

# 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](http://www.albanstephen.org)

Items for the bulletin - e-mail: [stalbans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk) by 12noon on Wednesdays

Youth Co-ordinator Sr. Anita O'Leary SSJG, e-mail: [anitaoleary@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:anitaoleary@rcdow.org.uk)

Safeguarding Lead Nicky Vellacott: [stalbanssg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbanssg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07882 566 020

Youth Website: [www.sasyouth.com](http://www.sasyouth.com). We are a Fairtrade Parish. Parish Secretary: Ivana Mearns

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018**

**First Sunday of Advent**

While we may not be living in the end times Jesus prophesied as he spoke to his disciples outside the

Temple, our uncertain times breed their own sense of foreboding and insecurity. This can lead us either closer to the Lord, or further away from him. Today's gospel outlines what each scenario might look like.

On the one hand, there is the life turned on itself, seeking comfort in familiar forms of self-indulgence, which can become a ready escape from the more unpalatable aspects of reality.

We can waste what is precious, investing in what is of little worth.

When we stop believing in ourselves, and in what we are called by God to become, it is easy to lose sight of the bigger picture and avoid concern for the ultimate destiny of our lives.



Jesus advocates, on the other hand, lives of prayer and vigilance. Lives which are lived in the presence of the Lord, sufficiently awake and attentive to be conscious of that presence in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. Lives, as the prophet might have put it, of honesty and integrity. Lives that are outward-looking and generative, blessed with a spirit of trust and gratitude. In other words 'the kind of life that you are meant to live.'

Most of us could benefit from some form of renewed vision and fresh challenge at this time. The scriptures of today's Mass have these to offer, in plenty.

## **Film - Parish Friends**

Parish Friends will be showing the film "The Greatest Showman" on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December in the Parish Hall. Refreshments (including popcorn) 2.30 and film commences 3pm. This is a film for all the family and everyone is welcome. For more information or if you require a lift please contact Helen - 07860 80340.

## **Carols by Candlelight**

The date is set for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Catholic Women's League Christmas Meeting**

After 10am Mass Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, in the Parish Hall. £2 includes mince pies, raffle, quiz.

## **First Friday Blessed Sacrament 24-hour Adoration in the Prayer Room**

11am Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December till 11am Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that as many people as possible can be present. If you are able to attend, even if it's just for half-an-hour, please enter your name in the rota at the back of the church. More information on 24-hour adoration in 2019 will be published soon.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including Christina Moulder, May Flavin, John O'Keefe and Nellie Colfer and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Jim Lewis, Patrick Devine, Brendan Hollywood and Patrick McGoohan.

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

2.12.2018

6pm Brian & Mary Battles and  
Jimmy & Bridie Brady RIP

8am Dale Langham RIP  
9am M'wick People of the Parish  
9.30am **SCHOOLS MASS**  
11.30am Mary Curran RIP

7pm Anna Avvinti RIP

### Monday – St. Francis Xavier

10am Stephen O'Brien RIP  
7pm Christina Gatta RIP

### Tuesday – St. John Damascene

10am Ruari MacDonald RIP  
**NO EVENING MASS**

### Wednesday – Advent Feria

10am John Donachie RIP  
7pm MSC Benefactors

### Thursday – St. Nicholas

10am Priests' Intentions  
**NO EVENING MASS**

### Friday – St. Ambrose

10am Eddie Petino Anniv.  
7pm Vincent O'Reilly RIP

### Saturday – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10am Rosie McCormack Ints.  
6pm Mickie Clancy Anniv.

### Next Sunday

### Second Sunday of Advent

8am Brian Lee 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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

This weekend, there will be a second collection  
for St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

St. Vincent de Paul Society are tackling poverty in all its  
forms through the provision of practical assistance to  
those in need. The concept of need is broader than  
financial hardship, so visiting people who are sick, lonely,  
in prison, or suffering from addiction is also a significant  
proportion of their work.

### **Mary's Meals – Thank you**

Mary's Meals would like to thank all Parishioners  
for their support. The Parish managed to give 520kg  
of unwanted clothes last week; there were also cash  
donations of £764.27, making a total contribution of  
£1,039.87. The amount raised will feed 74 children  
who will not only get fed one good, nutritious meal  
every school day for a whole year, but they will get  
an education too.

### **Christmas Market Stall**

Please plan to give ½ hour to hand out Invitations to  
our Christmas Services at the market  
**on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 9am – 3.30pm.**  
Tel.no: 01727 838 598 (Eric)

### **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 765549, [grabecki@hotmail.com](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com)

### **FEED Food Collection**

FEED Food Collection at Budgens Marshalswick  
**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 10am – 12noon**  
If you can spare half an hour to help please contact  
Christine [CMD2512@aol.com](mailto:CMD2512@aol.com) /  
[MaureenMolly\\_gus@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:MaureenMolly_gus@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

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

In the midst of prophecies concerning exile and  
displacement, Jeremiah offers the hope of ultimate  
restoration and a fresh start for God's chosen people.

### **Second Reading: Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**

Writing to the largely gentile converts who made up  
the Christian community in Thessalonica, Paul  
encourages their perseverance.

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-28; 34-36**

We hear the promise of liberation. The disciples are  
warned to be vigilant and prayerful.

### **Readings for the Week:**

Mon: Is 2:1-5; Ps 121:1-9; Mt 8:5-11  
Tue: Is 11:1-10; Ps 71:1-2.7-8.12-13.17; Lk 10:21-24  
Wed: Is 25:6-10; Ps 22:1-6; Mt 15:29-37  
Thu: Is 26:1-6; Ps 117:1.8-9.19-21.25-27; Mt 7:21.24-27  
Fri: Is 29:17-24; Ps 26:1.4.13-14; Mt 9:27-31  
Sat: Gen 3:9-15.20; Ps 97:1-4; Eph 1:3-6.11; Lk 1:26-38

# Dates for December

## Traidcraft

Traidcraft this weekend

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December after all Masses at the church.

Traidcraft afternoon Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December

at 43 Avenue Road AL1 3PY 2-4pm

Fairtrade goods are on sale. Everyone welcome.

Traidcraft after Mass at John Fisher School,

Hazelmere Road on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December .

Any enquiries or orders, please contact Maureen on 01727 765 549 or [grabecki@hotmail.com](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com).

## Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School Senior Citizens Christmas Tea Party

Hosted by NBS Sixth Form Students

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm

RSVP: Nicola Butler 01727 860 079 (ext. 322)

[butlern@nbs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:butlern@nbs.herts.sch.uk)



## Sponsored Sleep Out 2018

Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018, Oaklands College, Smallford, St Albans AL4 0XS, 9pm - 7am, All ages welcome. (children under 11 need to be accompanied by a parent) Will you brave the cold to help the homeless keep warm? Please join the Sleep

Out and raise money for one of the 5 charities participating: Centre 33, Open Door, Emmaus, HYH and The Living Room. With your support and sponsorship, we can continue our vital work.

So wrap up warm, grab some friends and help raise money and awareness of homelessness with us!

Details and a registration form can be found at [www.stalbanssleepout.org.uk](http://www.stalbanssleepout.org.uk)

## Annual Youth Mass - London

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December. 3pm

at St. Dominic's Priory. Southamton Rd. London

NW5 4LB. Led by Bishop John Wilson. young

people from all parishes are welcome. The music for the Mass will be provided by Catholic artist Edwin Fawcett and the young Music Ministry scholars who spent a year preparing for this day. For more

information, as well as to apply for next year's free music scholarship, visit [dowym.com](http://dowym.com)

## Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' Prayers will next meet

on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm in room 2.

Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome.

Information from; [Office@mothersprayers.org](mailto:Office@mothersprayers.org)

## Knit and Natter

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

## Mercy Associates

The next meeting is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Bingo

In the Parish Hall on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Marlborough Road Methodist Church



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

## 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, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm.

Strathmore House, Hall Place Gardens  
AL1 3SP Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm.

please phone 01727 852 848 to confirm your participation.



## 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 400650 or email [dave\\_markham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dave_markham@yahoo.co.uk). Everyone welcome from babies to pensioners.

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

## Turkey and Tinsel Lunch

Due to popular demand Parish Friends are bringing back the Turkey and Tinsel Lunch for all senior parishioners on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 12.45 - 3pm. Entertainment will be provided by Saints Alive. Further details will follow.





# NEWS BULLETIN

## 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/> is now open and closes on Tuesday 15 January. Additional forms will be needed, details can be found on [www.sifisher.herts.sch.uk](http://www.sifisher.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 will soon be able to apply for a Reception place for September 2019. The Herts Online system for Reception applications <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/> opens on 5 November and closes on Tuesday 15 January. Additional forms will be needed, details can be found on [www.ssasinants.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ssasinants.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 will soon be able to apply for a Nursery place for September 2019. The application window for Nursery applications opens on Thursday 8 November and closes on Thursday 14 February. Applicants must complete our Application and Options Forms. These can be downloaded from [www.ssasinants.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ssasinants.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.

## Christmas Wreath Making

**Workshop - 4th December**, raising money for the children at **Ss Alban & Stephen schools**. Join us and make your own wreath. All materials provided. Starts at 7.30pm, in the Parish Hall. Tickets cost £15 per person. Limited spaces available, email [ssaspta@gmail.com](mailto:ssaspta@gmail.com) to check availability.

## 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/> opened on Monday 5 November and 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](http://www.ssasjm.herts.sch.uk) or from the school office.

**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](mailto:swilliams@loreto.herts.sch.uk) by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

## 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](mailto: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.



## You Can Be Santa

Many thanks to all the benefactors who took Santa letters last weekend, a tremendous response means that Santa will be able to provide gifts for over 150 children this Christmas. A member of the Santa team will be in the Parish Centre and at Marshalswick after each Mass next weekend (8/9<sup>th</sup> December) to receive your gifts. Please remember to label each present with the unique identity number of the child to ensure that Santa delivers to the correct address. Placing multiple presents for a single child together in one bag will help. If you have any questions, please contact the Santa team by e-mail ([santa@albanstephen.com](mailto:santa@albanstephen.com)). Your generosity and support continues to spread the joy and true message of Christmas!



## Nativity Scene Painting Competition

The Knights of St Columba (KSC) are sponsoring a National *Nativity Scene Painting Competition - 2018* open to pupils in Catholic Primary Schools in two age groups: **Five to Seven** and **Eight to Eleven** years of age. Details of the Competition have been circulated to the Art Departments in Catholic Primary Schools/ College in St Albans and District. There are National and Local prizes to be won. The closing date for entries to: School/College Art Departments is **Friday 7 December 2018**. For Competition enquiries please e-mail: [kennedy.p@ntlworld.com](mailto:kennedy.p@ntlworld.com)



## 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](mailto:dave_markham@yahoo.co.uk).

## Getting Married in the next 12 months?

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. Jimmv as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

## Catholic Diaries 2019

Catholic Diaries 2019 are now available in the porch. Published by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the diaries contain the order of the Mass, the Rite of Communion for the Sick as well as Church-special Holydays and "words of wisdom" verses. Cost: £2 each, please leave money in the newspaper box.

## Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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