

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.

31st March 2019

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sometimes we can be so familiar with a Gospel passage we tend to switch off after the first few sentences. That would be a shame, especially when the Gospel is one of the blockbuster parables.

The real challenge in today’s Gospel is what happens after the lost son returns. The elder brother has ‘worked like a slave’ all those years and is understandably upset.

The Father’s welcome of the younger son would have been considered

extremely foolish by those listening to this story.

However, the Father makes it clear that his outreach to the younger brother will not change his love for the older brother.

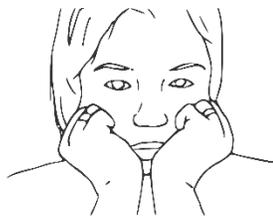
It will cost the elder brother nothing to reach out. We have nothing to lose in welcoming home the lost.

Today, we can try to place ourselves somewhere in the narrative: where do you stand? This Gospel shows us that God returns the lost to the community, regardless of the boundaries that we might put in place. Jesus teaches us a lesson in radical hospitality. No matter how far we wander from home, God is still a loving God.

‘God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power ... that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live.’

Pope Francis, Laudato Si, 246



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

Mother’s Day

Best wishes to all mothers

For a blessed and joyful

Mother’s Day



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **Ron Garner, Patricia McDonnell, Veronica Hamilton, Alex South, Breda Iommi, Patricia McCarthy, Vincent McGuire and John Baxter** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Barbara Lynch, Treena Troy, Eileen Taylor, Nora Barrett, Adrian McDonagh, Mary Watkins, Ida Daswa, 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, Philomena Lines, Francisco Diaz, Catherine Elkin, Liz Smith, John Moloney, Jim Moss, Carmen Mincu, Teresa Virrueta, Mike Smith, Alice Daly, Bernadette Marron, Jim O’Neill, Margaret Moloney, Patrick Foley, Jack O’Mahoney, Edie Hale, John Rowland, Carmaline Xavier, Becki Vousden, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O’Gorman, Jim O’Connor, Kathleen Murphy, Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM, Geraldine McBride, Vertina Fernandes, Claire Whitehead, Catrin Rees-Doherty, Sheila Doohan, Noah Gregorio and Edmond Mansfield, may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

31.3.2019

6pm	Nancy Ginnelly RIP
8am	People of the Parish
9am M'wick	John Baxter RIP
9.30am	Eileen Taylor Ints.
11.30am	A Mass of Thanksgiving – Gabina Alfonso
7pm	Fr. Tom Hewitt RIP

Monday – Lent Feria

10am	Dorothy Snaith Anniv.
7pm	Anne Byrne RIP

Tuesday – St. Francis of Paola

10am	Anne Cosimini RIP
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NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Lent Feria

10am	Priests' Intentions
7pm	MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. Isidore

10am	FUNERAL OF BREDA IOMMI
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NO EVENING MASS

Friday – St. Vincent Ferrer

10am	Madeleine Portwood RIP
7pm	Fr. Henry Twohig MSC RIP

Saturday – Lent Feria

9.30am	Stations of the Cross
10am	Amancio da Silva Anniv.
6pm	Deceased Members of Feeney Family

Next Sunday Fifth Sunday of Lent

8am	John Tummetly RIP
9am M'wick	People of the Parish
9.30am	Pat Clure RIP
11.30am	Michael Campaniello Anniv.
7pm	Nora King RIP

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

Eucharistic Adoration Friday 5th April



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is an act of love, it's a time to focus on Christ and His love for us in gratitude. It's a time to pray that His kingdom will come, to pray for the world and for our own intentions. Adoration is a time to bring our hopes, thanksgivings and concerns to Christ and to focus on Him and His transforming love. Pope Francis urges us to 'spend time in front of the Lord, in front of the mystery of Jesus Christ. Worship him. There in silence, the silence of adoration.'

Friday 5th April 24hour Eucharistic Adoration will begin at 11am in the prayer room and continue there after exposition in the main church until 11am on Saturday 6th April, please sign up on the rota at the back of the church.

Adoration in the main church

When? Friday 5th April 5.45 pm until 6.45pm.

Who? Everyone is invited.

Why? As part of your Lent prayer/devotions come and experience silent prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; no need to sign up – stay for as long or as little time as you wish.

What is it? More details on the leaflet available at the back of the church.

Finding Silence at Worth Abbey

13th – 16th May 2019. Needing some space? Finding life too fast? Come to this fully catered peaceful environment. Invite others! As long as people are happy to be in a Catholic environment and to be led by a Benedictine monk it doesn't matter where participants are in their faith journey. 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 or Tel. 01727 751 094

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

God is accompanying his people, as they make their way into the Promised Land.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Christ is the great Reconciler, the One who works to bring each and every one of us into a new relationship with God Our Father.

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

There are two lost sons in this well-known Gospel passage. One gets lost by leaving his father's house. One stays at home and becomes lost in resentment. The father loves both and reaches out to both.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Is 65:17-21; Ps 29:2.4-6.11-13; Jn 4:43-54

Tue: Ezek 47:1-9.12; Ps 45:2-3.5-6.8-9; Jn 5:1-3.5-16

Wed: Is 49:8-15; Ps 144:8-9.13-14.17-18; Jn 5:17-30

Thu: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 105:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

Fri: Wis 2:1.12-22; Ps 33:16.18.19-21.23; Jn 7:1-2.10.25-30

Sat: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3.9-12; Jn 7:40-52

Dates for April

CWL and "Christian Mindfulness"

The CWL will be meeting on **Tuesday, 2nd April**. Coffee in café area **after 10am Mass** with **talk from 11am in Room 1**.



Some of you will know about Mindfulness, but others not a thing! Trish Jones will be explaining what it is and how it can help us in our daily lives.

Everyone is welcome to come and learn from her (£2)

Some members will be going on a Lenten lunch at Adeyfield Section directly afterwards. If you would like to go please phone Anne G. (01727 837 511)



In Pursuit of Silence

Wednesday 3rd April 7.30 - 9.30pm, Parish Hall

A meditative film, by Patrick Shen, exploring our relationship with silence, sound and the impact of noise on our lives. Featuring John Cage's ground-breaking composition 4'33", *In Pursuit of Silence* takes us on an immersive cinematic journey around the globe and inspires us to experience silence and celebrate the wonders of our world. **Please maintain an air of silence on entering the hall.** The film will start at 7.40pm (running time 81mins) and begins with 4 minutes 33 seconds of experiential silence as a tribute to composer John Cage's famous composition, 4'33". There will be time for discussion with refreshments after the film. Donations to support this small independent film producer. All Welcome.



Parish Friends

The next meeting of Parish Friends is **Wednesday 3rd April at 7.45pm** in Room 1. New members welcome.



Market Stall - Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are required to hand out **at the Saturday Market on 6th April** Invitations to the Easter Services at St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Church. Please contact Eric Harber 07815 810 289



You Too Can Give an Easter Egg

If you wish to contribute to this scheme, all you need to do is to leave an Easter Egg in the collecting box at the back of Church or at Marshalswick (NOT the presbytery) **next weekend (6/7th April)**. A simple branded egg from any supermarket would be ideal; no need for deluxe versions! We aim to continue to support families and young adults this Easter, following on from the Christmas 'You Can Be Santa' initiative. Many thanks for your generous help in spreading the good news of Easter.



Traidcraft

Traidcraft Next **Saturday/Sunday 6/7th April** after all the masses at church.

Traidcraft tea afternoon

Thursday 18th April at 43 Avenue Road AL13PY 2-4pm



Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' Prayers will meet on **Monday 8th April** in room 2 at 8pm. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from office@mothersprayers.org



Penitential Service

Monday 8th April

As part of our preparations for Holy Week and Easter, we will have the opportunity to receive the God's forgiveness for our sins at the Penitential Service on **Monday 8th April at 7.30pm**. There will no evening Mass that night.



Bingo - in aid of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal.

The Cardinal's Lenten Appeal focuses on food hunger in our Diocese. Our Bingo, on **Friday, 12th April** at 8pm in the Parish Hall will support this.

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

Thank you to everyone that supported our last Bingo evening. £200 was raised for the funds of the Knights of St.Columba.



Parish Friends Knit and Natter.

Please note there will NOT be a meeting of knit and natter on Tuesday 9th April. 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 premature 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.

EASTER BREAK

Conversation Classes for Ladies

Last session: **Monday 1st April, 1pm** in the Parish Hall.
Back on **Monday 29th April**.

Toddlers Group

Last session: **Monday 1st April, 10.30am** in the Parish Hall.
Back after the break on **Monday 29th April**.
MORE HELPERS NEEDED



Children's Liturgy

Last session: **Sunday 31st March, 9.30am** in the Parish Hall back on **Sunday 28th April**

NEWS BULLETIN

Easter Cards

Please take home a few Easter cards that are now available in the porch and deliver them to your friends and neighbours. Encourage others to share the welcome of our parish and help spread the joy of Easter.

Lenten Prayers

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 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 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



Cardinal's Lenten Appeal

This year's Appeal focuses on the food hunger that blights the lives of many across our Diocese of Westminster. This affects so many families across the Diocese but much of it remains hidden.

Did you know, for example, that over half of the people who use foodbanks have at least one household member in work? Through Caritas Westminster, we already contribute to foodbanks and other initiatives to relieve poverty.

This new programme will help to fund additional food relief initiatives and provide the additional skills and resources needed for people to become independent. Parishioners can pick up a Cardinal's Lenten Appeal donation leaflet at the back of the church or from Marshalswick Mass Centre.

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

Marshalswick Mass Centre - Rotas

The Volunteer rotas are now available for download from the Liturgy Section of the Parish Website: www.albanstephen.org/groups/liturgy-group/

Post-Synod Reflections for Young Adults

The next meeting of young adults at Archbishop's House, Victoria, London, will take place on **Tuesday 2nd April**, 6.30pm. Bishop John Sherrington will be leading our reflections this time. All young adults are invited to attend. RSVP: youth@rcdow.org.uk. For more details, go to www.dowym.com/events

Lent Day of Prayer & Reflection

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Reflections on the Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ with the Dominican Sisters. **Wednesday, 3rd April** (9.30 for 10.00 until 3.00) Please bring a packed lunch. Suggested donation £14. **Niland Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE.**

To register events@nilandconferencecentre.co.uk or ring 07746 707 247

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.



Congratulations

Well done to the St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School Choir who won the Primary Choir section of the St Albans Young Musician 2019, held at St. Albans Abbey on 3rd March. We are incredibly proud of all the choir's hard work and the wonderful comments made by the adjudicator. She talked about how the SJF choir showed enthusiasm and commitment all the way to the end of the performance and, most of all, she felt they were really enjoying the performance."

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen
Confessions: Sat 10.30-11.30am & 6.45-7pm.
Baptisms: by appointment