

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.

21st July 2019

Jesus visited the home of Martha. It seems everyone in this story is breaking the rules: Jesus rebukes his host, Mary does not help her sister, and Martha is not sitting at Jesus’ feet like a good disciple.

Mary is positioned here as a disciple learning from her Teacher. Martha as one who is trying to serve through ‘many tasks.’

Throughout his Gospel, Luke places a special emphasis on the wider circle of Jesus’ disciples, and names the women who follow Him. Luke is perhaps reminding us in this text that being a follower of Jesus requires an upset of the norms and a reversal of roles.



This story occurs in Luke immediately after the Good Samaritan, where the importance of service and action are clearly emphasised. It seems unfair that Martha is being told off for serving those who come to her. If Jesus arrived with a hungry entourage, what host would not be stressed out!

Jesus frees Martha from these duties, not because they are not important, but so that she too can be nourished by him. Frantic activity is never good or sustainable for us.

Let’s today’s Gospel be a reminder that when we are bogged down in the craziness around us, we can sit and listen to Him. Then we may be better prepared for the challenges that we face, whether they be in our homes or our wider communities.

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ADULTS JOURNEYING IN FAITH (R.C.I.A.) NEWS

Our adult journeying in faith programme will commence in **September 19th** in the Parish Centre (Room 1).

If you, a friend or relative: -

- Want to complete your Catholic initiation e.g. to be Confirmed in your faith
- Are the spouse / partner of a Catholic and would like to know more about joining our Catholic community
- Want to become a Christian e.g. Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation
- Just curious about the Catholic Christian way of life
- Want to share and know more about your faith as a Catholic

Please contact Deacon Steve Pickard on 01727 863 925 or e-mail stephenpickard@gmail.com or any of our priests on 01727 853 585 or e-mail stalbans@rcdow.org.uk
Sponsored link www.life4seekers.co.uk (seeking, exploring, finding)

Please pray for
the repose of the souls
of all those
who have died recently
including

**Richard Field,
Patricia Dorman,
Sheila Pilling
and Martin Myland**

and for those
whose anniversaries occur
at this time,
including
Elsie Rigg.

Mass Intentions for the Week

21.7.2019

6pm deceased relatives and friends of Marion Miller
8am Bernadette Witchard Ints.
9am M'wick People of the Parish
9.30am Patrick Keegan Anniv.
11.30am Mary Curran RIP
7pm James Ladley Anniv.

Monday – St. Mary Magdalene

10am Kevin Barry Anniv.
7pm Joanna and Marian Hoscilowicz Anniv.

Tuesday – St. Bridget of Sweden

10am Priests' Intentions
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – St. Sharbel Makhulf

10am **FUNERAL OF PATRICIA DORMAN**
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. James

10am Ivan Potiuk RIP
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – Ss Joachim and Anne

10am Anna Meyer RIP
7pm Neily and Mary Gallagher RIP

Saturday – Feria

10am Enid Gomez RIP
11am **MEMORIAL MASS for MARTIN MYLAND**
6pm Mary Curran RIP

Next Sunday

Seventieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Stasia Panek RIP
9am M'wick Eddie Lowe Anniv. and family (Scotland)
9.30am People of the Parish
11.30am Gumercindo Zeballos RIP, Domenica Merlino & Buonaventura Costa Anniv.
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Anne and John Moxon RIP

Mass Intentions are subject to change if there is a funeral

Parish Youth Club

Invitation to all year seven's (from September) to join us for a pizza and games
Sunday 8th September, 8pm – 9pm, in the Parish Hall.
Looking forward to seeing you all.



First Holy Communions 2020

Enrolment forms are now available

at the back of the Church. If you have a child who will be in Year 3 or above in September and they would like to join the Parish Programme for First Holy Communion, please fill in the enrolment and consent forms and



return them to the Parish office

for the attention of St. Anita

on or before Sunday 18th August 2019.

Please note: If your child was baptised outside our Parish you need to send in a copy of his / her baptismal certificate with the forms.

If your child was baptised here there is no need to send in a copy of the certificate.

First Reading:

Gen 18:1-10

Abraham begs to be allowed to offer hospitality to his divine visitors. Our deepest privilege is to serve God: may we never regard it as a burden.

Second Reading:

Ps 14:2-5

Paul insists that he is happy to suffer. Our faith gives us the hope that God's power is at work in suffering, and where God is at work, there is happiness.

Gospel:

Acts 16:14

Jesus is not disparaging the busy-ness of hospitality, but the 'better part,' from which all the tasks of our discipleship arise, is attending to the Lord and his word.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Song 3:1-4; Ps 62:2-6.8-9; Jn 20:1-2.11-18
Tue: Gal 2:19-20; Ps 33:2-11; Jn 15:1-8
Wed: Ex 16:1-5.9-15; Ps 77:18-19.23-24; Mt 13:1-9
Thu: 2 Cor 4 7-15; Ps 125; Mt 20:20-28
Fri: Ex 20:1-17; Ps 18:8-11; Mt 13:18-23
Sat: Ex 24:3-8; Ps 49:1-2.5-6.14-15; Mt 13:24-30

Dates for July and August

Holiday at Home 2019

The Methodist Churches of St. Albans are hosting Holiday at Home 2019. Something for everyone from crafts, board games, puzzles, gentle exercise and stimulating talks, to simply a chance to chat and relax.



Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd August
at Hatfield Road Methodist Church,

Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th August at
Marlborough Road Methodist Church
10am to 3.30pm each day.

On **Wednesday 7th August** an outing to Ely.

Please see booking forms / a poster at the back of the church. anyone interested in attending either sessions or outing can contact Helen Bassill on 07860 830 340

Booking forms must be given in by Monday 22nd July. Contact Helen for further details, or to arrange or offer a lift."



David Edwards - 90th Birthday

Please come along on **Saturday 17th August** to the St. Alban and St. Stephen Catholic Church Hall, 14 Beaconsfield Road, St. Albans AL1 3RB between 12 noon and 3pm and join a celebration for my four score years and ten. I do hope you can make it. No presents but a donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Society would be welcome.
RSVP: 74 Abbots Park, St. Albans, AL1 1TN
Tel: 01727 765 216
e-mail: deabbots743@virginmedia.com



*"Divine love gives to Mary the dazzling
whiteness of her perfect innocence
and to Mary Magdalene
that other whiteness of perfect repentance."
Jules Chevaliers, Le Sacre-Coeur*

New Dawn Catholic Family Pilgrimage Conference

in Walsingham
Monday 5th-9th August
Holy Mass, Adoration, Teaching,
Childrens' Ministry and Youth Camp."
Visit www.newdawn.org.uk for information
or see poster at the back of the church.

Walsingham Weekend

11th - 13th October 2019

Single standard rooms at a cost of £116 per person remain available on this silent retreat to be led by the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk Some walking will be involved and please note that none of the rooms have full disabled access yet.

Rooms are available from 3pm on Friday and the retreat will end with lunch on Sunday. The booking deadline and final balance is due by **12th September 2019**. For further information and booking form pick up a leaflet from the back of the church or Mass Centre or contact Krystyna
krystyna@faithknowledge.org Tel. 751094

Walsingham Pilgrimage for the Sanctity of Life

Sunday 6th October.

Tickets: Adults £17.50,
Children & Students £8.00.
www.prolifepilgrimage.org.

Geraldine:

07971 028 415 / mgeraldine_ward@hotmail.com



Pilgrimage to Oberammergau & Salzburg Led by Fr. Kevin Moule

Monday 14th - Sunday 20th September

Organised by Pax Travel Ltd,
102 Blundell Street, London N7 9BL,
Tel: 020 7485 3003

Info@paxtravel.co.uk,

Price: £1,339 incl. flights, guided tours,
accommodation, entrance fees etc.

Thank you - Parish Friends

Parish Friends would like to thank all those who helped to make their Summer Party such a success- the helpers, cooks drivers and guests. Despite competition from the Wimbledon Mens finals and the World Cup Cricket final over 50 people turned up to enjoy the music and entertainment from the Jolly Jazzers who put on a great show for us.



NEWS BULLETIN

Celebrate Conference

Over Pentecost weekend, there were flyers handed out at the masses advertising this years Celebrate Conference, with a promotional discount for parishioners. Unfortunately at the time the booking page wasn't functioning but this has now been remedied and booking is now possible. If you still have a flyer and want to book, please follow the instructions; if you didn't pick one up or have mislaid it, the booking page can be found at www.celebrateconference.org/st-albans A 10% saving can be made when using the PARISH10 booking code, although this is only valid for the next few weeks, so please visit the site and book on now. If you need any further information please contact Brendan Day at brendanvaunday@gmail.com or call on 07774 411400. We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Communication from Diocese of Westminster

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart have made known their regrettable need to withdraw from the parish of Ss Alban and Stephen, St. Albans after their presence and ministry there since 1899. The Diocese, and generations of parishioners of St. Albans, are very grateful to the Priests who have served the parish for 120 years. Those currently serving the parish, Fr. Tom Plower MSC, Fr. Jimmy Stubbs MSC and Fr. Alan Neville MSC are thanked for their dedicated and faithful service and they are assured of our gratitude and good wishes in their new assignments and circumstances.

Appointment of Parish Priest

Fr. Michael O'Boy, Vice Rector and Dean of Studies at Allen Hall Seminary is appointed to Ss Alban and Stephen, St. Albans as Parish Priest.

Appointment of Assistant Priest

Fr. Julian Davies, newly Ordained, appointed to Ss Alban and Stephen, St. Albans.

Items for the Parish Website

Items for the parish website should be sent to the parish office at stalbans@rcdow.org.uk Posters advertising upcoming events should if possible be provided in A4 portrait format as either a pdf or Word (.doc) document

Ss Joachim and Anne Feast Day 26 July

St Joachim and St Anne, are the married couple traditionally honoured as the parents of Mary and



grandparents of Jesus. Like all of us, Jesus was born into a web of relationships, the "cradle of life and love" that is the family (John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, no. 40).

Each year the Church venerates the memory of Ss Anne and Joachim on 26 July.

There are no mentions of them in the Bible and no proof they even existed. However, we do know that Mary had parents who no doubt raised her with a love and devotion to God. Art often shows Mary on her mother's lap, learning how to read.

Legend has it that Ss Anne and Joachim were scorned by their neighbours because they had no children. Years of longing did not weaken their trust in God, but grief drove Saint Joachim into the wilderness to fast and pray while Saint Anne, remaining at home, pleaded with God for a child. Angels then appeared to both Saints promising that, despite their old age, they would give birth to a child who would be known throughout the world.

They are powerful intercessors for all married couples. They are the patron saints both of grandparents and of those who have difficulty conceiving.

Memorial Bench for Fr Tom Hewitt



Parishioners are hoping to install a memorial bench for Fr Tom in

Clarence Park overlooking the cricket pitch where he liked to sit in the summer.

If you would like to contribute, please put your donation in an envelope marked "Fr Tom's Bench" and post it through the presbytery door **until the end of July**.

Envelopes for donations are available in the porch

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment