This will give us a good base from which we can explore further, using the faith sharing booklet, to grow in holiness during Lent. The talk will be followed by group discussions and a pizza lunch.

Lenten Small Groups: You are invited to join a small group during Lent to explore the themes in the "Rejoice and be Glad" booklet. You are welcome to come along on a Monday after 10am Mass in Room 1 or on Tuesdays at 8pm in the Parish Centre. There are also a few spaces in small groups meeting at other times. For details contact Mike or Sylvia [whitemw@talktalk.net or Tel. 01727 854 596].

All are welcome.

Understanding the World of the Word

Second part of the formation programme for Ministers of the Word and anyone interested in lay ministry and Scripture. With Sister Karen



Marguerite OP, **Saturday 23rd February (10am – 3.30 pm, Niland Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey WD23 4EE.**

Suggested donation £15. Please bring a packed lunch. Register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk.

Scripture from Scratch

A Journey Through Lent with the Gospel of Luke with Sr Anne Walsh OP. These five sessions explore the Sunday Readings of Lent, inviting us to open our hearts to God's Word in preparation for Easter. **Thursdays 28th February; 14th & 28th March; 11th April (7.30-9 pm refreshments from 7pm).**

Suggested donation £5/session.

Niland Conference Centre at Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE (www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk/programme-of-events or nilandcentre@gmail.com for details).

Churches Together in St.Albans World Day of Prayer

Friday 1st March, 10am service at St.Leonard's Church in Sandridge & at 2.30pm at St. Stephen's Church in Watling Street

Flame



The biggest Catholic Youth event in England and Wales.

Saturday 2nd March, 2019, Wembley, London

Contact Sister Anita

anitaoleary@rcdow.org.uk for further details.

Embraced

Saturday 2nd March, Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, London N11 1AA.

Caritas Westminster invites you to an afternoon highlighting opportunities for volunteering and befriending in a variety of ways. RSVP: 0207 798 9030 caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk

CAFOD Family Fast Day

Friday 15th March. You are invited to eat a simple meal in solidarity with the poor of the world. Any money you may save can be given in the Family Fast Day collection on 16/17th March. Gift-aid envelopes will be available in Church if you are a tax-payer and want to allow Cafod to reclaim tax paid on your donation.



You may also like to consider taking your Fast Day meal with others **in the Church Hall at noon on Saturday 9th March:**

Homemade Soup and Bread Lunch and Film

Please come and join fellow parishioners in this CAFOD Lenten fast day lunch. All welcome.

Saturday 9th March in the Church Hall. Lunch at noon followed at 1.30pm by the acclaimed animation "The Breadwinner" [rated 12, run time 90 minutes] and tea/coffee and conversation until 4pm. Tickets available after Masses [£2]. The Breadwinner tells the tale of an 11 year old girl growing up under the Taliban in Kabul in 2001 and how she and her family manage once her father is wrongfully arrested.

*** Total Film.

More details from Stan - 01727 765 549, grabecki@hotmail.com

City Centre Churches Lent Course Finding a voice -

A course based on the "King's Speech"

Weekly sessions all following the same programme so you can mix and match times and days as you wish. **Tuesdays 12th March – 9th April** at Cross Street Centre, Dagnall Street, Baptist Church 10.30am or 8pm, or St Peter's, St Peter's Street at 1.30pm. **Thursdays 14th March – 11th April** at 10.00am at Marlborough Road Methodist Church.

NEWS BULLETIN

Rough Sleeping in St Albans

Thinking Evening, **Wednesday 13th March 2019** at **Marlborough Road Methodist Church**, when Tom Snell, the Housing Options Team Leader for St Albans City and District Council will be talking about Rough Sleeping in St Albans. Tom is very involved in developing the county wide response to homeless young people. Arrive from 7.30pm for refreshments, 8pm start ending by 9.30pm. Donations to cover expenses and profits will be given to Centre 33, a local charity working with the homeless, and socially or materially disadvantaged people in our community.

Feast of Annunciation - Pilgrimage

On the Feast of the Annunciation **25th March 2019**
There will be a pilgrimage to Walsingham with coach from St Albans, to pray for the Sanctity of Life.



Holy Mass in Walsingham at 12noon will be celebrated by the Bishop of East Anglia, Alan Hopes, followed by a visit to the Slipper Chapel and a walk along the Holy

Mile to the Priory, the original site of the holy house requested by Our Lady in 1061. The cost is £20 with special price for families. To book or for further info please contact Rosemary Roscoe 07723 546 642
rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Westminster Cathedral, London

Saturday 8th June 2019 at 3pm.

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)

wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2019. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the Parish Office the following details:

Husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and e-mail (or telephone number, if no e-mail) **by 20th March 2019**

Tel.no: 01727 853 585 (Mon - Fri, 9am - 1pm)

E-mail: stalban@rcdow.org.uk



Churches Together in Marshalswick

Baptist Free Church, The Quadrant

Sunday Lent Series of Talks at 7pm.

'On the Way Up' - a look at some of the people Jesus came across or helped Him on His last journey from Jericho to Jerusalem

10th March: Bartimaeus, Rev John Steele

17th March: Zacchaeus, Rev Abigail Thompson

24th March: Easy Rider, Rev Simon Carver

31st March: Home from Home, Peter Berners-Lee

7th April: Next to Nothing, Rev Dennis Stamps

Finding Silence at Worth Abbey

13th - 16th May 2019.

In this fully catered stay we are led and directed by a Benedictine monk. You don't have to be Catholic. The cost is £189 (£160.65 concession) per person for a single room or £160.65 per person for a shared room.

Booking deadline and final payment: Thursday 4th April. Complete a booking form from the back of the Church or contact krystyna@faithknowledge.org Tel. 01727 751 094



*Even if all others should abandon you
remain in peace and confidence.
The faithful love of the heart of
Jesus will not deceive you
nor abandon you.*



Jules Chevalier, Le Sacré-Cœur, p. 347

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

Easter Season Painting Competition

The Knights of St Columba (KSC) is promoting a National Easter Season Painting Competition - 2019. Entry is free and is open to students in Catholic secondary schools and also to Catholic students in non-Catholic secondary schools, in two age groups, from 12 to 18 years.

Entry details have been circulated to art departments in Catholic secondary schools in St Albans and district and details can also be found on Posters and Flyers displayed in the church porch and at Mass centres. In addition to KSC national prizes, there are KSC Provincial and KSC St Albans prizes to be won. The closing date for receipt of entries, to School/College Art Departments, is: **Monday 1st April 2019**. Competition enquiries to: kennedy.p@ntlworld.com



Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment