

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

19th August 2018

Today’s reading extol the virtue of wisdom. In the first reading, Wisdom is personified as a diligent and prepared woman inviting guests to dinner.

But she is not inviting those who are similarly virtuous. Instead, she calls upon those who are not wise, not reflective and not learned.

Wisdom is to be shared among all, not kept as the preserve of the privileged few.

The attentiveness and awareness of the hostess is presented to us as a model.

She does not shun those whom she does not consider her intellectual or spiritual equal.

She invites them, but, crucially, does not force them to dialogue with her.

In the gospel, Jesus does not become affronted when his listeners questioned his teaching.

Instead, he sought to explain it to them without demanding that they come over to his side of the fence.

In our desire to be right and in our noble efforts to do right, we may find ourselves trampling on others as they attempt to do the same. The depth of our faith in particular can motivate us to share it with others.

It is natural to want to impart to the world the belief that gives us joy and purpose. However, we must be mindful that we invite, not demand; that we are not affronted, but patient enough to explain.



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

(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 stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

Sponsored link www.life4seekers.co.uk

(seeking, exploring, finding)

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

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Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including
Adrian Stack, Patricia McCarthy, 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 Mincu & Teresa Virrueta;
may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

19.8.2018

6pm Patrick Marron Anniv.
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

Monday – St. Bernard

10am John Roche RIP
7pm Keith Gladden RIP

Tuesday – St. Pius X

10am Austin O'Donnel RIP

4.30pm LIE-IN FOR ELISABETH PAGE

NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10am FUNERAL OF ELISABETH PAGE

7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. Rose of Lima

10am Carlo Grilli Anniv.

NO EVENING MASS

Friday – St. Bartholomew

10am Priests' Intentions
7pm Mary Curran RIP

Saturday – St. Louis

10am Sean Crowley RIP
6pm Brian Lee RIP (Birthday)

Next Sunday

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Valerie Scully Anniv.
9am M'wick Ann McVie RIP
9.30am Elisabeth Page RIP
11.30am Xuereb & Brennan families Anniv.
4pm Polish Mass
7pm People of the Parish

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

Last week's offertory amounted to £1,761.73
Many thanks for your generosity.

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.

First Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is central to our faith. We are all finding our way, discovering as we go. Wisdom teaches us that we can't all keep the same pace, but we can all encourage and support our fellows.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

To describe someone as 'wise' is possibly the highest compliment we can give them. It suggests a sharpness of mind, clear judgement and sensitivity to others. Paul urges the Ephesians to seek wisdom in order to make the most of their lives, so that they might know God and love him above all else.

Gospel Reading: John 6:51-58

In his ministry, Jesus made excellent use of narratives. He frequently told parables and referred to sacred scripture in order to communicate the transcendent reality of God. But ultimately, language fails to express this. The sacrifice of Christ is about much more than his physical body. It rests on the ultimate unity of God and humanity, the indescribable love that causes God to enter the grit and bone reality of human life, in order to bring us back to him.

Parish Office - 28th August

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday 28th August due to refurbishment.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Ezek 24:1-24; Ps: Deut : 32:18-21; Mt 19:16-22
Tue: Ezek 28:1-10; Ps Deut: 32:26-28.30.35-36; Mt 19 :23-30
Wed: Ezek 34:1-11; Ps 22; Mt 20:1-16
Thu: Ezek 36:23-28; Ps 50:12-15.18-19; Mt 22:1-14
Fri: Apoc 21:9-14; Ps 144:10-13.17-18; Jn 1:45-51
Sat: Ezek 43:1-7; Ps 84:9-14; Mt 23:1-12

Dates for September

Toddlers Group:

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



Children's Liturgy:

Next session: **Sunday 9th September**,
9.30am 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 profits 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

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.

ALPHA Course

A new **ALPHA Course** will be starting in the Parish on **Thursday, 11th October at 7.30 pm**. Please join us if you would like to explore the basics of our Christian Faith, ask questions and share your point of view. Over 11 weeks, we will be looking at a different question around faith. Each session will start with a light meal. This will be followed by a video talk of around 30 minutes. The talks explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity. The first talk is entitled *Who is Jesus?* Other topics include: *How can we have faith? Why and how do I pray? How does God guide us?* We then share thoughts and ideas on the topic and discuss together in a small group. You can hear from others and contribute your thoughts and ideas (if you wish) in an honest, friendly and open environment. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information,



please contact Ann Hill
anncarmelhill@gmail.com / 07977 056 637
or Sylvia White
sylviacwhite@talktalk.net/01727 854 596

NEWS BULLETIN

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 whitew@talktalk.net Tel. 854596



*"We are not called by God
to do extraordinary things,
but to do ordinary things
with extraordinary love"*

Jean Vanier

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.

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!

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.

Safeguarding Valuables

It is sad to report that money was stolen from the Traidcraft stall two weeks ago. 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.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

The SVP thank parishioners for the generous support received in the recent collections.

A total of £1,593.68 was donated.

This will help greatly a number of impoverished families and individuals in St. Albans

Tea and Coffee after 11.30am Mass on 1st Sunday each month

We are hoping to re-start the tea and coffee get together 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.)

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

