

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



18th November 2018

This chapter from Mark is part of a farewell speech from Jesus to his followers in the last days of his earthly life.

It sounds almost apocalyptic because we are nearing the end of the Church’s liturgical year and so the texts we read take this tone.



Jesus is revealing to his disciples something about the new order which is coming. He talks about the ‘end times’ and this can appear frightening at first.

However, if we enter into a meditation on this Gospel we might bring to mind something of those moments in our own lives when we felt like our world was ending.

Perhaps it was the end of a relationship, the death of a loved one, the end of one stage of your life. Things which seemed so familiar and helped keep us secure suddenly changed.

These can be extremely difficult periods of one’s life. It is during those times that someone comes to us offering prophecy of better times to come, of words that ‘will not pass away.’

Jesus is preparing the disciples for what is about to happen to him with assurance that God’s kingdom is far greater than any evil that is about to occur.

The passage is often interpreted as referring to the second coming of Christ or his resurrection. Whenever we experience trauma we keep going with the assurance that resurrection is all around us and a new way of being is on the horizon.

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our priests will be available for form signing in the Parish Centre on:

Tuesday 20th November, 6pm – 8pm
Wednesday 21st November, 4pm – 6pm

Confirmations 2019

Enrolment Forms are now available from the back of the Church for all those in Year 10 and above who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next year.

Please note that the deadline for submitting your enrolment forms is **Friday, 30th November.**



Christmas Market Stall Volunteers Needed

Saturday 15th December

Please plan to give ½ hour to hand out Invitations to our Christmas Services at the market on 15th December, 9am – 3.30pm.

Tel.no: 01727 838 598 (Eric)

Getting Married in the next 12 months?

A Marriage Preparation programme will be running in the Parish soon. If you are planning to get married in the next 12 months, please contact



Fr. Jimmy as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including John O’Keeffe, Nellie Colfer, Sr. Mercedes Brogan, John Donachie, Kensley Lewis and Maddalena Lazzara, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

18.11.2018

6pm Deceased members of the Moore Family
8am Dale Langham RIP
9am M'wick People of the Parish
9.30am Vincent O'Reilly RIP
11.30am Francesco & Maria Padormo Anniv.
7pm Deceased members of Logan / Fitzsimons Family.

Monday – Feria

10am Stephen O'Brien RIP
7pm Jozef Siedlik RIP

Tuesday – Feria

10am Danny Crowley Anniv.
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10am Priests' Intentions
12.30pm **FUNERAL OF EILEEN COLFER**
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. Cecilia

10am **FUNERAL OF JOHN O'KEEFFE**
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – St. Clement I.

10am Finbarr Fitzpatrick RIP
7pm Liber Marzo RIP

Saturday – St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc

10am Vincent O'Reilly RIP
6pm Deceased members of the Peters Family

Next Sunday

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

8am Dale Langham RIP
9am M'wick Cliff Staniforth Anniv.
9.30am People of the Parish
11.30am Antonio Visconti & Giuseppe D'Auria Anniv.
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Elizabeth Bond RIP

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

A Message from Fr. TJ:

Many thanks for all your prayers and get well wishes during my recent illness. I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness. Following a short time out, I am back in action again.

St Cecilia

Feast day 22 November

St Cecilia was born in Rome in 200 AD. When she was quite young she was given in marriage to a Roman called Valerian. She told her husband that the angels watched over her and, once he was baptised he would see the angels too. He husband believed her and as a sign of his commitment he and his brother chose to bury the Christian saints who were killed by the Prefect of the city Turcius



Almachius. Almachius then had them arrested and put to death. As a widow, Cecilia spent her time preaching and converting people to Christianity. Almachius sent an executioner to behead her but after three attempts he was unable to kill her, leaving her bleeding. She died three days later having preached to and prayed with the crowds that gathered. When her body was exhumed in 1599 it was found to be incorrupt, the first of all incorrupt saints. Her remains were transferred to the church of St Cecilia's in Trastevere, a suburb of Rome, and placed under the high altar. Cecilia is the patron saint of music because she heard heavenly music in her heart when she married. She is often represented in art with an organ or organ-pipes in her hand.

Catholic Diaries 2019

Catholic Diaries 2019 are now available in the porch. Published by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the diaries contain the order of the Mass, the Rite of Communion for the Sick as well as Church-special Holydays and "words of wisdom" verses. Cost: just £2 each, please leave money in the newspaper box.

