

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

16th December 2018

A quarter century ago, a survey – at this time of year – asked people to indicate what thought first came to mind when the word ‘Christmas’ was mentioned to them. The majority answer by some distance, it seems, was ‘busyness’.

The truth remains that, despite the sentimentality and sense of expectation which can publicly

envelope it, our

intensely

commercialised

Christmas can feel

more like an

imposition upon our

spirits than a source of

uplift for them.



Somehow we realise that, even though we may participate with much goodwill, our Christmas celebrations will not bring, at any meaningful level, the ‘joy’ our scriptures speak of this Sunday. Why?

When St. Paul speaks of our ‘happiness’ in today’s liturgy, he is clear that it is a happiness rooted in Christ and in an awareness of his presence. ‘The Lord’ he tells the Philippians, is ‘very near’. The prophet Zephaniah was even more direct: ‘Rejoice’, he exhorted Israel, ‘The Lord is in your midst.’

Gaudete Sunday calls us to a real joy as we enter the latter half of this season of preparation. It is a joy derived from an awareness that the Lord is, indeed, near to us. Christmas time ahead will call us to an even deeper joy, conscious that the Saviour has come among us as the prophets once foretold.

Third Sunday of Advent

Carols by Candlelight

Thursday 20th December,

7.30pm in the Church

All Are Welcome



Christmas Cards

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

Congratulations to Brendan Day!

Earlier this year, Cardinal Vincent Nichols accepted Brendan Day into the 3 year training program for the Permanent Diaconate. Priests and parishioners from our parish joined Brendan and his family at St Joseph’s Church, Highgate on Sunday 9th December as Brendan and three other men from the Westminster Diocese took another step along their journey at the Candidacy mass led by Bishop Paul McAleenan. This service saw Brendan and the other men move from the status of Aspirant to Candidate, for ordination to the Diaconate. Our prayers and good wishes are with Brendan on his journey towards ordination in the summer of 2021.

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 Pat Williamson.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Sonya Scrogie, Joe Smalls, Margaret Norris, Catherine Mayes, Betty Nicklin, Joe Spatafora, 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 Doohan, Noah Gregorio, Gerry Smith, Edmond Mansfield & Teresa Hill may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

16.12.2018

6pm	Linda Peters RIP
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
Monday – Advent Feria	
10am	John Lines RIP and Deceased Family Members
7pm	Matthew and Elie Kiely Wedding Anniv.
Tuesday – Advent Feria	
10am	Priests' Intentions
NO EVENING MASS	
Wednesday – Advent Feria	
10am	COMMUNION SERVICE
4.30pm	LIE-IN FOR MAY FLAVIN RIP
7pm	MSC Benefactors
Thursday – Advent Feria	
10am	FUNERAL OF MAY FLAVIN RIP
7.30pm	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
Friday – St. Peter Canisius	
10am	Pascale Al-Basri Anniv.
7pm	The deceased members of the Connellan Family
Saturday – Advent Feria	
10am	Marie Noella Amadis RIP
6pm	Kate Kelly RIP
Next Sunday	
Fourth Sunday of Advent	
8am	Peggy and Alban Brampton RIP
9am M'wick	People of the Parish
9.30am	James Smith Anniv.
11.30am	Laurie and Mary Blythman Anniv.
4pm	Polish Mass
7pm	Pauline, Bella and John Taites RIP

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

New Parish Website

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

www.albanstephen.org

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.



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

MSC Emergency Appeal Thank You

Many thanks to all Parishioners who donated to the MSC Emergency fund, helping people affected by disasters in India and Indonesia.

First Reading: Zephania 3:14-18

Rejoice. Exult. Shout for Joy. The prophet can command people to have a joyful attitude because he is convinced of God's victory over every sadness and every suffering.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Likewise St. Paul, in asking his people to be happy, is expressing his confidence in God's presence and in his victory.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:10-18

'What must we do?' – people ask John the Baptist this question three times in this Gospel. It is an excellent question for us to ask during this season of Advent.

Readings for the Week:

Mon: Gen 49:2.8-10; Ps 71:1-4.7-8.17; Mt 1:1-17

Tue: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 71:1-2.12-13.18-19; Mt 1:18-24

Wed: judg 13:2-7.24-25; Ps 70:3-6.16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Thu: Is 7:10-14; Ps 23:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Fri: Songs 2:8-14; Ps 32:2-3.11-12.20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Sat: 1 Sam 1:24-28; 1 Sam 2:1.4-8; Lk 1:46-56

Dates for December and January

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.



English Conversation Classes

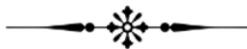
The last 2018 session for ladies whose first language is not English will take place on **Monday 17th December, 1 - 2.30pm**, in the Parish hall. The sessions will begin again on Monday 7th January 2019.



Children's Nativity Liturgy

Christmas Eve, 2pm in the Church

Children are invited to come dressed in costumes reflecting the Christmas Story such as angels, shepherds, kings etc.



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!



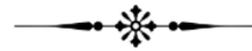
Marriage Preparation Programme The Last Call!

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.



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



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.



You can be Santa

Many thanks to everyone who brought in their Santa gifts last weekend. Should anyone still have a gift they need to bring in please do ensure that it is given to a member of the Santa team this weekend:

Cath & Bob White, Marion Burgess,
Sr. Anita, Sara & Ian Nash, Anita O'Connor,
Jo Fennessy, Helen Bassill.

Final deliveries should be made early this week. Thanks also to the visitors who have been on hand to ensure Santa has the required help with the delivery of all the gifts.

The Santa team is so grateful to everyone for their generosity meaning that over 150 presents will have been dispatched bringing joy at Christmas to the children concerned.



NEWS BULLETIN

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. John Fisher Catholic School Starting Reception 2019

Families with a child born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 can now apply for a Reception place for September 2019.

The Herts Online system for Reception applications <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/> closes on Tuesday 15 January.

Additional forms will be needed, details can be found on www.sjfisher.herts.sch.uk or are available from the school office.



Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School

Starting Reception 2019: Families with a child born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 are now able to apply for a Reception place for September 2019. The Herts Online system for Reception applications

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/> closes on Tuesday 15 January. Additional forms will be needed, details can be found on www.ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk or are available from the school office.



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.

Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Junior School - Year 3 - 2019

Families with a child born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 can now apply for a Year 3 place for September 2019. The Herts Online system

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/> closes on Tuesday 15 January. In addition to the Herts submission, applicants must complete our school form and provide current proof of address and evidence of baptism (if applicable). Full details can be found on www.ssasjm.herts.sch.uk or from the school office.



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.



Christmas Posters

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

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.

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



St Albans Sleep Out Thank you!

Centre 33, Open Door, Emmaus, Herts Young Homeless and The Living Room would like to thank everyone who participated in any way to ensure the charity Sleep Out on 7th December was successful. Some 124 brave people slept out in the cold under the stars and raised over £15,000 to date in sponsorship to help fund the work of the charities in supporting homeless people and in addressing some of the causes of homelessness.

Sponsor our Youngest Rough Sleeper

If you wish to support Centre 33, we would be most grateful if you would sponsor Alice, who just turned five, who slept out in her unicorn onesie. Search for 'Alice Markham Centre 33 Virgin giving'.
Many thanks.

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

*Whatever our weakness, our temptations,
even our failures, let us drive away all discouragement
and open our hearts in trust to the love of Jesus' heart.*

Jules Chevalier, Meditations I, p. 223 f.

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



Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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