

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



9th December 2018

Preparing for the arrival of someone important takes care and attention. Think of a family preparing to welcome a loved one home from abroad, perhaps a son or daughter who lives in Australia or someone who has been off traveling the world.

They get their bedroom ready, buy their favourite foods, perhaps put up banners or even organise a 'welcome home' party. It is all done with great excitement and love, and is a way of easing the path home for the traveller.



Or imagine new parents preparing for the arrival of a baby. There are practical considerations such as buying nappies and clothing and getting a cot ready, and of course the nerves and excitement as they prepare to welcome the new arrival.

On a larger scale, when an important dignitary visits a venue or a country there is also a flurry of activity in preparation. The visit of Pope often involves a literal preparation of the way - organising a welcome reception, planning the best route from the airport, clearing the streets of traffic, as well as much chatter and anticipation.

Today's Gospel brings these types of welcome to mind. During Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus by our actions, when we are generous with our time, patient with our families, and help those in need.

And we do all these things with excitement and love, so that Christ will find the warmest of welcomes and a clear route into our hearts.

Second Sunday of Advent

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, 17th December at 4pm.

Strathmore House,
Hall Place Gardens AL1 3SP
Wednesday 19th December at 3.30pm.

please phone 01727 852 848 to confirm your participation.



New Parish Website

Our new parish website is now available.
Please update your bookmarks to:

www.albanstephen.org

Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held on **Saturday 12th January 2019, 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.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including John Finnegan, Zenaida Enriquez, Shirley Hennessy, Josephine Gleeson, Christina Moulder and May Flavin and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Epifanio Funes

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Sonya Scrogie, 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 Mincu, 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 Dohohan, Noah Gregorio, Gerry Smith, Edmond Mansfield & Teresa Hill may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

9.12.2018

6pm Mickie Clancy Anniv.
8am Brian Lee 4th Anniv.
9am M'wick People of the Parish
9.30am Pat Judge and Caroline Fagan Anniv.
11.30am Sr. Fabian White RIP
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Brendan Kearns RIP

Monday – Advent Feria

10am Priests' Intentions
7pm Jo McCrossan RIP

Tuesday – St. Damasus I.

10am CWL Rota Mass
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Our Lady of Guadalupe

10am FUNERAL OF JOSEPHINE GLEESON

7.30pm PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Thursday – St. Lucy

10am Liber Marzo RIP
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – St. John of the Cross

10am FUNERAL OF SHIRLEY HENNESSY

7pm Joseph Siedlik Anniv.

Saturday – Advent Feria

10am Brendan Hollywood Anniv.
6pm Linda Peters RIP

Next Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

8am Graham Smith RIP
9am M'wick People of the Parish
9.30am Donald DeCruz Anniv.
11.30am Vincent O'Reilly RIP
7pm P. Ferdinand Morillon RIP

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

St Nicholas

On 6th December we celebrated the feast of St



Nicholas. St Nicholas was a Christian Bishop born in Patara, part of present day Turkey, circa 280AD. When, as a young man, Nicholas was made an orphan he decided to use his money to help the sick and needy. Over the years, stories of his miracles and kindness spread around the world. He was known as the protector of children and was associated with present giving. It was the Dutch immigrants, with their tradition of leaving their shoes out for St Nicholas to fill with sweets, who spread the knowledge of St Nicholas or Sinterklass to America in the 1700s. Here, after many transformations Sinterklaas became Santa Claus and his present giving was transferred to the Christmas holiday. Today, as we remember the kindness of St Nicholas, we thank God for the generosity of all His people and their active concern for the most vulnerable of our society.

Foundation of the MSCs

On the 8th December we celebrate the foundation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart by Fr Jules Chevalier.

Newly arrived at Issoudun, Fr Jules was intent on founding a congregation of religious priests and brothers to give life to a vision he had had for a few years. With his fellow young priest, he began a novena to Our Lady which was to conclude on 8th December 1854, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The morning after they had completed the novena, they received a letter announcing a gift of 20,000 French Francs from an anonymous donor.

This money was used to establish a house of missionaries in the area who were to be witnesses and instruments of God's love, healing, mercy and transformation to the very ends of the earth, our own MSCs. Fr Jules' great motto was "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved".

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

God's people are invited to remove their garments of sorrow and distress and to replace them with the beauty and glory of God.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

St. Paul's prayer is as relevant today as when he wrote it to the Philippians: ' May the one who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfilment.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

John can be seen as a link between the world of the prophets and the advent of Christ. His baptism is symbolic of the call to repentance with is central to his ministry of preparation.

Readings for the Week:

Mon: Is 35:1-10; Ps 84:9-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tue: Is 40:1-11; Ps 95:1-3.10-13; Mt 18:12-14
Wed: Is 40:25-31; Ps 102:1-4.8.10; Mt 11:28-30
Thu: Is 41:13-20; Ps 144:1.9-13; Mt 11:11-15
Fri: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4.6; Mt 11:16-19
Sat: Ecclus 48.1-4.9-11; Ps 79:2-3.15-16.18-19; Mt 17:10-13

Dates for December

You Can Be Santa



A member of the Santa team will be in the Parish Centre and at Marshalswick after each Mass this weekend (8/9th December) to receive your gifts. If for any reason you are unable to drop off your gifts at these times, please contact one the Santa team directly or by e-mail (santa@albanstephen.com) to arrange a drop off time.

Members of the Santa team will be in the presbytery for volunteer visitors to collect their families' gifts at the following times: Monday 10th Dec between 4 and 6.30pm; Tuesday 11th Dec between 9 and 10am and on Wednesday 12th Dec between 6 and 7.15 pm.

Should you be unable to collect gifts at any of these times, please contact the Santa team directly to make alternative arrangements.

Many thanks again for your generosity and support in spreading the joy and true message of Christmas!

Life Ascending (Ascent)

Meeting on **Tuesday 11th December**
10.45am in Room 1.

Talk: Political Correctness v. Christianity.
All are welcome.

Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' Prayers will next meet
on **Monday 10th December at 8pm** in room 2.
Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome.
Information from; Office@mothersprayers.org

Knit and Natter

The Parish Friends Knit and Natter group will meet for Christmas celebrations and knitting on **Tuesday 11th December** 2.30-4pm in the Parish Centre. From **15th January 2019** the Knit and Natter group will meet every 2 weeks. Everyone welcome.

Mercy Associates

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 12th December** in Room 1 of the parish centre from 5 until 7pm. Sr.Margaret Jones will be with us. All are welcome.

Reconciliation at Christmas

This year's Advent Penitential Service will take place on **Wednesday 12th December at 7.30 pm**. This is the ideal opportunity to listen to scripture readings followed by a period of prayer and reflection and then confession. You are warmly welcomed to participate in the service as part of your preparation for Christmas and also to help ease the pressure on confessions during the final week of Advent.

Marlborough Road Methodist Church



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

Bingo

In the Parish Hall
on **Friday, 14th December** at 8pm in aid of **LIFE**. Admission is 50p towards refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

Thank you to all those that supported our last Bingo evening.

£500 was raised towards the MSC Emergency Appeal.



Mens Curry Night

Friday, 14th December

We are holding the 3rd annual Men's curry night on **Friday 14th December**

Venue to be confirmed but should be in central St Albans, meeting at 7.30pm. Please contact Richard on 07976 252 309 or email

d4dstalbans@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Christmas Market Stall

Please plan to give ½ hour to hand out Invitations to our Christmas Services at the market

on **Saturday 15th December, 9am - 3.30pm**.

Tel.no: 01727 838 598 (Eric)

Carols by Candlelight

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

If you'd like to take part, please text Jacquie on 07840 367 555

for details.



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 400 650 or email dave_markham@yahoo.co.uk.

Everyone welcome from babies to pensioners.

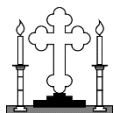
Let's make it a fun, warm, happy Christmas for all!

NEWS BULLETIN

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: 07543 400 650
dave_markham@yahoo.co.uk.

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

Marriage Preparation Programme The Last Call!

A Marriage Preparation programme will be running in the Parish in January.

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 01727 765 549, grabecki@hotmail.com

New Year Turkey and Tinsel lunch

Parish Friends are arranging a New Year Turkey and Tinsel lunch for our senior parishioners from 12.45-3pm on **Sunday 13th January**. Entertainment will be provided by our parish group "Saints Alive"



If you would like to attend please put your name on the **Guest List** stating any dietary requirements and if you will need a lift.

If you can provide help in the way of food, transport or help on the day please put your name the **Helpers List**. It is vital that you give your contact details if you can help -

especially if you are offering food- so that we can get in touch with you to arrange what we would like you to bring. Both Lists will be found in the Church Porch and Marshalswick Mass Centre. For further details contact Helen on helen.bassill@ntlworld.com
or tel: 07860 838 340

APF Calendars for 2019

The APF calendars for 2019 are now in the Church Porch for collection by promoters. For any queries please call Tony Hughes 01727 862 087 or email tanda.hughes@btinternet.com



Christmas Cards

Please take a few Christmas Cards and deliver to your neighbours, help spread the good news of Christmas!

Christmas Posters

Available at the back of the Church. Please take one to put in a window.

Old Car Wanted

A parishioner is looking for a cheap car for a Catholic single lady in urgent need.

If anyone is trading in or has an unwanted car (around £200) please let us know. Contact: Tim Stevens 07875 848 138.



Let us entrust to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart the success of all difficult and hopeless causes both in temporal and spiritual matters.

Annales NDSC 1874, p. 131 f

Welcoming at Christmas

Please help to make our church a place of welcome to everyone this Christmas, particularly those who are visitors to our parish. A warm greeting, a friendly smile and a willingness to hand out missalettes are the only requisites. Please contact Sara on sara.nash1@ntlworld.com if you can assist, giving the time of the Mass you are planning to attend. We especially need extra help at the 5pm and 7 pm Masses on Christmas Eve which are always so well attended.

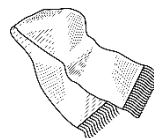


Knit / Crochet a Scarf For a Needy Person in St. Albans

about 15 x 120cm.

Please take to St. Albans Abbey Reception.

They will be put on the Abbey railings for those in need to take them.



Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment