

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.

21st April 2019

Easter Day of the Lord’s Resurrection

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark...’ So begins today’s Gospel reading, the Gospel we listen to every Easter Sunday.

This opening line sets the scene for the events of that first Easter, when first Mary of Magdala, and then Simon Peter and the other disciple, discover the empty tomb and come to the realisation that Jesus has risen from the dead.

It is only at this moment that they understand that Jesus has risen from the dead. It is only at this moment that they understand what Jesus had been trying to teach them. Their eyes are opened. They see and they believe.

And what about us, this Easter?

What do we believe? Easter is about more than simply recalling or commemorating the resurrection of Jesus. By raising Jesus from the dead, God also opened up for us the way of eternal life. This feast is the reason for our faith and the reason for our hope. Our celebration today raises us up and renews us in faith, hope and love.

*Let us love one another and pray,
Let us love one another and be faithful,
Let us love one another and be humble,
Let us love one another and be filled
with the charity of God.
Let us love one another with God,
In God and for God.
And we shall thus be one with God for all eternity.*

*Cornelia Connelly,
Foundress, Society of the Holy Child of Jesus*



*The Parish Team and Leadership
welcome you to our Easter celebration.*

*We wish you and your loved ones
a very Happy Easter.*

*May the joy of the Risen Christ
reign in your hearts and in your homes.*

Please pray
for the repose of the souls
of all those who have died recently
including **Kathleen Carroll,
Margaret Norris, Adrian McDonagh,
Lisa Gratte and Mary Hudson,**
and for those
whose anniversaries
occur at this time.



Mass Intentions for the Week

21.4.2019

Holy Saturday

10am Praying at the Tomb
10.30-11.30am & 4-5pm Confessions
2-2.30pm Polish Easter Food Blessing
8pm **EASTER VIGIL**

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

8am Mass
9am M'wick Mass
9.30am Mass
11.30am Mass
NO EVENING MASS

Monday within the Octave of Easter

10am Alfie Peter Jones and Family Ints.
4pm Polish Mass
NO EVENING MASS

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

10am Priests' Intentions
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

10am Nora King RIP
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday within the Octave of Easter

10am Liam Hessian RIP
NO EVENING MASS

Friday within the Octave of Easter

10am **FUNERAL OF LISA GRATTE**
7pm Enid De Cruz

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

10am Veronica Hamilton RIP
6pm Lillie and Chris Butler Ints.

Next Sunday Second Sunday of Easter

8am Ita O'Mahony Anniv.
9am M'wick People of the Parish
9.30am Tom Farrell RIP
11.30am Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Ints.
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Patrick Joseph McCarthy Anniv.

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

Italian Mass – CANCELLED

Please note that the Italian Mass scheduled for **this Easter Sunday, 21st April at 5pm** has been cancelled. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Saint George

St George was a soldier of the Roman army who was tortured and beheaded for his Christian faith. He was likely born in Cappadocia, but after the death of his father, moved to Palestine where he served with distinction in Diocletian's army. Diocletian, who hated Christians, tried to force his soldiers to offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods. George refused to do this despite Diocletian's efforts to bribe him. Finally, Diocletian ordered George's execution on 23 April 303 AD.



St George is often depicted as a soldier on horseback killing a dragon. This is a representation of a popular story written in 1265 in which he saved a town terrorised by a dragon with one blow of his lance. The image, however, is more significantly a powerful symbol of the victory of Christian faith over evil personified by the devil who is symbolised by the dragon according to the imagery in Revelations. St George is invoked as a patron of military causes, not only because he was a soldier, but also due to his appearance to the Christian armies before the battle of Antioch, in which they were victorious, and to King Richard the Lionheart of England during his crusade against the Saracens. St George is the patron of soldiers and of many nations, including Palestine, Lebanon, England, Georgia, and Malta. He is also the patron of Palestinian Christians and of Boy Scouts. He is invoked by sufferers of snakebites, skin diseases and rashes. Saint George stands out among other saints and legends because he is known and revered by both Muslims and Christians.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Act 2:14.22-33; Ps 15:1-2.5.7-11; Mt 28:8-15
Tue: Acts 2:36-41; Ps 32:4-5.18-20.22; Jn 20:11-18
Wed: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 104:1-4.6-9; Lk 24:13-35
Thu: Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2.5-9; Lk 24:35-48
Fri: Acts 4:1-12; Ps 117:1-2.4.22-27; Jn 21:1-14
Sat: Acts 4:13-21; Ps 117:1.14-21; Mk 16:9-5

Dates for April and May

Parish Friends Knit and Natter.



The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 23rd April 2.30-4pm.** Do join us in knitting jumpers for children in Africa, baby beanie hats for new born babies, forget-me-knots for the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Action Week, scarves for the homeless and squares to make blankets for those in need. All grades of knitters and natterers welcome.



Feast of St George Parish Friends

Parish Friends will be serving refreshments after 10am Mass on the Feast of St George - **Tuesday 23rd April.** Everyone is welcome to join us for tea and cake in the Parish Centre. All donations will go to Cafod.



St. Columba's College

St. Columba's College, the independent Catholic boys' day school in St Albans, will be holding an open morning in the Prep School on **Friday 26th April 2019** between 9am and 11am.

Boys aged 3+ are invited to stay and play while their parents visit. For more information, please visit the website www.stcolumbascollege.org or contact the Admissions Registrar, Mrs Hilary Causer: admissions@stcolumbascollege.org



Feast of Divine Mercy

Sunday 28th April at St. Bartholomew's, St. Albans. Prayers begin at 2.20pm with Holy Rosary, 3pm exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet, Confessions, 4.15pm Benediction followed by veneration of the Divine Mercy image. For further details ring Margaret Leahy 01727 763 832



BINGO - in aid CAFOD.

In the Parish Hall on Friday, **3rd May** at 8 O'Clock. Admission is 50p towards refreshments and everyone will be most welcome.

Thank you to everyone that supported our last Bingo event. £200-00 was raised for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal.



CWL - National Coffee Morning

The Catholic Women's League will be holding their annual National Coffee Morning in the Parish Centre **after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 5th May.**

Cake sale in aid of Charity.

Everyone is welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Next Session for Children:
Saturday 4th May,
4-5.15pm in the Parish Hall



Next Meeting for Parents:
Wednesday 8th May,
8-9pm, in the Parish Hall

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



CONFIRMATIONS

Sessions for Candidates:
Sunday 28th April and Sunday 5th May
in the Parish Hall, 5-6.30pm

Reconciliation Service for Candidates:
Wednesday 15th May 2019,
4.30-5.30pm in the Church



Confirmation Rehearsals
Friday 24th May, 5-6pm and 6-7pm

Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Saturday 25th 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.



Parish Friends - Tea Party

Parish Friends will be holding a Tea Party on **Sunday May 12th from 3-5pm.**

We are very happy to announce the return of The Ukulele Sunshine Band who will be entertaining us at this event. All parishioners are welcome to attend including young and old and those in between. Lifts will be available if required. **Please write your name on the guest list** if you would like to attend stating if transport is required and/or you have special dietary requirements. Help for the event would be appreciated. If you can offer lifts, make scones or cakes or provide help on the day please write your name and contact details on the Helpers List. Contact Helen 07860 830340 if you have any queries.



Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' prayers will meet
on **Monday 13th May**
at 8pm in room 2.



Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome.

Information from: Office@mothersprayers.org

NEWS BULLETIN

Ministers of The Word needed!



Do you have a clear speaking voice? Could you proclaim the Word of God at Mass? If so, please consider becoming a Minister of the Word and joining the rotas to read at one of our weekend masses approximately once a month. If you can help or for more information, please contact Melanie (07900 051 956 or mjoneill5@btinternet.com)

Half an Hour a Week to visit a Sick or Housebound Parishioner

Lent is a good time to pray, give alms and/or your time to a good cause. There are many parishioners who are unable to get to Church and would welcome the visit of a Eucharistic Minister. Jesus sets the example of choosing ordinary people to carry out his ministry.



We are those people, all called by Jesus. Our Parish needs Eucharistic Ministers for Sunday Masses, usually once a month. If you are able to give half an hour of your time either regularly or for a short time to visit, you will be given training and support. Please contact the Parish Secretary (stalbans@rcdow.org.uk / 01727 853 585, Mon - Fri, 9am - 1pm) or Anne Myles (annemyles@gmail.com / 01727 852 930) for more information

TWAM - Tools with a Mission

Tool Collection at Dagnall Street Baptist Church (Hall below the church, Dagnall Street AL3 5EE)

On Wednesday 29th 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 Twam collects unwanted tools and equipment and enables people to switch from Aid dependency to self-sufficiency.

Prayer Booklet

Prayer is an important part of our lives yet some of us do find this difficult. Perhaps joining one of the parish groups will help but, if you are unable to do this, there is also a Guide to Prayer booklet freely available in the porch at the back of church. This has several ideas that that will supplement your existing approach to prayer and help to establish your unique relationship with God that serves as the cornerstone of our spiritual lives.



EASTER BREAK

Conversation Classes for Ladies

Back on **Monday 29th April**, 1pm in the Parish Hall. Please note that there is no session on Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May.

Toddlers Group

Back on **Monday 29th April**, 10.30am in the Parish Hall. More helpers needed. Please note that there is no session on Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May.

Children's Liturgy

Back on **Sun 28th April**, 9.30am in the Parish Hall

Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held on **Saturday 1st 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.

Marriage Preparation Programme

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.



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

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment