

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.com

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



28th October 2018

Who is blind in today's gospel? The obvious answer, of course, is the blind man! Bartimaeus is blind and desperate. He has not been blind all his life, so he knows about the wonderful gift of sight he is now missing. His faith is strong, and his courage is stronger still; no matter how much he is scolded and silenced, he calls to Jesus all the louder. Though he is physically blind, he sees plenty.

Who sees Bartimaeus? Certainly not the followers of Jesus. They do not think of Bartimaeus as someone worthy of meeting Jesus. To the extent that they think about him at all, he is an irritation, a poor beggar to look down on, hardly a person. They are utterly blind to his needs.



Note the irony of the crowds summoning Bartimaeus with the word 'Courage'. He has already shown tremendous courage. Minutes previously Jesus' followers had been content to pass him by and silence his cries for help, but their master has given an order and they must obey. How they must have squirmed, calling him over.

The blind man sees Jesus, and Jesus sees the blind man. Everyone else is blind to both of them. Everyone else fades into the background of the story, just as Bartimaeus was pushed to the back of the crowds.

Perhaps it is time for an eyesight test. Do we see Jesus for who he really is? Do we pay attention to those around us, or are we blind to their needs? Do we hear the cry of the poor, or are we complicit in silencing them?

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

November - Month of the Holy Souls

A Novena to remember the deceased will be held from Thursday 1st November to Friday, 9th November. On Friday, 2nd November Masses will be celebrated for all the faithful departed. At 7pm we will remember those who have died in the past year and whose funerals have been held in the Parish. Lighting a candle to remember the following:



Peggy Brampton, Caroline Chivers, Joan Richards, Frederick Davis, John Cole, Sarah Pendlebury, Baby William Smith, Carmela Carlone, Fr. Tom Hewitt MSC, Antonio Del Core, Kate Kelly, Joseph Lynch, Manuel Paz, Sheila Aylward, Thomas Kiely, Elizabeth Delaney, Caroline Sobieraj, Thomas Williamson, Fr. Sandy Murray MSC, Matthew Parkin, Patrick Moran, Mary Curran, Fiona Wright, Teresa O'Hara, Giuseppe Frisso, Kathleen Davies, Andrea Ezcurra, Zara Lowthian, Freda Clancy, Michael Ryan, Eithne Monaghan, Barbara Sweeney, Frank Rochford, Bridget Laver, Alice Gallagher, Agnes Maher, Francis McConnell, Elisabeth Page, Mary Delahunty, Vincent O'Reilly, William Goodall, Baby Benedict Buller, Brendan Kearns, Janet Szymczak, Sonia Byrne, Kensley Lewis and Maddalena Lazzara



If you would like a deceased relative or friend to be included in the Novena Masses please put their name on the November List (purple leaflets available from the Church porch and Marshalswick Mass Centre). Please return completed lists to the presbytery in the envelope provided by 31st October.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including Avenal Jenkins, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Reginald Salisbury, Mary Comer and Brian Freeney.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including 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 Dohhan, Noah Gregorio, Gerry Smith, Edmond Mansfield & Teresa Hill may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

28.10.2018

6pm Deceased members of Sheehan and
Guinnelly Family
8am Margaret McCarthy RIP
9am M'wick James Connellan Anniv.
9.30am Seamus McCarthy RIP
11.30am Mary-Jane Lorimer Boffey RIP
4pm Polish Mass
7pm People of the Parish

Monday – Blessed Martyrs of Douai College

10am COMMUNION SERVICE (NO MASS)

7pm Mary Vaukins Anniv.

Tuesday – Feria

10am Christopher Small Anniv.

NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Feria

10am Eddie Patino RIP

7pm - All Saints Vigil Mass MSC Benefactors

Thursday – All Saints - Holy Day of Obligation

10am *Start of Novena*

7pm *for the Holy Souls*

Friday – All Souls

10am *Praying for all the faithful departed*

7pm *Lighting a candle to remember those
who have died in the Parish in the past year.*

Saturday – St. Winifride

10am *Mass of the Angels. Remembering
and praying for all the children who have died.*

6pm *Praying for deceased relatives and friends*

Next Sunday

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am *Praying for*
9am M'wick *deceased*
9.30am *Parents*
11.30am *and*
7pm *Grandparents*

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

Confirmations 2019

Enrolment Forms are now available from the back



of the Church for all those in
Year 10 and above who would
like to receive the Sacrament of
Confirmation next year. Please
note that the deadline for
submitting your enrolment

forms is **Friday, 30th November.**

St Jude

Feast Day 28 October



St Jude is the Patron Saint of
Hope and impossible causes
and one of Jesus' original 12
Apostles. He preached the
Gospel with great passion,
often in the most difficult
circumstances. Through the
power of the Holy Spirit, he
made profound differences in
people's lives as he offered

them the Word of God.

The Gospel tells us that St Jude was a brother of St
James the Less, also one of the Apostles. They are
described in the Gospel of Matthew as the
"brethren" of Jesus, probably cousins.

St Jude is traditionally depicted carrying the image
of Jesus in his hand. This recalls one of his miracles
during his work spreading the Word of God.

According to a legend, King Abagar of Edessa asked
Jesus to cure him of leprosy and sent an artist to
bring him a drawing of Jesus. Impressed with
Abagar's great faith, Jesus pressed His face on a
cloth, leaving the image of His face on it. He gave
the cloth to St Jude, who took the image to Abagar
and cured him.

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, St Jude
travelled throughout Mesopotamia, Libya, and
Persia with St. Simon preaching and building up the
foundations of the early Church. St Jude died a
martyr's death for his unwavering faith. His body
was later brought to Rome and placed in a crypt
under St Peter's Basilica.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9

The Lord does not intend to allow his people to
suffer indefinitely. Those who have been in tears are
called to shout for joy!

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:1-6

Christ leads us to the Father and he makes the
Father's goodness present to us.

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:46-52

Jesus is on the most important journey ever
undertaken by a human being: his journey to the
cross. Yet he stops when he hears the cry of a poor
blind man.

Dates for November

The Feast of All Saints

Thursday 1st November

Holy Day of Obligation. Mass at 10am & 7pm

Holy Hour for Men

Thursday 1st November, in the Prayer Room at 8pm



Come join us for this Holy Hour. The Holy Hour includes Rosary, a Gospel reading, meditation and silent prayer, and is followed by refreshments. For more information please contact Michael Crabtree on 07510 140759 or via email michael.crabtree@hotmail.co.uk

First Friday 24-hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

in the Prayer Room at 11am Friday 2nd November till 11am Saturday 3rd. If you can attend, even for just half an hour, please enter your name in the rota at the back of the church.

Celebrate Weekend

"SEE I AM DOING A NEW THING" Isaiah 43:19 ...is the theme of this year's Celebrate Weekend on 3rd and 4th November in Loreto College, St Albans. Faith and fun for all the family. More details on www.celebrateconference.org/regional-weekends

or ring Tim Stevens on 07875 848138

Traidcraft

Traidcraft goods - on sale after all Masses at church on the weekend of 3rd & 4th November.

All proceeds to Cafod.

More details or to place an order contact Maureen on 765549 or grabECKI@hotmail.com

You can be Santa



Many thanks to parishioners who have volunteered to visit families, your help in ensuring the success of this project is invaluable and much appreciated. A

member of the Santa team will be present at all Masses next weekend (3rd/4th November) to distribute visitor packs and answer any questions. The packs contain all the necessary details and relevant paperwork. Visits should take place during the following two weeks, and all paperwork should be returned by 18th November.

Should anyone be unable to pick up their pack next weekend then please e-mail the Santa team (santa@albanstephen.com) to make alternative arrangements.

Details of how to become a benefactor (gift donor) will be available at Mass next weekend or you can email the Santa team.

Your generous support to this initiative is continuing to spread the joy and true message of Christmas and help support those who are less fortunate!

Graves Blessing

Fr Kevin Moule will be blessing graves on Sunday 4th November 2018. Fr Kevin will be at London Road Cemetery, St Albans, at 12.45pm; and then he will then go on to the Cemetery by St. Peter's Church in London Colney for 1.30pm. At 1.45pm Fr Kevin will be at the Cemetery in Shenley and at 2.15 in Christchurch Cemetery in Radlett (please meet in Christchurch carpark).