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-13

The word of God cautions us that the testing of humanity is part of God's plan. So, too is the vindication of those who have been faithful.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Christ offered not many sacrifices, but 'one single sacrifice for sin.' That saving sacrifice is made present and effective every time we celebrate the Eucharist.

Gospel Reading: 13:24-32

This passage from Mark's Gospel reminds us of two realities: God's people are assured of the final victory of God and his goodness.

Readings for the Week:

Mon: Apoc 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Ps 1:1-4.6; Lk 18:35-43

Tue: Apoc 3:1-6.14-22; Ps 14:2-5; Lk 19:1-10

Wed: Zech 2:14-17; Ps: Lk 1:46-55; Mt 12:46-50

Thu: Apoc 5:1-10; Ps 149:1-6.9; Lk 19:41-44

Fri: Apoc 10:8-11; Ps 118:14.24.72.103.111.131.Lk 19:45-48

Sat: Apoc 11:4-12; Ps 143:1-2.9-10; Lk 20:27-40

Dates for November

Traidcraft Extra

Traidcraft extra **this weekend 17th / 18th November** after all Masses at the church. Any enquiries or orders, please phone or email us on 01727 765549 or grabecki@hotmail.com.

First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting

Monday 19th November,
at 8pm in the Parish Hall.

Knit and Natter

Tuesday 20th November 2.30-4pm

Knit and Natter in the Parish Centre.

"Stressed? You really can knit your way to happiness" was the headline in one of the newspapers last weekend, so come along and be happy. Everyone welcome to join us - novices and professionals. Light refreshments served.

Sharing the Light Service

On Thursday 22nd November from 6.30pm to 7.30pm we will have a "Sharing the Light" service in the church. The church will be lit by candles and opened for people to come in and spend 10-15 minutes in quiet prayer. This can be a time of peace, reflection and thanksgiving, as we will soon be in Advent and the busy Christmas period. You may want to pop in on the way home from work, or after dinner with the children for a few minutes. Some parishioners will also go out onto the local streets and invite people to join us in prayer.

Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals wants your unwanted clothing and bedding (no duvets or pillows please) and will be at our church until 11.30am on **Sunday 25th November** to collect them all. Put your clothing/bedding into tied sacks and bring them to Mass where the charity Mary's Meals will be here to pick them up. Amazingly 4 full black sacks of good quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year! Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education

Thinking Evening

Simon Carver, senior Baptist minister at Dagnall Street Church, has just returned from a sabbatical in the USA where he undertook a tour of 17 states in 27 days. On **Wednesday 28th November** he will be reflecting on how he experienced religion and politics under the current regime in America, with anecdotes from the people he met. His talk is at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, Marlborough Road, St Albans AL1 3XQ at 7.30pm for refreshments, 8pm start ending by 9.30pm. Donations to cover expenses and any profits will be given to Open Door.

Dates for December

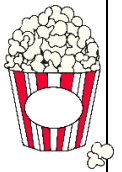
Film - Parish Friends

Sunday 9th December
in the Parish Hall

"The Greatest Showman".

Film for all the family.

Refreshments (including popcorn)
2.30. Film 3pm. All welcome.



Sponsored Sleep Out 2018

Friday, 7th December 2018, Oaklands College, Smallford, St Albans AL4 0XS, 9pm - 7am, All ages welcome. (children under 11 need to be accompanied by a parent) Will you brave the cold to help the homeless keep warm? Please join the Sleep Out and raise money for one of the 5 charities participating: Centre 33, Open Door, Emmaus, HYH and The Living Room. With your support and sponsorship, we can continue our vital work. So wrap up warm, grab some friends and help raise money and awareness of homelessness with us! Details and a registration form can be found at www.stalbanssleepout.org.uk

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Advent Quiet Evening: Journey into Advent, Led by Fr. Alan Neville MSC

On Thursday 13th December 2018
7.45pm for 8pm start, to finish by
9.30pm, at Marlborough Road
Methodist Church, Marlborough
Road, St Albans AL1 3XQ



Carols by Candlelight

The date is set for

Thursday 20th December,

so now we need singers,
musicians and readers!

If you'd like to take part, please text

Jacque on 07840 367555 for details.



You Can Be Santa

Many thanks to all volunteers who have visited families and returned consent forms and letters; please return any outstanding paperwork within the next couple of days to one of the team or post through the presbytery door in a clearly labelled envelope, as these will need to be processed before the ticket drawing next weekend. Please contact the Santa team by e-mail (santa@albanstephen.com) with any queries. **Benefactors** are reminded that they will need to draw a child's Santa letter next weekend after Masses in the Parish Centre / coffee areas, procedures on present buying will be given at this point. If you are unable to attend one of the Masses then please contact the Santa team, address above, to make alternative arrangements. Gifts should be returned after Masses on the weekend of 8/9 December. Your generous support to this initiative is continuing to spread the joy and true message of Christmas!



NEWS BULLETIN

Schools

SS ALBAN & STEPHEN CATHOLIC INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL

Starting Reception 2019

Families with a child born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 will soon be able to apply for a Reception place for September 2019.

The Herts Online system for Reception applications <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/> opens on Monday 5 November and closes on Tuesday 15 January. Additional forms will be needed, details can be found on www.ssainfants.herts.sch.uk or are available from the school office.

Starting Nursery 2019

Families with a child born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 will soon be able to apply for a Nursery place for September 2019. The application window for Nursery applications opens on Thursday 8 November and closes on Thursday 14 February. Applicants must complete our Application and Options Forms. These can be downloaded from www.ssainfants.herts.sch.uk or are available from the school office. Parents are welcome to visit the school and a list of dates and times for Foundation Stage tours can be viewed on the school website - please call 01727

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop - 4th December

We're raising money for the children at Ss Alban & Stephen schools. Join us and make your own wreath. All materials provided for this lovely 'make & take' evening. Plus get into the Christmas spirit with glass of mulled wine and mince pies! Starts at 7.30pm, upstairs in the Parish Hall. Tickets cost £15 per person. Limited spaces available, email ssaspta@gmail.com to check availability.



Travelling Crib

We are asking families to invite the Travelling Crib into their home for a night during Advent (**First Sunday of Advent: 2nd December**). The Crib will be

delivered to your house by the hosting family of the previous day, and then you are asked to deliver it onto the next family after you. An Advent candle will accompany the Crib - you are invited to light it when the Crib arrives to acknowledge that its

inhabitants are your guests for the night. There is also a book with activities and prayers. Please sign your name, e-mail and contact telephone number on the sheets provided - these will be available after 9.30am Mass. Once the lists are completed you will be sent details of the route of families via e-mail so you know who to deliver the Crib to, and who to contact to arrange a delivery to your home. Please help us to keep the Crib safe and warm this Advent, ready to greet Jesus when he arrives at Christmas.

For details contact Sr. Anita.



Turkey and Tinsel Lunch

Due to popular demand Parish Friends are bringing back the Turkey and Tinsel Lunch for all senior parishioners on **Sunday 13th January 12.45 - 3pm**. Entertainment will be provided by Saints Alive. Further details will follow.

Lost Property

A set of house keys and car keys was found in mid-October in Church. If you believe that these keys might be yours, please contact the Parish Office on 01727 853 585 (Monday - Friday, 9am - 1pm)

Christmas Day Lunch

Our parish has traditionally provided Christmas Day lunch for people who would otherwise be alone at Christmas. Helpers are needed if the lunch is to happen this Christmas. Can you organise, cook, serve or arrange lifts on Christmas Day? Contact: Dave_markham@yahoo.co.uk, 07543 400650

Volunteers for Winter Beds Project Needed

Volunteers for Winter Beds Project Needed
The success of the Open Door Winter Beds Project for the homeless, depends on finding enough volunteers to assist. More helpers are desperately needed if this initiative is to continue. There are several different ways in which you could help, so if you would like to find out how you can make a difference during severe weather conditions, please attend one of the training sessions starting at 7.45 pm at Trinity URC, Beaconsfield Road on EITHER Monday 26 November OR Friday 30 November. To book or to get further details of the tasks involved contact david@davidpartridge.com



Nativity Scene Painting Competition

The Knights of St Columba (KSC) are sponsoring a National *Nativity Scene Painting Competition* - 2018 open to pupils in Catholic Primary Schools in two age groups: **Five to Seven** and **Eight to Eleven** years of age. Details of the Competition have been circulated to the Art Departments in Catholic Primary Schools/College in St Albans and District. There are National and Local prizes to be won. The closing date for entries to: School/College Art Departments is **Friday 7 December 2018**. For Competition enquiries please e-mail: kennedy.p@ntlworld.com



New Parish Website

Our new parish website is now available and we hope you will enjoy it, especially the local images, and find it simple to navigate. The PPC welcomes your comments on the site. New information for the website should be sent to the parish office (stalban@rcdow.org.uk), to be forwarded to the volunteers who have kindly agreed to participate in a rota to update the site. A big thank you to everyone who has given time over the summer to design and create the new website. Please update your bookmarks to the new website address www.albanstephen.org

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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