

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

13th January 2019

The Baptism of the Lord

Today's Gospel tells us that the people were 'filled with expectation'. It sounds like an exciting time as they wonder who this prophet John could be.

John must have been a very dynamic and inspiring preacher as the people speculated if he was the one they had been waiting for.

He uses all of this attention for one purpose: to point people to Jesus.

There are many people in our lives who have pointed us towards Jesus, perhaps by an invitation to an event or a retreat or by sharing a reflection with us at just the right time. In them, we see something special and interesting that makes us wonder in our hearts and seek a little further.

They are the John the Baptists in our lives, pointing us towards the Lord like signposts along the way.

John humbly responds to the people by saying: 'One who is more powerful than I is coming.' He emphasises that it is He who will really set their hearts on fire. While the words 'winnowing forks' seem harsh, we might interpret them as speaking of God's power to transform our lives through Jesus.

When Jesus enters into the narrative, Luke emphasises that He is at prayer, and it is then that this powerful experience of God occurs.

A nice meditation for today is to repeat the last sentence of today's Gospel, imagining God speaking these words to you:

'You are my Daughter / Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'



The Newman Association

Hertfordshire Circle Event

Saturday 19th January 2019 at 11am, in Room 1

Sister Eileen, a Dominican sister, will speak on

'Pastoral Experiences in Latin America'

Everyone is very welcome.

If you would like to know more

please phone 01727 864 404

www.newman.org.uk



Men's Breakfast

Saturday 26th January

There is a men's breakfast to start the New Year on **Saturday 26th January** from 8.15am in the Parish Centre. There will be tea/coffee, fruit, pastries and friendly conversation for 30 minutes or so, followed by a short DVD talk on the theme "God at work", featuring Ken Costa, a former deputy chair of UBS Bank and former chair of Alpha International. We aim to finish by 10am.

Please contact Richard by email on d4dstalbans@gmail.com, or call 07976 252 309 for more details.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including Thomas McGovern, Catherine Mayes, Kathleen D'Arcy, Philip Mansfield and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Chrissie Ruane and Harry Vasey.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Frances Flavin, Sue Gavin, Mvra Mvers, Joe Smalls, Margaret Norris, Betty Nicklin, Joe Spatafora, Mark Norris, Magdalena Pedroz, Teresa Hill, Callum Gathard, Ida Daswa, Patrick Doran, Hannah Barquerro-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, Gerry Smith and Edmond Mansfield may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

13.1.2019

6pm Vincent O'Reilly RIP
8am Fr. Pat Courtney Ints.
9am M'wick Fr. Tom Hewitt Anniv.
9.30am Christopher Butler Ints.
11.30am Brendan Kearns RIP
4pm Polish Mass
7pm People of the Parish

Monday – Feria

10am Deceased members
of the MacDonald Family
7pm Roche Family Ints.

Tuesday – Feria

10am Priests' Intentions
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Feria

10am Theresa Debella Ints.
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. Anthony

10am Ray Ingman Anniv.
4.30pm LIE-IN FOR KATHLEEN D'ARCY
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – Feria

10am FUNERAL OF KATHLEEN D'ARCY
7pm Annie Clark Ints.

Saturday – St. Wulstan

10am Reginald Calcutt RIP
6pm Vincent O'Reilly RIP

Next Sunday

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am May Flavin RIP
9am M'wick People of the Parish
9.30am Nancy Ginnelly Ints.
11.30am Jane McGeeney RIP
7pm Mary Curran RIP

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

Westminster Year Book 2019

Copies of the year book are available to buy
from the Parish Office. Cost: £4.50 each.
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 1pm

First Holy Communions

Next Meeting for Parents: **Monday 14th January**,
8pm, in the Parish Hall

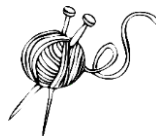
Confirmations

Next Meeting for Parents: **Monday 28th January**
8pm, in the Parish Hall

Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' Prayers will next meet
on **Monday 14th January** in room 2 at 8pm.
Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome.
Info from email : office@mothersprayers.org

Knit and Natter



Knit and Natter group
will be held in Room 1
on **Tuesday January 15th**
and **Tuesday January 29th**
2.30-4pm. We are all at different stages in our
knitting skills but can all enjoy a cup of tea, a
biscuit and a natter. Everyone is welcome.

First Reading:

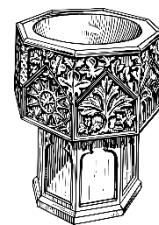
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

'Behold, there is your God.' Are words of comfort
proclaimed to Jerusalem and through her to all
people.

Second Reading:

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Paul writes of Christian baptism as
sharing in Christ's baptism, and as at
the Jordan, so at the font, the heavens
open and God in the person of the
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals his
'goodness toward mankind.'



Gospel Reading:

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

In presenting himself for baptism with the people,
Jesus, in the first public act of his ministry stands
with all sinners.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: He 1:1-6; Ps 96:1-2.6-7.9; Mk 1:14-20
Tue: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2.5-9; Mk 1:21-28
Wed: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 104:1-4.6-9; Mk 1:29-39
Thu: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 94:6-11; Mk 1:40-45
Fri: Heb 4:1-5.11; Ps 77:3-4.6-8; Mk 2:1-12
Sat: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 18:8-10.15; Mk 2:13-17

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The theme of week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019 comes to us from Christians in Indonesia and is based on the words of Deuteronomy, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue..." (16:18-20) which speaks powerfully to their situation. Every

year for the week beginning **18th January**, Christians across the world gather in prayer for growth in unity. We do this in a world where corruption, greed and injustice bring about inequality and division. As individual Christians and communities, we are often complicit with injustice, and yet we are called together to form a united witness for justice and to be a means of Christ's healing grace for the brokenness of the world. St Albans is a

forerunner in this initiative; Churches Together in St Albans and the City Centre Churches join together in prayer at various services.

On **13th January** there will be a **candle exchange** between Ss Alban & Stephen at the 9.30 am Mass and Trinity United Reform Church during their 10 am Service.

On the **20th January** there will be a **pulpit exchange** across the city. We will welcome Rev. Simon Carver, Senior Minister at Dagnall Street Baptist Church to preach at our 11.30 am Mass, whilst one of our priests will preach at Dagnall Street at their 10.30 Service.

The **St Albans Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** takes place on **Sunday 20th January** from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in Marlborough Road Methodist Church. Speaker - Bishop Michael Doe Preacher to Gray's Inn, an Assistant Anglican Bishop in Southwark Diocese in retirement, and long-standing worker for Ecumenism nationally including, at one time, Chair to Churches Together in England; currently involved in various Ecumenical initiatives.

Prayer for St. Albans

St. Paul's Church, Hatfield Rd, St. Albans, AL1 4JP
Friday 18th January, 8-10pm.

We come together to pray for our nation at this critical time.

Celebrating Christian Unity Niland Centre

Welcoming all those who come to the Niland Centre

Address: 93 Elstree Rd, Bushey WD23 4EE to celebrate together our **Unity Saturday,**

19th January,

2 - 5pm with prayer and input, conversation and fellowship. Relaxing into God amid the Madness of Everyday Life with Holly Cook (Harrow-on-the-Hill). RSVP for catering purposes. Donation at will to cover costs please.

Forgive us as we forgive others--morning reflection with Sr Regina McGarry OP & Monika Cleaver **Thursday, 24th January 10am-12.30pm.**

Refreshments provided.
Suggested donation £6.



Investing in a Fairer World

Thinking Lunch 12.30pm to 1.30pm on **Thursday 7th February 2019** at Marlborough Road Methodist Church.

Led by Sally Seddon the Volunteer Engagement Manager for Shared Interest which is a community benefit society that aims to alleviate poverty in disadvantaged communities.

By lending finance to those working in agriculture and handcrafts they enable them to trade their way out of poverty. Their UK members invest what they can afford to support others. Tea / Coffee / Squash provided, but bring your own sandwiches.

The half an hour talk will be followed by discussion. Donations to cover expenses and any profits will be given to Shared Interest Foundation.

King's Speech

Dagnall Street Baptist Church, "Thursday 24th January 2019 at 7.30pm - The film The King's Speech is being shown at Dagnall Street Baptist Church in preparation for a 2019 Ecumenical Lent Course. Finding a Voice by Hilary Brandt uses the film as a backdrop to lead us through Lent which can be a time for strengthening resolve, bringing believers together in trust and encouragement as we seek to follow our calling."

NEWS BULLETIN

Schools

Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School

Starting Nursery 2019: Families with a child born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 are now able to apply for a Nursery place for September 2019. The application window for Nursery applications closes on Thursday 14 February. Applicants must complete our Application and Options Forms. These can be downloaded from www.ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk or are available from the school office. Parents are welcome to visit the school and a list of dates and times for Foundation Stage tours can be viewed on the school website - please call 01727 854643 to book your appointment.

Admissions Policy: Governors at Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School are consulting on the 2020-21 Admissions policy. They would be pleased to receive any comments on this.

Please follow this link for further info:

<http://ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk/admissions/>



Loreto College

Loreto College are consulting on proposed changes to the criteria for admission in September 2020.

The main change is a proposal to remove the priority given to Practising Catholics over Baptised Catholics. The proposed criteria can be found on the school's website or a copy can be obtained from the school. Any comments on the proposed change should be made in writing to Mrs Williams (PA to the Head) at the school, or by email to



swilliams@loreto.herts.sch.uk by 31st January 2019.



St. Columba's College

St. Columba's College and Prep School, an independent Catholic boys' school in St Albans, will be holding assessment days for both the Prep and Senior School (4-18) in January and February 2019.

The 11+ assessments will be held on **Saturday 19th January** and the 13+ assessments will be held on **Friday 1st February**. Information about the assessments can be found at

<http://www.stcolumbascollege.org/1621/admissions/admissions-process>.

For more information, or to apply for the assessments, please contact Mrs Hilary Causer, Admissions Registrar. Direct line: 01727 892040, email address: admissions@stcolumbascollege.org

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

Proclaim Spring Gatherings are for laity and clergy from Parishes, Schools, Youth and chaplaincies and all who are involved or interested in local evangelisation. 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



*Let us not forget
that the love of the heart of
Jesus is the source of all
graces, a centre of light and
love, an abyss of mercy.
Regles MSC, 1857*

Volunteer for CAFOD

Do you have good public speaking skills and want to help us tackling poverty and injustice? CAFOD needs volunteers to speak on our behalf in parishes and/or schools in the Westminster Diocese about our work in the developing world.

To find out more details, or book a place on our next Volunteer information day in London on **Saturday, 19th January 2019** call CAFOD on 0208 449 6970 or email westminster@cafod.org.uk

You Can Be Santa

Thanksgiving Mass & Social

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 a celebratory drink in the Parish Centre. There is a link on the parish website to a BBC article about the actor Lenny James who was in care as a child and whose life was changed by the generosity of others towards him and other children at Christmas. He says he will never forget the kindness, care and consideration shown to him by people that did not know him.

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!

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment