

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

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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

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Youth Website: www.sasyouth.com. We are a Fairtrade Parish. Parish Secretary: Ivana Mearns

30th December 2018

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The parents in today's readings might seem poor role models. Once weaned, Hannah brings her young son Samuel to the sanctuary at Shiloh and simply leaves him there. Centuries later, Mary and Joseph lose their twelve-year-old in Jerusalem, taking three days to find him in another sanctuary.

And yet, surrounding these young lives were stories of extraordinary faithfulness. Hannah had yearned dearly for the boy to be born, promising to make return to the Lord, one day, for the great kindness he had shown her. Mary had answered a divine calling in bearing her son and, as the Advent preface puts it, 'longed for him with love beyond all telling'.

Welcomed in joy and thanksgiving, both children are dedicated to God's service from their earliest years.



Hannah's desire for Samuel is to 'make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life' and, in time, he will hear the Lord call his name in the deep of the night. Jesus, in turn, is able to voice his awareness - at a still young age - of how he 'must be busy with my Father's affairs.' He returns, nonetheless, to grow in wisdom in a Nazareth homestead, under the guidance of a mother who treasures 'these things in her heart'.

These scriptures surely portray the kind of love that would be precious in any young life: A love which is anxious to secure and to protect, but never willing to restrain or contain. A love which is faith-filled enough to see a child as a gift from the Lord and selfless enough to encourage the child's growth in the Lord's ways. Families struggling to offer such love, however imperfectly, are what our children need most in a complex and often uncertain world. We remember these families with gratitude today.

Happy New Year

The Parish Team and Leadership thank you for all the wonderful attendance and participation at our Christmas Liturgies.

Thank you to all who helped with the preparations and gave so generously of your time.

We would also like to thank the people who gave time and energy to preparing and serving the Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall and all who contributed towards it.

The Pastoral Team thank you all for your good wishes, kindness, support and generosity. It really means a lot to us. May Jesus Christ inspire and direct us as we start a new year. May 2019 be a year that is kind and gentle to each and everyone.

First Holy Communions

Next Meeting for Parents
MONDAY 14TH JANUARY
8pm, in the Parish Hall

Confirmations

Next Meeting for Parents
MONDAY 28TH JANUARY
8pm, in the Parish Hall

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including Kathleen D'Arcy, Shirley Hennessy, Josephine Gleeson and May Flavin and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Tom Taylor, Maureen Rowland and Bronya Beeson.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Joe Smalls, Margaret Norris, Catherine Mayes, Betty Nicklin, Joe Spatafora, Magdalena Pedroz, Teresa Hill, 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 and Edmond Mansfield may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

30.12.2018

6pm Alec Anderson RIP
8am Shaun Crowley RIP
9am M'wick Anne Murphy Ints.
9.30am People of the Parish
11.30am William Pickard RIP

7pm Tommy Staunton RIP

Monday – 7th Day in the Octave of Christmas

10am Dorothy Snaith RIP
NO EVENING MASS

Tuesday – Solemnity of Mary,
The Holy Mother of God

10am John and Anna Cronin Anniv.
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Ss Basil the Great
and Gregory Nazainzen

10am Aoife Flood RIP
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – The Most Holy Name of Jesus

10am Priests' Intentions
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – Christmas Feria

10am Lily Renahan Anniv.
7pm Fr. Tom Hewitt MSC – Anniv.

Saturday – Christmas Feria

10am Doreen Murtagh RIP
6pm Vincent O'Reilly RIP

Next Sunday

The Epiphany of the Lord

8am Danny Doherty RIP
9am M'wick Rene Potter RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11.30am Vera and Eric Gosling
60th Wedding Anniversary
7pm Patricia Mary Smith 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

CHRISTMAS BREAK

English Conversation Classes

The sessions for ladies whose first language is not English will begin again on **Monday 7th January** 1 - 2.30pm, in the Parish hall

Toddlers Group

Back after the Christmas Break on **Monday 7th January** at 10.30am, in the Parish Hall

Children's Liturgy

Next session: **Sunday 13th January**, 9.30am in the Parish Hall

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 after 1st January 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.



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.



First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Hannah, the mother of Samuel, did not conceive until after a long and anxious wait. In the Bible, God's plans sometimes move forward through difficult or irregular conceptions.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

This reading is all about love, and all about commandments. There is no contradiction, as love is the highest of commandments and the fulfilment of the commandments.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52

Mary and Joseph suffer the anxiety of losing their child. Jesus is becoming independent of his parents, yet still defers to their authority.

Reading for the Week

Mon: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 95:1-2.11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Tue: Num 6:22-27; Ps 66:2-3.5-6.8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Wed: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 97:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Thu: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 97:1.3-6; jn 1:29-34

Fri: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 97:1.7-9; jn 1:35-42

Sat: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 99; Jn 1:43-51