

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

6th January 2019



Tradition depicts the Magi as three men, who follow a star, dressed in the robes of kings, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Other than the star and the gifts, little is told of them in the Gospel. The Wise Men were probably astronomers and philosophers, but most importantly they were 'seekers', looking to the skies for something that would bring them close to God.

Gold was the traditional gift presented to the new king of the Jews. Gold is a gift for a king, but this king's kingdom is not of this world.

Frankincense used in the worship of God indicates that the baby is God. Frankincense represents the divine, it is the smell associated with sacredness in God's presence. The wise men acknowledge through this gift that the baby before them is God, he is Christ the Lord.

Myrrh was used in oil to anoint kings and corpses. It is a strange gift for a new baby, but it foreshadows that which awaits this new infant in the years ahead.

The Magi point us to the Passion of Christ, but they are not harbingers of bad news; they are filled with delight upon discovering the child.

The Wise Men herald great joy and rejoice in God's Love.

The Epiphany of the Lord

New Parish Website

Our new parish website is now available.

Please update your bookmarks to:

www.albanstephen.org

Schools - Priests Form Signing

Our priests will be available for form signing in the Parish centre

on **Thursday 10th January,**

4.30 - 6.30pm



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 Deacy, Philip Mansfield, Kathleen D'Arcy and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Sue Gavin, Myra Myers, 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 Lines, 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

6.1.2019

6pm Vincent O'Reilly RIP
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

Monday – Christmas Feria

10am Frances O'Reilly Anniv.
7pm Geraldine Little Ints.

Tuesday – Christmas Feria

10am Gerard Aherne Ints.
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Christmas Feria

10am Larry McNama RIP
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – Christmas Feria

10am Bernadette Keegan Ints.
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – Christmas Feria

10am Priests' Intentions
7pm Joan Edwards Anniv.

Saturday – Christmas Feria

10am Anna Yeadon Ints.
6pm Vincent O'Reilly RIP

Next Sunday

The Baptism of the Lord

8am Fr. Pat Courtney Ints.
9am M'wick Fr. Tom Hewitt Anniv.
9.30am Christopher Butler Ints.
11.30am Brendan Kearns RIP
4pm Polish Mass
7pm People of the Parish

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

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 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

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

First Reading:

Isaiah 60:1-6

The ancient prophecy of Isaiah is applied to the wise men, who travel from afar to see the infant King. They are drawn to the light.

Second Reading:

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

St. Paul makes it clear that Christ is for everyone, with no distinction as to colour, country of class. This is why the wise men are traditionally depicted as belonging to different races.

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 2:1-12

The Gentile Magi arrive in Jerusalem having followed the rising of a new star; while Israel remains blind to its light. Led by the star, the Magi arrive in Bethlehem bearing treasures for the child and his holy mother. This event prefigures the election of the Gentiles and indeed, often Christ will find greater faith among non-believers than in Israel. As the Gentile Magi came to pay homage to Christ, in time, Christ's disciples will baptise the Gentile nations into the one Church.

Dates for January

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.



Traidcraft

Traidcraft afternoon 2-4pm
Thursday 10th January
at 43 Avenue Road AL13PY

Traidcraft on 13th January
at John Fisher School,
Hazelmere Road after 9am mass

Any enquiries or orders,
please contact Maureen
on 01727 765 549.



Catholic Women's League

Thursday 10th January
Lunch at Sopwell House at 12.30pm.
If you require a lift please ring Sheila
at 01727 853 100.



BINGO

In the Parish Hall
on Friday, 11th January
at 8 O'Clock.

Admission is 50p towards
refreshments and everyone
will be most welcome.

Thank you to all that supported our last Bingo evening. £200 was raised for the benefit of "LIFE".



Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter group will be held in Room 1 on Tuesday January 15th and Tuesday January 29th 2.30-4pm. Make a New Year Resolution to come and join us even if you can't knit. 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.

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 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.



New Year Turkey and Tinsel Lunch

The Turkey and Tinsel Lunch for Senior Parishioners of this Parish is being held next Sunday 13th January 12.45-3pm. All senior parishioners - over 60's - are invited to come along and enjoy the meal. We will be entertained by our fantastic parish group "Saints Aloud" so bring your singing voices and dancing shoes. The lunch is free but we do have a raffle to cover expenses. This weekend is your last opportunity to sign on the guest list if you would like to come. Lifts can be arranged. Offers of lifts would be appreciated also offers of vegetables, potatoes and desserts. Please sign up on the Helpers List and Helen (7860 830 340) will contact you about the lifts and Joanna (07960 519 789) will contact you about food. All desserts or cooked food must have a list of ingredients attached.



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.

NEWS BULLETIN

Schools

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/> closes on 15th January. Additional

forms will be needed, details can be found on

www.sjfisher.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 are now able to apply for a Reception place for September 2019. The Herts

Online system for applications

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/> closes on Tuesday 15 January.

Additional forms will be needed, details can be found on www.ssasinfants.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 are now able to 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.ssasinfants.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.

Admissions Policy

Governors at Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School are consulting on the 2020-21

Admissions policy. They would be pleased to receive any comments on this. Please follow this link for further info:

<http://ssasinfants.herts.sch.uk/admissions/>

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.

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/> closes on 15th

January. Applicants must complete 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 or from the school office.

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 January and February 2019. The Prep assessments will take place on **Saturday 12th January**, the 11+ assessments will be held on Saturday 12th and Saturday 19th January and the 13+ assessments will be held on Friday 1st February. Information about the assessments can be found at <http://www.stcolumbascollege.org/1621/admissions/admissions-process>.

For more information, or to apply for the assessments, please contact Mrs Hilary Causer, Admissions Registrar. Direct line: 01727 892040, email address: admissions@stcolumbascollege.org

Bowls and Dishes

There are some **bowls and dishes** in the upstairs kitchen of the Parish Centre belonging to those who cooked for Christmas Day lunch. These can be picked up on weekday mornings from the kitchen. Please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340 if you need to collect at a different time.

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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