

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



20th January 2019

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

This is a familiar story, rich in symbolism. The ‘signs’ in John’s Gospel are miracle stories but John prefers to use the term ‘sign’ as they point to something far more than just the miracle itself. John used these signs to encourage belief in his readers but they are also an invitation for us to understand something more of how God operates in our lives.

Jesus transforms the water which would be used for the Jewish purification rite. He takes something used to give life to people, and transforms it into something which brings joy, celebration and new life to the party. There are many messages we can take from this account: the ability of God to transform our lives, to transform that which is dead and stale.

The abundance of wine (approx. 700 litres!) is a significant reminder of the abundance of God’s love for us, beyond our comprehension.



We could also focus on the role of Mary in the Gospel – she is the one who notices, she is attentive to the needs of those around her and brings this concern to Jesus.

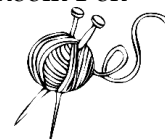
We might pray today that we too may be able to notice, to see, to intervene when we are faced with situations that need attention. This may be a situation of injustice or it may be a situation where something in our own lives or in our church has become dead and is in desperate need of new wine.

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.”

Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter group will be held in Room 1 on **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.



Parish Friends – Film

Parish Friends will be showing the highly acclaimed film "Mama Mia-Here We Go Again" on **Sunday 17th February** in the Hall. Refreshments will be served from 2.30pm and the film will be shown at 3pm. All welcome.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including Myra Mayers, Robert O’Sullivan, Giuseppina Procaccini, Thomas McGovern, Catherine Mayes, Kathleen D’Arcy, Philip Mansfield and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Margaret Devine and Bridie Boland.

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

20.1.2019

6pm Vincent O'Reilly RIP
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

Monday – St. Agnes

10am Paolo Grilli RIP
7pm Gosia & Richard Monte Ints.
Thanksgiving Mass

Tuesday – St. Vincent

10am Antonia Pepe Anniv.
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Feria

10am Francesca Yeadon Ints.
11.15am School Mass (Loreto)
4.30pm LIE-IN FOR GIUSEPPINA PROCACCINI
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. Francis de Sales

10am FUNERAL OF GIUSEPPINA PROCACCINI
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

10am Will Matthews RIP
7pm Padraig Murphy RIP

Saturday – Ss Timothy and Titus

10am baby Ryan Quinn RIP
6pm Maureen Bishop nee Mannion RIP

Next Sunday

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am People of the Parish
9am M'wick Shirley Hennessy RIP
9.30am Fr. Tom Hewitt MSC Anniv.
11.30am Maddalena Lazzara RIP
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Pat and Carmel Moloney Anniv.

*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

Thank You! – Parish Friends

Parish Friends would like to thank all those who helped in any way to make the Turkey and Tinsel lunch last Sunday such a successful event - the drivers, those who prepared vegetables and desserts and the many helpers who worked tirelessly throughout the day. Special thanks go to Joanna Roche, our superb chef, who cooked from 7am and produced a superb meal for 90 guests and helpers and also thanks to "Saints Aloud" our Parish band who entertained us with a brilliant rendition of songs. All those who attended had a great day and went home with big smiles.

Bowls and Dishes

Any bowls or dishes that have been left in the upstairs kitchen from Christmas Day lunch or Turkey and Tinsel lunch can now be found in the bottom cupboards of the Tea Bar kitchen downstairs. Please remove them asap or they will have to be disposed of. Any problems phone Helen Bassill 07860 830 340. Many thanks.

CONFIRMATIONS

Next Meeting for Parents

Monday 28th January
8pm, in the Parish Hall

Services of Light

Tuesday/ Wednesday,
5th / 6th February
7pm, in the Church

Next Meeting for Candidates

Sunday 10th February,
5pm – 6.30pm, in the Parish Hall



First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

The love between a husband and wife is the love by which one can sense how much one is loved by God.

Second Reading: Corinthians 12:4-11

St. Paul is at pains to emphasise the sheer variety of gifts given by the Spirit. Uniformity might be simpler, but the Spirit's gifts bring great variety.

Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11

'Do whatever he tells you.' This is Mary's command, from at the heart of the wedding feast. Jesus' word is followed, and the result is joy.


Reading for the Week:

Mon: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 109:1-4; Mk 2:18-22
Tue: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 100:1-2.4-5.9.10; Mk 2:23-28
Wed: Heb 7:1-3.15-17; Ps 109:1-4; Mk 3:1-6
Thu: Heb 7:25-8:6; Ps 39:7-10.17; Mk 3:7-12
Fri: Acts 22:3-16; Ps 116:1-2; Mk 16:15-18
Sat: 2 Tim 1:1-8; Ps 95:1-3.7-8.10; Mk 3:20-21

Dates for January & February

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.



X:site

Saturday 2nd February, 6-8pm

£2 per child. For school years 3-6. Fun and games; Live music; Drinks and snacks.

A joint event with our parish for young Christians to have fun and learn about Jesus.

Venue: St. Luke's Church, Cell Barnes Lane, St. Albans. AL1 5QJ.

Or please could you help on the night. Youth and adult volunteers needed.

For more info contact David Markham 07543 400 650. Register on the website www.the267project.com



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 Friends – Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Friends Group will be held In Room 1 on **Wednesday 6th February** at 7.45pm. New members welcome.



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.

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.



Use of the Parish Kitchen and Coffee Bar

A training session on hygiene in food preparation will be held on Saturday, **9th February** at 10.45am in the parish hall for all people who use or wish to use the parish kitchen or coffee bar. Please make every effort to attend if you wish to continue to use these parish facilities.



Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held on **Saturday 16th February**, 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.



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 For laity and clergy 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

NEWS BULLETIN

'Learn from Me' Formation Programme Information Evenings

A new Formation Programme, for all involved in parish ministry. Developed in partnership with the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham.

**Certificate in Parish Mission and Ministry,
Certificate in Catechesis
and A Catechesis on Marriage and Family.**

Tuesday 29th January 2019

The Most Precious Blood & St Edmund, 115 Hertford Rd, Edmonton N9 7EN, 7.30 - 9.00pm

Wednesday 30th January 2019

SS Alban and Stephen, 14 Beaconsfield Rd, St Albans AL1 3RB, 7.30-9.00pm, Parish Hall

Thursday 31st January 2019

Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1W 1QN, 7.30-9.00pm (This Information Evening will be the only one at which A Maryvale Institute - A Catechesis on Marriage and Family will be presented along with the other two courses.)

For further information and Application Forms please contact Ausra Cane at the Agency for Evangelisation at ausracane@rcdow.org.uk or 020 7931 6078

Living the joy of the Gospel: St Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis by Fr Paul Rout OFM



7-8.30pm, Vaughan House,
46 Francis Street,
London SW1P 1QN

A series of 4 talks on the following themes:

January 24th, 2019

The experience of

a heart full of mercy

February 7th, 2019,

'Francis, rebuild my Church': Being Church in the 21st Century

February 14th, 2019: 'Praised be you, my Lord, for all that you have made': Caring for our common home.

February 28th, 2019: Looking to Christ

Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or leave a message at 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation: £5.

*It is through the love of the heart of Christ
that the love of God, God himself,
pours himself out on the world
and on the human race.*



Jules Chevalier, Le Sacre-Coeur, p.277

Schools

Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School

Starting Nursery 2019: Families with a child born between 1. 9. 2015 and 31. 8. 2016 can 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.ssasinfects.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.



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 February 2019. The 11+ assessments will be held on **Saturday on Friday 1st February**.

Information about the assessments can be found at

www.stcolumbascollege.org/1621/admissions/admissions-process.

For more information, please contact Mrs Hilary Causer, Admissions Registrar. Direct line: 01727 892040, admissions@stcolumbascollege.org

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

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment