

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



3rd February 2019

Whatever our mission, our vocation, our status in life, we are expected to be motivated by the virtues of faith, hope and love. Paul lists some of the characteristics of love and explains what love means in reality.

These characteristics provide us with a good way of evaluating our lives. Have I faith? Am I always kind? Am I ever jealous? These are good questions which we can answer honestly only against the backdrop of how we live our Christian calling. Where we recognise shortcomings and challenges, are we open enough to ask God for his grace and strength to address them?



Jesus experiences both adulation and denunciation at the beginning of his public ministry. He was now home and no doubt there was great excitement in the area that Joseph's son, who had worked wonders in Capernaum, was now back and attending the local synagogue.

His reputation had gone before him. The power of God's spirit was working in him. Jesus experiences the approval of everyone at the beginning. This shifts suddenly and violently to rejection. They were happy when he stuck to the script but became enraged when the tone of his message became more challenging and failed to live up to their expectations. This prophet was certainly not accepted in his own country, but he was prepared for that.

We too, are called to be prophets in our own time, to bear witness by the quality and example of our lives, to be instruments of God's love and to allow his spirit to work in us and through us. Are we prepared to be rejected as well as accepted? What message or inspiration are we bringing home with us from these readings today?

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

New Parishioners' Welcome



We would like to invite all new parishioners to join our priests and members of the Parish Pastoral Council and other fellow parishioners for tea and coffee after all Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday on the **weekend of 9th and 10th February**. We look forward to meeting you!

CONFIRMATIONS


Services of Light: Tuesday/Wednesday, 5th / 6th February 7pm, in the Church

Next Meeting for Candidates: Sunday 10th February, 5pm - 6.30pm, in the Parish Hall

Schools - For Signing

Our priests will be available for form signing in the Parish Centre on **Monday 11th February, 4.30 - 6pm**

Lost and Found

A bag with baby girl's clothes was found in the car park over a week ago. If you lost a bag recently, please contact the Parish Office on 01727 853 585 (Monday - Friday, 9am - 1pm) 

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **Norah King, Gerry Lyons, Myra Myers, Robert O'Sullivan, Giuseppina Procaccini and Thomas McGovern** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including **David Webb, Rory Webb, Ines Quinteros, Eileen Kane, Stan Phillips, Jessie Harris and Mgrn Adrian Arrowsmith.**

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 Barquero-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, Patrick Foley, Jim O'Neill, Jack O'Mahoney, Jim Moss, Carmaline Xavier, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O'Gorman, John Baxter, Jim O'Connor, Kathleen Murphy, Edie Hale, 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

3.2.2019

6pm Joseph Spudic Anniv.
8am Giuseppe Campanella Anniv.
9am M'wick Stephen Cummins RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11.30am Leonardo Venetico Anniv.
7pm Mick Walsh RIP

Monday – Feria

10am Antonio Leto Anniv.
7pm You can be Santa – Thanksgiving Mass

Tuesday – St. Agatha

10am Sue Gavin Ints.
7pm SERVICE OF LIGHT – CONFIRMATIONS
(NO EVENING MASS)

Wednesday – St. Paul Miki and Companions

10am MSC Benefactors
7pm SERVICE OF LIGHT – CONFIRMATIONS
(NO EVENING MASS)

Thursday – Feria

10am Paul de Carle Anniv.
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – St. Josephine Bakhita

10am Mary Kiely Anniv.
7pm Maureen Rowland Anniv.

Saturday – Feria

10am Lewis and Frances Lumber Anniv.
6pm Sr. Mercedes Brogan RIP

Next Sunday

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Sheila Aylward Anniv.
9am M'wick Ainsley Lambert Anniv.
9.30am People of the Parish
11.30am Peter Baines RIP
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Paolo Grilli RIP

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

St Josephine Bakhita

On February 8, we commemorate the life of St Josephine Bakhita a saint special to our parish due to the support we gave to the orphanage in South Africa named after her.

Josephine was born in 1869, in a small village in the Darfur region of Sudan. She was kidnapped while working in the fields and subsequently sold into slavery. Asked for her name, she was too terrified to remember so her captors named her "Bakhita," which means "fortunate" in Arabic.

She was tortured by her owners but bore her suffering valiantly. After being sold five times, Bakhita was purchased by the Italian consul in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. Two years later, he took Bakhita to Italy to work as a nanny for a colleague, Augusto Michieli. He sent Bakhita to accompany his daughter to a school in Venice run by the Canossian Sisters.

Bakhita felt called to learn more about the Church, and was baptised with the name "Josephine Margaret." Meanwhile, Michieli wanted to take Josephine and his daughter back to Sudan, but Josephine refused to return. The Italian courts ruled that Josephine could stay in Italy because she was a free woman. Slavery was not recognized in Italy and had also been illegal in Sudan since before Josephine had been born.

Josephine remained in Italy and entered the Canossians in 1893. She made her profession in 1896 and dedicated her life to assisting her community and teaching others to love God. She was known for her smile, gentleness and holiness. Her last years were marked by pain and sickness but she retained her cheerfulness and breathed her last on 8 February 1947.

Josephine was beatified in 1992 and canonised shortly after on October 2000 by Pope John Paul II. The first person to be canonised from Sudan, she is the patron saint of the country. She is also the patron saint of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. On this day, we are encouraged to pray for all those affected by these crimes.



First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5.17-19

This reading makes it clear that God both gifts and calls. The prophet has been formed, consecrated and appointed for a task. He will require courage and trust.

Second Reading: Corinthians 12:31-13:13

What is the criterion of authenticity regarding spiritual gifts? Paul gives us an over-arching criterion: love. If there is love, all gifts will be used in a genuine way.

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:21-30

It is no accident that the opening words of Jesus' first public teaching in this Gospel refer to 'today'. Luke's gospel is all about what God is doing, in Jesus, today, at this time.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Heb 11:32-40; Ps 30:20-24; Mk 5:1-20
Tue: Heb 12:1-4; Ps 21:26-28.30-32; Mk 5:21-43
Wed: Heb 12:4-7.11-15; Ps 102:1-2.13-14.17-18; Mk 6:1-6
Thu: Heb 12:18-19.21-24; Ps 47:2-4.9-11; Mk 6:7-13
Fri: Heb 13:1-8; Ps 26:1.3.5.8-9; Mk 6:14-29
Sat: Heb 13:15-17.20-21; Ps 22:1-6; Mk 6:30-34

Dates for February

You Can Be Santa - Thanksgiving Mass

Mass on **Monday 4th February** at 7pm will be offered in thanksgiving for the overwhelming success of the 2018 project; the response from the Parish was once again outstanding. Everyone who helped in any way, as visitor, benefactor or co-ordinator, is invited to the Mass and afterwards to join the Santa team for light refreshments in the Parish Centre. We would welcome any observations about the process, and suggestions for improvement, at the social or by e-mail santa@albanstephen.com You have truly spread the real joy and true message of Christmas!

St. Vincent de Paul Society Concert with Alexander Armstrong

Alexander Armstrong will be performing at a fundraising concert in aid of SVP Vinnie Packs for the homeless alongside renowned soprano, Miranda Heldt, actor Alex Macqueen and the Choir With No Name on **Monday 4th February at 7pm** at Farm Street Church, Mayfair. Tickets costing £30 are available by typing Vinnie Packs in the "Looking for" section on the Eventbrite website www.eventbrite.co.uk. Thank you.



Life Ascending (Ascent)

Meeting on **Tuesday 5th February at 10.45am** in the Conference Room at the Presbytery.
Talk on "Political Correctness v. Christianity".
All are welcome

Catholic Women's League

The CWL will be meeting in Room 1 after 10am Mass on **Tuesday, 5th February**. Sr. Anita will be sharing some "Random Reflections" with us. Everyone is very welcome to come to it. £2 (includes coffee / tea and raffle) **SUBS £23 NOW DUE PLEASE**



Parish Friends - Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Friends Group will be held In Room 1 on **Wednesday 6th February** at 7.45pm. New members welcome.

BINGO

In the Parish Hall on **Friday, 8th February at 8 O'Clock**. Admission is 50p towards refreshments and everyone is most welcome to come. Many thanks to those that supported the last Bingo evening by the Knights of St. Columba. £275 was raised for Centre 33.



Use of the Parish Kitchen and Coffee Bar

A training session on hygiene in food preparation will be held on **Saturday 9th February** at 10.45am in the Parish Hall for all people who use or wish to use the parish kitchen or coffee bar. Please make every effort to attend if you wish to continue to use these parish facilities.

Mother's Prayers

Mother's Prayers will meet on **Monday February 11th at 8pm in room 2**. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from email: office@mothersprayers.org

Traidcraft

Traidcraft after 9am Mass at St John Fisher on **Sunday 10th February**.
Traidcraft coffee afternoon at 43 Avenue Road on **Tuesday 12th February**, 2 - 4pm.
More details, enquiries or orders please contact Maureen on 01727 765 549.



Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held on **Saturday 16th February**, 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.



Proclaim Spring Gathering 2019

supporting the setting up and development of Parish Evangelisation Teams, for the formation of Missionary Disciples and development of Missionary Parishes.
With Bishop Paul McAleenan
Saturday 16th February 2019, 9.30am - 3.00pm, Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School, Colney Heath Lane, St Albans AL4 0TT For laity and clergy. The events are free, with coffee & tea etc. provided. Please bring your own lunch. To register for the Proclaim Spring Gathering: e-mail Warren Brown at catadmin@rcdow.org.uk, Tel.no: 0207 798 9152

Parish Friends - Film

Parish Friends will be showing the highly acclaimed film "Mama Mia-Here We Go Again" on **Sunday 17th February** in the Parish Hall. Refreshments will be served from 2.30pm and the film will be shown at 3pm. All Welcome. If anyone coming has a spare seat in their car and can offer a lift to someone who does not have transport please contact Helen 07860 830340.



NEWS BULLETIN

"All the kindness that Jesus showed along his path, all the miracles that he worked are so many outpourings of the indescribable goodness of his heart."

Jules Chevalier, Le Sacré-Cœur, p.146 f.



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

Living the joy of the Gospel: St Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis by Fr Paul Rout OFM



7-8.30pm, Vaughan House,
46 Francis Street,
London SW1P 1QN

A series of talks
on the following themes:

February 7th, 2019, 'Francis, rebuild my Church':
Being Church in the 21st Century

February 14th, 2019: 'Praised be you, my Lord, for all that you have made': Caring for our common home.

February 28th, 2019: Looking to Christ

Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or leave a message at 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation: £5.

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 £2 available after Masses soon. 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.

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



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: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk



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



Casserole and Baking Dishes

We still have some lovely casserole and baking dishes and plates left from the Christmas Day and Turkey and Tinsel lunches. They are in one of the cupboards in the downstairs kitchen.

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment