

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

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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 March 2019

*‘It is out of the abundance of the heart
that the mouth speaks.’*

Today’s Gospel is taken from the Sermon on the Plain, where Jesus is warning a ‘multitude of people’ about the dangers of hypocrisy. We, too, are reminded that we are disciples who must learn from the Teacher, otherwise we will be like the blind leading the blind.

This learning and listening is ongoing so that we can be filled again and again with Christ’s challenging love. This Gospel calls us to remove the logs from our own eyes so that we can see more clearly.

It appeals to the reader to stop and check in with ourselves if we are about to make judgements about others. Whatever the situation may be, perhaps a comment about homelessness or gossip, we are challenged to ask ourselves first: ‘How am I doing in relation to this?’ before we rush to condemn others.

Jesus urges us to remove the planks from our own eyes first.

The end of this parable speaks to the fruits and treasures which come from people. Trees bear fruit according to what they themselves are. It is almost like saying what you put in is what you get out. If

we are feeding ourselves with fake news, intolerance and hatred, then that is what will come out.

If we are spending time with the Teacher, where we experience healing, forgiveness, love and inner peace, then our hearts will be filled with those qualities and they will be evident in our lives.

Spending time with today’s Gospel, perhaps we can examine how we feed our body, mind and spirit to ensure that we are living in a way that is not hypocritical before the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.



Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Way of the Cross

Every Saturday morning during Lent at 9.30am, you are invited to follow the Way of the Cross in Church. Led by different groups within the parish, each week will have a different theme but all will help us make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the 14 stations of the Passion of Christ.



Ash Wednesday 6th March 2019

Lenten prayers

Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer, which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The ashes, symbolising the dust from which God made us, will be distributed at both the 10am and 7pm masses on the 6th March.



Prayer is an important part of Lent 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 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.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **Trevor Wood, Vincent McGuire, Magdalena Pedroz, John Baxter, James Devlin, Sarah Booth, Tecla Page** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Jose Maria Ezcurra, Nora Barrett, Adrain McDonagh, Mary Watkins, Ida Daswa, Frances Flavin, Sue Gavin, Joe Smalls, Margaret Norris, Betty Nicklin, Joe Spatafora, Mark Norris, Teresa Hill, Gerry Smith, Callum Gathard, Patrick Doran, Hannah Barquerro-Stack, Adrian Stack, Patricia McCarthy, Liz Smith, Philomena Lines, Francisco Diaz, Catherine Elkin, John Moloney, Jim Moss, Carmen Mincu, Teresa Virrueta, Mike Smith, Bernadette Marron, Margaret Moloney, Alice Daly, Patrick Foley, Jim O’Neill, Jack O’Mahoney, Edie Hale, Carmaline Xavier, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O’Gorman, Jim O’Connor, Kathleen Murphy, Becki Vousden, 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

3.3.2019

6pm Linda Peters RIP
8am People of the Parish
9am M'wick Mr. Vic Taylor RIP
9.30am Christopher Brennan RIP
11.30am Joe Walsh Anniv.
7pm Rod Stones RIP

Monday – St. Casimir

10am Myra Myers RIP
7pm Teresa Foody RIP

Tuesday – Feria

10am Natalie Tallon RIP

NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – ASH WEDNESDAY

10am Fr. Tom Hewitt MSC RIP
2.30pm **Schools Mass**
4.30pm LIE-IN FOR TECLA PAGE
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – Ss Perpetua & Felicity

10am Priests' Intentions
11.30am **FUNERAL SERVICE FOR**
TECLA PAGE, followed by service
at Harwood Park Crematorium, Knebworth
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – St. John of God

10am Kathleen Murray RIP
7pm Gerard O'Driscoll RIP

Saturday – St. Frances of Rome

9.30am **Stations of the Cross**
10am Kathleen McHugh RIP
6pm Arthur Holland RIP

Next Sunday

First Sunday of Lent

8am People of the Parish
9am M'wick Ann Sargant RIP
9.30am Fr. Henry Twohig MSC RIP
11.30am Angelo Ortone Anniv.
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Andrew Fernandes Anniv.

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

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.

St John of God, 1495-1550

Feast Day: March 8th

Born in Portugal in 1495, John disappeared aged 8 and is thought to have been kidnapped. He was abandoned as a homeless orphan in Toledo, Spain in and eventually became a shepherd. He joined the Spanish army in the war against France. After surviving the dangers of this life, and finding great comfort in reading he became a bookseller in Granada to provide people with works of chivalry and devotional literature.



Around this time he is said to have had a vision of the Infant Jesus, who bestowed on him the name by which he was later known, John of God. A sermon by St John of Avila made him review his path through life and, acting on impulse, he decided that he could best serve God by tending to the poor and sick. Slowly John drew to himself a dedicated circle of disciples whom he organised into the Order of Hospitallers. Approved by the Holy See in 1572 as the Brothers Hospitallers of Saint John of God, they continue to care for the sick in countries all around the world.

John was a man with a great love for the poor and sick. His challenge was to follow the promptings the Holy Spirit, not his own human temptations. Throughout his life John was criticised by people who didn't like the fact that his impulsive love embraced anyone in need without asking for credentials or character witnesses. His urge to act immediately when he saw need got him into trouble more than a few times. John of God died on March 8, 1550, his 55th birthday, in Granada. John of God is patron saint of booksellers, printers, heart patients, hospitals, nurses, the sick, and firefighters.

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7

Each of us is called to live an upright life. A key self-assessment is the quality and kindness of our speech. A great deal can be judged from how we habitually speak about others.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

To be Christian is to be victorious – even over death. There are many skirmishes along the way, but we press on bravely, sure of God's help in Christ.

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:39-45

The twin foundation of hypocrisy, as Jesus presents it in this Gospel reading, are judging others more harshly than we judge ourselves, and presenting a virtuous face to the world while being wicked or indifferent on the inside.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Eccles 17:24-29; Ps 31:1-2.5-7; Mk 10:17-27

Tue: Eccles 35:1-12; Ps 49:5-8.14.23; Mk 10:28-31

Wed: Joel 2:12-18; Ps 50:3-6.12-14.17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6.16-18

Thu: Deut 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4.6; Lk 9:22-25

Fri: Is 58:1-9; Ps 50:3-6.18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Sat: Is 58:9-14; Ps 85:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

Dates for March

Traidcraft

Traidcraft **this weekend, 2nd / 3rd March**, after all masses at the church.

Traidcraft afternoon 2-4pm **Thursday 7th March** at 43 Avenue Road AL13PY. Everyone is welcome.

Traidcraft next **Sunday 10th March** at John Fisher School after 9am mass



All proceeds to Cafod (we buy and add 10% for Cafod = £1100 donated for last year) Thank you to all who support us, it is much appreciated.

Any enquiries or orders, please call 01727 765549

CWL

The Catholic Women's League will be holding their Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday, 5th March**, at 11am in the Parish Hall. Soup and roll after the meeting.

The Joy of Hope

Thursdays 10.45am to 12.00
repeated 7.45pm to 9.00pm

7th, 14th, 21st and 28th March in the Parish Hall

An inspiring and practical new DVD course from CaFE. Filmed on the stunning Holy Greek island of Patmos where Scripture says St John had a life-changing revelation of our future eternal destination. Each session includes an engaging mix of teaching, scripture meditation and prayerful response. These four enjoyable sessions will help you to face the challenges of everyday life with renewed hope and joy. Light refreshments provided for the morning course and a light buffet in the evening. Everybody is welcome to as many sessions as they can make.

BINGO

In the Parish Hall on **Friday, 8th March at 8pm.**

Admission is 50p towards refreshments and everyone is most welcome.

Our last Bingo evening raised £135 for HCPT. Thank you for your support, we are very grateful.



Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' Prayers will meet on **Monday March 11th at 8pm** in room 2.

Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome.

Information: office@mothersprayers.org



Mercy Associates

The next meeting will be **Wednesday 13th March** in room 1 of the Parish centre from 5 until 7pm. Sr. Maura will be joining us. All are welcome.

Rejoice and be Glad - a Lenten resource

In his third Apostolic Exhortation "Gaudete et Exsultate", Pope Francis reflects on the call to holiness. In response to that call, the Lenten faith sharing booklet, written by Monsignor Keith Barltrop of Bayswater Parish, focuses on the joy of being a missionary disciple. Copies of the Lenten faith-sharing booklet "Rejoice and be Glad" are available in the church porch and at Marshalswick Mass centre [£3]. Intended for use in a small group or in the setting of one's own home, either as a family or alone, "Rejoice and be Glad" explores how the themes of joyful evangelisation of recent Pope's can bring a new sense of missionary purpose in our parish and help us to grow in holiness.

An invitation to join a Small Group

You are invited to join a small group during Lent to explore the themes in the "Rejoice and be Glad" booklet. You are welcome to come along on **Mondays after 10am Mass in Room 1 from 11th March or on Tuesdays at 8pm from 5th March** in the Parish Centre. There are also a few spaces in small groups meeting at other times. For details contact Mike or Sylvia [whitemw@talktalk.net] or Tel. 854596]. All are welcome.

Rough Sleeping in St Albans

Thinking Evening, **Wednesday 13th March 2019** at **Marlborough Road Methodist Church**, when Tom Snell, the Housing Options Team Leader for St Albans City and District Council will be talking about Rough Sleeping in St Albans. Tom is very involved in developing the county wide response to homeless young people. Arrive from 7.30pm for refreshments, 8pm start ending by 9.30pm. Donations to cover expenses and profits will be given to Centre 33, a local charity working with the homeless, and socially or materially disadvantaged people in our community.

CAFOD Family Fast Day

Friday 15th March. You are invited to eat a simple meal in solidarity with the poor of the world. Any money you may save can be given in the Family Fast Day collection on 16/17th March. Gift-aid envelopes will be available in Church if you are a tax-payer and want to allow Cafod to reclaim tax paid on your donation. You may also like to consider taking your Fast Day meal with others **in the Church Hall at noon on Saturday 9th March:**

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 available after Masses [£2]. 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.

More details from Stan - 01727 765 549,
grabecki@hotmail.com

NEWS BULLETIN

Friends or NBS – Irish Night

Friday 15th March at Nicholas Breakspear School,
125 Colney Heath Ln, St Albans AL4 0TT

A night of Irish music, dancing and the craic!
Hot food available to buy.
7.30pm till late – licensed bar.

£6 Adult / £3 Child. Raising essential fund to
enhance the IT provision at the school. For more
information contact: Friends@nbs.herts.sch.uk



St Patrick's Day

Saturday 16th March, 10am: As an early celebration
for St Patrick's Day, Parish Friends will be serving
tea, coffee, cake and Irish Coffee **after 10am Mass.**

“West the road half-a-mile singers club”

Irish Sing Along Group **after 6pm Mass** on Saturday
16th March in the Parish Centre. All
welcome, song sheets provided! Parish
Friends will be serving tea, coffee, cake and
Irish Coffee. Hosted by the Fahy Brothers
and St Albans Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann.



Sharing the Light

On **Thursday 21st March** 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, a time to reflect on Lent
and the preparations for the joy of
Easter. You may want to pop in on the way
home from work, or after dinner with the
children for a few minutes.



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



Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held
on **Saturday 6th April**, 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.

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: stalbands@rcdow.org.uk



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

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

Easter Season Painting Competition

The Knights of St Columba (KSC) is promoting a
National Easter Season Painting
Competition - 2019. Entry is free and is
open to students in Catholic secondary
schools and also to Catholic students in
non-Catholic secondary schools, in two
age groups, from 12 to 18 years. Entry details have
been circulated to art departments in Catholic
secondary schools in St Albans and district and
details can also be found on Posters and Flyers
displayed in the church porch and at Mass centres.
In addition to KSC national prizes, there are KSC
Provincial and KSC St Albans prizes to be won. The
closing date for receipt of entries, to School/College
Art Departments, is: **Monday 1st April 2019.**
Competition enquiries to: kennedy.p@ntlworld.com



Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment