

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.

7th April 2019

Fifth Sunday of Lent

*‘No need to recall the past,
No need to think
about what was
done before.*

*See, I am doing a new deed...’
(Isaiah 43:18-19)*

*‘All I can say is
that I forget the past
and I strain ahead...’
(Phil 3:13)*



These poignant words taken from today’s first and second readings provide the perfect preamble to our dramatic Gospel reading.

Perhaps the line that is most often quoted from the story of the woman caught in adultery is Jesus’ challenge to the crowd who bring her before them: ‘If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.’ It is a challenge to all of us to look inward before we ‘cast stones’ to judge others.

But there is another equally powerful statement here by Jesus, this time to the woman herself. It is delivered quietly, when she is left alone with Jesus after all her accusers have drifted away: ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go away, and don’t sin any more.’

We notice that Jesus doesn’t rake over the woman’s past. He doesn’t ask her about the claims of her accusers. He does not condemn or criticise her.

Instead he accepts her, loves her, treats her with the respect and dignity that was so lacking in the mob, and gently nudges her forward into a new way of living.

**Palm Sunday
14th April 2019**



Palms will be blessed at all Masses.

9am Marshalswick

Meet at Sherwood Avenue fields for blessing and distribution of palms (with St. Mary’s CoE and Marshalswick Free Baptist Church) followed by Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre.

**9.30am Mass in Church
with Procession**

Weather permitting, please assemble at Loreto College (Beaconsfield Road Entrance) at 9.20am

**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.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **Mary Hudson, Ron Garner, Veronica Hamilton, Alex South, Breda Iommi, Patricia McCarthy and Vincent McGuire** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including **Kathleen O’Brien, Tess O’Hara and Bridget and John Munnely.**

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, 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 Mincun, Teresa Virrueta, Mike Smith, Alice Daly, Bernadette Marron, Jim O’Neill, Jim O’Connor, Margaret Moloney, Patrick Foley, Jack O’Mahoney, Edie Hale, John Rowland, Carmaline Xavier, Becki Vousden, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O’Gorman, 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

7.4.2019

6pm Deceased Members of Feeney Family

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

Monday – Lent Feria

10am John Garden RIP
7.30pm **PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

Tuesday – Lent Feria

10am Elizabeth Delaney Anniv.
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Lent Feria

10am **FUNERAL OF VERONICA HAMILTON**
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. Stanislaus

10am Priests' Intentions
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – Lent Feria

10am John Baxter RIP
7pm John Baxter RIP

Saturday – St. Martin

9.30am Stations of the Cross
10am The Canty Family Ints.
6pm Mark, Kathleen and Gerrard More RIP

Next Sunday

Palm Sunday

8am John Baxter RIP
9am M'wick People of the Parish
9.30am Allace De Cruz RIP
11.30am Philip Mansfield RIP
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Nora King RIP

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

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@ymail.com / 01727 852 930)
for more information

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

The Lord made a path to freedom for his people, through the waters. As the followers of Jesus, our path to freedom is through the waters of baptism.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Life, for St. Paul, is like an athletic contest in which the prize is Christ himself.

Gospel Reading: John 8:1-11

When all have departed, there are just two things left: the sinner's misery and the Lord's mercy.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Dan 13;1-9.15-17.19-30.33-62; Ps 22; Jn 8:1-11
Tue: Num 21:4-9; Ps 101:2-3.16-21; Jn 8:21-30
Wed: Dan 3:14-20.24-25.28; Dan 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
Thu: Gen 17:3-9; Ps 104:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
Fri: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 17:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
Sat: Ezek 37:21-28; Jer 31:10.11-13; Jn 11:45-56

Dates for April

You Too Can Give an Easter Egg

If you are taking part in the 'You too can give an Easter egg' initiative please leave your Easter Eggs in the collecting box after Mass this weekend (6/7th April). Please DO NOT leave eggs at the Presbytery



Those who have kindly agreed to deliver the eggs to families, should collect these from the church choir loft (not the presbytery) on **Monday 8th April between 6pm and 7.15pm or Tuesday 9th between 4 and 5.30pm**; if this is not convenient please e-mail the team at santa@albanstephen.com. Many thanks for helping to spread the good news of Easter.



Traidcraft

Traidcraft this **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



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.



Marshalswick Mass Centre Bags 2 School

As a fund raising scheme, the Governors of St John Fisher Primary School, Marshalswick will be handing out "Bags 2 School" at mass, **Sunday 7th April 2019**. Any old or unwanted items of clothing or shoes can be put in these Bags, ready for collection **Sunday 21st April 2019**, from the Mass Centre.

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 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.



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 see our website www.stcolumbascollege.org or contact the Admissions Registrar, Mrs Hilary Causer: admissions@stcolumbascollege.org

EASTER BREAK

Conversation Classes for Ladies

Back on **Monday 29th April, 1pm** in the Parish Hall

Toddlers Group

Back on **Monday 29th April, 10.30am** in the Parish Hall.
MORE HELPERS NEEDED

Children's Liturgy

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



NEWS BULLETIN

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.

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.



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

"If the love of the heart of Jesus is neglected among us, in the garden of the Church we are like a flower that no longer has colour nor perfume."



Jules Chevalier, Circular, MSC 1899

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/

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