

# 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

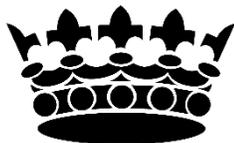
Youth Website: [www.sasyouth.com](http://www.sasyouth.com). We are a Fairtrade Parish. Parish Secretary: Ivana Mearns

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

Our faith is built on apparent contradiction of paradoxes. We end the liturgical year speaking of kingship, might and power. Yet the Gospel shows Jesus about to take leave of the world looking very unlike a king. He is powerless, abandoned, and humiliated. Yet, in answer to Pilate's question he declares himself to be king; king of truth.

Jesus' kingdom, he teaches, is not of this world, and Pilate, being a man of the world of politics and power, fails to understand. His ideas of kings and kingship are altogether of a different order.



Jesus teaches a kingdom founded on his witness of God's care and faithful love for his people. The royal power of Christ is the power of truth, and his throne is within the heart of each of us, swept clean of sin. His kingdom is a way of living marked by mutual respect, recognition of the dignity of each person, justice, peace, forgiveness, mercy and faithfulness.

It is an upside-down kingdom, where the lowly and the last in the eyes of this world come first, where the weak are powerful and the mighty are cast from their thrones.

Christ's kingdom is built up within and among us when we empty ourselves after the example of Christ and serve him in others. It is a kingdom growing and developing slowly and unseen among us; a kingdom which will come to its fulfilment and perfection in the presence of God.

It is a kingdom we pray for, work for, hope for, search for. We share in its building here on earth, so that we may one day share in its reality.

## 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, 30<sup>th</sup> November**.



## 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<sup>th</sup> November OR Friday 30 November**. To book or to get further details of the tasks involved contact [david@davidpartridge.com](mailto:david@davidpartridge.com)

## Carols by Candlelight

The date is set for **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December**, so now we need singers, musicians and readers!

If you'd like to take part, please text Jacque on 07840 367 555 for details.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including Christina Moulder, May Flavin, John O'Keefe, Nellie Colfer and John Donachie and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Joe Smalls, 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 Minciu, 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

25.11.2018

6pm Deceased members of the Peters Family  
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

### Monday – Feria

10am Stephen O'Brien RIP  
7pm Janet Szymczak RIP

### Tuesday – Feria

10am Jim Lewis Anniv.  
NO EVENING MASS

### Wednesday – Feria

10am Helena Cuneen Anniv.  
7pm MSC Benefactors

### Thursday – Feria

10am Priests' Intentions  
NO EVENING MASS

### Friday – St. Andrew

10am Tom Hegarty Anniv.  
7pm Mary Lee Berners-Lee Anniv.

### Saturday – Feria

10am Vincent O'Reilly RIP  
6pm Brian & Mary Battles and Jimmy & Bridie Brady RIP

### Next Sunday

### First Sunday of Advent

8am Dale Langham RIP  
9am M'wick People of the Parish  
9.30am **SCHOOLS MASS**  
11.30am Mary Curran RIP  
7pm Anna Avvinti RIP

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

Next weekend, there will be a second collection for St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). St. Vincent de Paul Society are tackling poverty in all its forms through the provision of practical assistance to those in need. The concept of need is broader than financial hardship, so visiting people who are sick, lonely, in prison, or suffering from addiction is also a significant proportion of their work.

### 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.*

### Altar Preparation



There is a need for someone to help prepare the altar for the 9.30am Sunday Mass once every 4 to 5 weeks. Contact: David Edwards 01727 765 216

### Christmas Market Stall Volunteers Needed

Please plan to give ½ hour to hand out Invitations to our Christmas Services at the market on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### CAFOD Catalogues

Please take home a CAFOD World Gift Catalogue after Mass. Stuck for a Christmas present? CAFOD World Gifts offers a great alternative for friends or family who don't need anything, but might appreciate a gift which helps poor communities to access services like basic healthcare, clean water, and education. CAFOD provides you with a certificate detailing a gift that has been given to a community overseas on your behalf. Gifts from £4. Catalogues available in the porch. More details from Stan 765549, [grabecki@hotmail.com](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com)

### First Reading: Daniel 7:13-14

During a time in which their world seems to be falling apart, God's people need to be reassured that God is in charge; his kingdom will never pass away.

### Second Reading: Apocalypse 1:5-8

Jesus shows us the truth about God, about the world, about ourselves.

### Gospel Reading: John 18:33-37

The trial of Jesus is, in fact, the trial of those who presumed to put him on trial.

### Readings for the Week:

Mon: Apoc 14:1-5; Ps 23:1-6; Lk 21:1-4  
Tue: Apoc 14:14-19; Ps 95:10-13; Lk 21:5-11  
Wed: Apoc 15:1-4; Ps 97:1-3,7-9; Lk 21:12-19  
Thu: Apoc 18:1-2,21-23, 19:1-3,9; Ps 99:2-5; Lk 21:20-28  
Fri: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 18:2-5; Mt 4:18-22  
Sat: Apoc 22:1-7; Ps 94:1-7; Lk 21:34-36

# Dates for December

## **“West the road half-a-mile singers club” Irish Sing Along Group**



After 6 o'clock Mass  
on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
in the Parish Centre.  
All welcome, song sheets and  
tea provided!  
Hosted by the Fahy Brothers  
and St Albans Comhaltas  
Ceoltoiri Eireann.

## **First Holy Communion Next Session for Children** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 4pm in the Parish Hall.

## **Children's Liturgy - Marshalswick**

There will be no Children's Liturgy session at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 2<sup>nd</sup> December due to the Advent school mass at the main church. Sessions will continue on the first Sunday of the month in the new year. We look forward to welcoming you then.

## **Traidcraft**

Traidcraft next weekend  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December after all Masses at the church.

Traidcraft afternoon Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
at 43 Avenue Road AL13PY 2-4pm  
Fairtrade goods are on sale. Everyone welcome.

Traidcraft after mass at John Fisher School,  
Hazelmere Road on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December .

Any enquiries or orders, please contact Maureen on  
01727 765 549 or [grabecki@hotmail.com](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com).

## **First Friday Blessed Sacrament 24- Adoration in the CHURCH (instead of in the Prayer Room) 11am Friday 7<sup>th</sup>**



December till 11am Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>. It is  
hoped that as many people as possible can  
be present. If you are able to attend, even if  
it's just for half-an-hour, please enter your  
name in the rota at the back of the church.

## **FEED Food Collection**

FEED Food Collection at Budgens Marshalswick  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 10am - 12noon  
If you can spare half an hour to help please contact  
Christine [CMD2512@aol.com](mailto:CMD2512@aol.com) /  
Maureen [Molly\\_gus@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Molly_gus@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Signing Cards for Prisoners**

“After Mass on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> December, there will be an opportunity to sign Christmas cards for people in prison, using your **first** name only. This year we are joined by many churches in St.Albans to ensure that more than 1,000 people receive a card.”

## **Film - Parish Friends**

Parish Friends will be showing the film  
"The Greatest Showman" on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>  
December in the Parish Hall.  
Refreshments (including popcorn ) 2.30  
and film commences 3pm. This is a film  
for all the family and everyone is  
welcome . For more information or if  
you require a lift please contact Helen - 07860 80340.



## **Sponsored Sleep Out 2018**

Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stalbanssleepout.org.uk)

## **Marlborough Road Methodist Church**



Advent Quiet Evening: Journey into  
Advent, Led by Fr. Alan Neville  
MSC on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December,  
7.45pm for 8pm start, to finish by  
9.30pm, at Marlborough Road  
Methodist Church, AL1 3XQ

## **Carol Services at Care Homes Singers Needed**

Young people, parents, children - bring some  
Christmas cheer after school to people in care homes  
by taking part in a simple, 20-minute carol service.

Clare Lodge, Battlefield Road, AL1 4DD  
Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm.

Strathmore House, Hall Place Gardens  
AL1 3SP Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm.

please phone 01727 852 848 to confirm your  
participation.



## **Christmas Day Lunch Invitation**

Lunch will be served in the parish hall  
from 12:30 - 2:30pm. If you or someone you know  
wishes to attend please contact David on 07543  
400650 or email [dave\\_markham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dave_markham@yahoo.co.uk).  
Everyone welcome from babies to pensioners.  
Let's make it a fun, warm, happy Christmas for all!

# 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.ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ssasinfants.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.ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ssasinfants.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 854643 to book your appointment.

#### Christmas Wreath Making

##### Workshop - 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ssaspta@gmail.com) to check availability.



### Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School Senior Citizens Christmas Tea Party

Hosted by NBS Sixth Form Students  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm  
RSVP: Nicola Butler 01727 860 079 (ext. 322)  
[butlern@nbs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:butlern@nbs.herts.sch.uk)

### 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](mailto:kennedy.p@ntlworld.com)



### Travelling Crib

We are asking families to invite the Travelling Crib into their home for a night during Advent (**First Sunday of Advent: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> January 12.45 - 3pm**. Entertainment will be provided by Saints Alive. Further details will follow.

### You Can Be Santa

Many thanks to all volunteers who visited families and returned consent forms and letters; we are now ready for the next stage. For those who signed up as benefactors, the ticket drawing will take place after all Masses this weekend, 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> November in the Parish Centre/coffee area (not the porch!). You will receive the letter to Santa, age and gender of the recipient plus full instructions for buying presents.



If you cannot attend one of these Masses, please contact the Santa team by e-mail ([santa@albanstephen.com](mailto:santa@albanstephen.com)) to make alternative arrangements.

Your generous support to this initiative is continuing to spread the joy and true message of Christmas to more than 100 children and their families!

### 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 - Call for Help!

Help would be appreciated to set up (Christmas Eve), serve lunch, or wash and clear up afterwards. If you would like to help or could contribute food or offer lifts please contact David on



07543 400 650 or email [dave\\_markham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dave_markham@yahoo.co.uk).

### Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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