CWL (Catholic Women's League)

CWL Meeting after 10am Mass on Tuesday 6th November in Room 1. Some ideas to make your home more Christmassy will be given. If any members have a good idea for a Christmas decoration, perhaps they would like to share it with us at the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

BINGO

In aid of the MSC EMERGENCY APPEAL in the Parish Hall on Friday, 9th November at 8 O'Clock. Admission is 50p towards refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Thank you to all those that supported our last Bingo evening. £150 was raised for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.



Do You Hope for Peace in Our Time?

As part of the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1, you are invited to join a group of parishioners attempting to create 1000 origami cranes for peace. This tradition began in Hiroshima and a child holding a crane is the central element of the Peace Memorial there. Join us any time between 2 and 4pm on Saturday 10th November in the Parish Hall. Full instructions and refreshments supplied. The parish Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation group looks forward to meeting you.



Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held on Saturday, 17th November at 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 you will need a letter from your Parish Priest giving permission to baptise here.

First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting CHANGE OF DATE



Please note that the meeting originally scheduled for 12th November will take place on **Monday 19th November, at 8pm in the Parish Hall.**

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

NEWS BULLETIN

Celebration of the Spirituality of the Heart

The Chevalier family hope that you were inspired through reading the posters and notices in Church and in the bulletin about the Spirituality of the Heart, then writing a prayer from your heart. Our celebration concluded last weekend with the feast day on 21



October of Blessed Jules Chevalier who died this day in 1907. There is more information

available in the porch: a Guide to the ethos and principles of the MSCs, a simple pamphlet with prayers to the Sacred Heart, and the "Heart to Heart" prayer book of the MSCs. Thank you all for participating in the celebration and we particularly hope that those of you who were able to attend the liturgies and the talks found them interesting, informative and thought provoking. Fr Charles reminded us of our need to recognise God's unconditional love, allow that love to transform our lives, and then bring that love to others.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to all those who helped in any way to make this weekend so special and successful.

"Jesus needs special apostles. That is the principal purpose of our little Society. Each member must bring the love of the Sacred Heart everywhere."

Jules Chevalier, Plan de la Societe MSC, 1864

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



An Invitation to look anew at Marriage and Family Life.

Based on Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia* (the Joy of Love), copies of the faith-sharing booklet "**Holy Families**" are now available in the church porch and at Marshalswick Mass centre [£3]. Intended for use in a small group or in the setting of one's own home, either as a family or alone, Holy Families explores the beauty and blessing, the joys and challenges of marriage and family life. If you would like to experience the value of listening to others and sharing your own story in confidence as part of a small group, please contact Stan [765549 or grabecki@hotmail.com].

Can you help?

Volunteer driver required to give two ladies in the Ashley Road/Drakes Drive areas a lift to 11.30am Mass once every month.

If you can help please contact

Helen Bassill tel: 07860 830 340 or email helen.bassill@ntlworld.com



Schools

Priests Form Signing

Our priests will be available for form signing in the Parish Centre on

Tuesday 20th November, 6pm to 8pm

Wednesday 21st November, 4pm to 6pm.



St John Fisher Catholic Primary School - Open Mornings

For children starting school September 2019 Families with children born 01/09/2014 - 31/08/2015 will be able to apply for a place in Reception. You are welcome to visit our school and Miss O'Donnell, our Head Teacher will be happy to show you around.

The Open days for the school are:

Wednesday 7th November 10am

Saturday 10th November 10.30am

Thursday 15th November 10am

To book onto a school tour please call 01727 861077.

St Columba's College,

Sixth Form Preview Evening, Tuesday 13th November 2018, 6:00pm - 8:30pm. External applicants and their parents are warmly invited to come and look round with the current Year 11 Students and their families.

There will be talks by the Headmaster, the Head of Sixth Form and the Head of Careers, at 6:45pm and 7:45pm. Academic, sports and music scholarships are available. To find out more about studying 'A' Levels at St Columba's College and to register for the Preview Evening please contact the Admissions Registrar, Mrs Hilary Causer, at admissions@stcolumbascollege.org or call 01727 892040. www.stcolumbascollege.org

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 Monday 5 November and closes on Tuesday 15 January. Additional forms will be needed, details can be found on 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 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.

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment

