

NEWS BULLETIN - Ss ALBAN & STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Tel: 01727 853 585

e-mail: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org

Items for the bulletin by Noon on Wednesdays. We are a Fairtrade Parish.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 16TH February 2020

Parish Team: Fr Michael O'Boy (Parish Priest) Fr Julian Davies (Assistant Priest)

Rev. Steve Pickard (Deacon)

Safeguarding Lead: Mary Harber / stalbansg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07882 566 020

Fr Michael Writes...

In the Gospel given to us for this Sunday Jesus delivers a tough message reminding us that our praise of God must be one with the way in which we live our lives; if you are at odds with your brother and you are on your way to worship God, then before coming to give praise to God you must sort this out. 'Leave your offering', he says, 'go and be reconciled with your brother first'. He also reminds us that there needs to be a consistency in our lives – that how we live our lives on the outside, in public, must be how things are on the inside. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery'.

In Sacramentum Caritatis, Pope Benedict's letter to the Church on the Eucharist, we are reminded that a Eucharist which does not express itself in concrete actions is a Eucharist which is cut short or robbed of all that it can or should be in our lives. If, for example, I can sit and listen to the Word of God which, from beginning to end, is the account of a God who not only created us, but reaches out to us again and again, but then go out and fail to imitate that love, what am I doing. Its almost as if the Word of God that has been addressed to me in the Eucharist, in the Mass, has gone in one ear and out the other without any impact whatsoever. Again, if I can consume the Body of Christ, receive Christ into the depths of my being, but then go out and live a way which is contrary to Christ, what am I doing?

Of course its not easy to live consistently. Indeed this struggle is the whole of our Christian lives, but unless we struggle to live it, we will never be understood or judged to be authentic. To put it bluntly, as people who do what they say they are going to do.

Communion Under both Kinds For some time now we have been looking to extend the regular practice at Marshalswick and the weekday practice in the main church of offering Holy Communion under both kinds. Having recruited some new Eucharistic Ministers, the intention, from the beginning of March, is to offer communion under both kinds at the Saturday Vigil Mass as well as the 8 am and 7 pm Masses on Sundays. Once there are enough Eucharistic Ministers the hope is to extend this opportunity to both the 9.30am and 11.30am Masses.

Volunteers Needed With the introduction of Communion under both kinds there will be an increase in the amount of cloths that need washing. Could you give about an hour and a half a week or every two weeks to help? It would involve taking the cloths home and then washing and ironing them. If you are interested please put your name and contact details on a piece of paper, mark the envelope 'Sacristy Linen' and post through the presbytery door. Alternatively please send an email with the same information to stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

Welcomers We are in the process of updating the list of volunteers. If you are involved in 'welcoming' people as they come into the church, handing out hymn books, newsletters etc, please would you drop a note into the presbytery or send an email giving both your name, a contact address or email, and indicating which of the Sunday masses you welcome people to. Please mark your note or email for Fr Michael's attention.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS
SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 15 February

6.00pm Lucile Dionne (RIP)

Sunday 16 February

8.00am Paul Watkins (Int)

9.00am M^WWick Ken & Mary Neal (Anniv.)

John Fisher School

9.30am People of the Parish

11.30am James Smith (Anniv.)

7.00pm Pat & Carmel Moloney (Anniv.)

Polish Mass at 4 pm on 2nd & 4th Sundays of Month

Monday 17 February - feria

10.00am Bernadette Witchard (Int)

10.30 - 11.30 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7.00pm Herbert Buckingham (RIP)

Tuesday 18 February - feria

10.00am Ron Davies

Wednesday 19 February - feria

10.00am Funeral Mass for Roy McGoohan

7.00pm Tess Corcoran & Family (Int)

Thursday 20 February - feria

10.00am Betty & Michael O'Meara

Friday 21 February - feria

10.00am Funeral Mass for Anne O'Toole

7.00pm Adrian Stack

7.30-8.30 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7.40-8.40 pm Confessions

**Saturday 22 February - The Chair of St Peter the
Apostle**

10.00am Fr Henry Toohig (Anniv.)

10.30-11.30 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

10.30-11.30 am Confessions

11.30 am Benediction

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 22 February

6.00pm Richard Field (RIP)

Sunday 23 February

8.00am Donor's Intentions

9.00am M^WWick John Baxter (Anniv.)

John Fisher School

9.30am People of the Parish

11.30am Thomas Keily (Anniv.)

**7.00pm Hinda Ditri & Pinelli Domenica
(Anniv.)**

*Please note that Mass intentions may change
at short notice to accommodate funerals*

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans, this week pray for the priest and the congregation of St Bartholomew's church.

For the Sick: Bernadette Witchard, Mary Miskell, John Taylor, Philomena Lines, Nancy Falloon, Jeff Tan, Kathleen Hughes, Johnny Doran, Eileen Cleary, Yves Tntheanne, Bridget Doran, Mary Malloney and Josie Harris.

For those who have died recently: Anne O'Toole, Jose Ezcurra, Roy McGoohan, Eric Hopkins, Rose Doyle, Celia Dunne and Ella Vellacott.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ken & Mary Neal, James Smith, Pat & Carmel Moloney, Fr Henry Toohig, John Baxter, Thomas Keily, Oswald McCarthy, John Comer, Hinda Ditri and Pinelli Domenica.

The Funeral Mass for Eric Hopkins will take place on Tuesday 18 February at 12noon at St Thomas More Church in Wheathampstead.

The Funeral Mass for Roy McGoohan will take place on Wednesday 19 February at 10am.

The Funeral Mass for Anne O'Toole will take place on Friday 21 February at 10am.

The Funeral Mass for Jose Ezcurra will take place on Friday 28 February at 10am.

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful
departed through the mercy of God rest in peace*

THANK YOU

Thank you for your generosity in last week's Offertory

Spam Emails There have been a number of spam emails impersonating Fr Michael being sent to parishioners. Do not reply. The email addresses currently being used are 'parishoffice5465@gmail.com' and 'missionarypriest1001@gmail.com', however there may be more. If you are in any doubt about any emails you receive supposedly coming from either of the priests or the administrator, then the best thing to do is to call the office. Further to this, all emails and phone numbers have been removed from the parish website. If you would like to make an enquiry about any mission then please contact the parish office on 01727 853585 or email stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

St Patrick's Day Tea Party - Parish Friends invite all parishioners to a St Patrick's Day Tea Party in the church hall on Sunday 15th March from 3-5pm. Entertainment will be provided by Peter and Damien Fahy and Irish coffee will be served. Lifts can be arranged. All donations will go to CAFOD.

New year, new prayer life? Why not consider joining a small group to pray and share your thoughts and experiences in strict confidence. A friendly group meets on alternate Tuesday evenings at 8pm in the café area of the Hall. Dates for our next few meetings are 18th February, 3rd, 17th and 31st March. No need to book, just turn up.

Distribution of Holy Communion under both Kinds Ministers of the Eucharistic at the 6pm and 8am Masses on the 15/16 February are invited to stay behind for a few minutes after Mass on those days to go through the procedure for the distribution of Holy Communion under both kinds at Sunday Masses that will begin in March. Both new and more practised Ministers are asked to attend to share their experiences. Please contact Anne Myles for further information.

Life Ascending (Ascent) Meeting Tuesday 18 February 10.45 in Room 1. Talk "Rules and Regs." Life Ascending is an international movement for those in their later years. New members are welcome. Details: David Edwards.

Global Healing. This short exploration, over two sessions in the church hall, of the papal encyclical *Laudato Si'* invites each of us to look at the world anew and encourages us to make small but meaningful changes to the way we live in relation to our delicate home. Session 1: Saturday 7th March 10.45-12.45. Refreshments to start. Three short film clips, each with a short discussion time. Session 2: Sunday 29th March. 2.00-5.15pm. "Before the flood" - a National Geographic documentary film - followed by refreshments, group discussion and examination of practical responses. All are welcome. No need to book. More details from Stan

Beginning Experience Weekend, a healing weekend for men and women who are separated, divorced or widowed will be held from 3rd to 5th April 2020 at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. For details please contact Freda or Maura

Interfaith in Herts - On 24th February at 8pm, the current High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Sarah Beazley is coming to speak at St Paul's Church. Sarah has focussed much of her year of service developing interfaith relationships in our county and will share her wisdom with us. For more information, see the poster at the back of the church.

Baptism Preparation Session On Saturday 29th February 11.30-1.00 will take place the next baptism preparation session for parents seeking baptism for their children. If you have attended one for a previous child, you do not need to attend it again though you may wish to do so. Please meet in the coffee area.

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Symbols of Faith Workshop: Preparing for the Sacraments and Participation in the Liturgy for people with learning disabilities. A Workshop that trains individuals in the preparation of children and adults with special needs for the sacraments, using symbolic catechesis. The Workshop will be held at St Mary & St Joseph's Parish Centre, 186 St John's Road, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1NR on Saturday 22nd February, 10am-2pm. Details are available from Finola Ryan

The Climate and Other Challenges - Continuing the discussion. the Churches Together Winter Forum Hatfield Road Methodist Church 133b Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4JX on the corner of Glenferrie Road After a short AGM from 7.45 - 8.15 pm there will be refreshments and a lively discussion. 200 people came to our Autumn Forum which laid out a blueprint for the next 10 make or break years. What do we think our response should be? An interactive and lively discussion. Come and have your say. www.ctstalbins.org.uk

Thinking Lunch On Thursday 5th March 2020 the Revd Antony MacRow Wood will talk to us on the subject 'can credit unions play a significant part in promoting financial inclusion?' before a discussion. Drinks provided, but please bring your own sandwiches. Join us at 12.30-1.30pm at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans AL1 3XG.

AROUND AND ABOUT

Hospital Chaplaincy If you are admitted to hospital please let a member of hospital staff know that you would like a chaplain to visit you.

The SVP are **distributing 11,500 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support.

Ministers of The Word Do you have a clear speaking voice? Could you join our rota of readers who proclaim The Word of God at weekend Masses? More readers are urgently needed to read approximately once a month. If you can help, please contact either Allan or Melanie

Free English Conversation Class for Ladies Every Monday afternoon in the Parish Hall between 1 and 2.30pm, help is offered to Ladies whose first language is not English; relaxed conversation or help with grammar as required. Contact Sara for further information

Faith in Politics is a Catholic Parliamentary and Public Affairs internship scheme for recent university graduates, which offers a foundation of Catholic faith and spiritual formation for those who believe that they may have a vocation to public service in politics or public affairs. Importantly their journey begins and ends with a retreat, and spiritual guidance is an integral part of the year. Applications for Faith in Politics 2020-21 are now open for those in their final year at university. Applications close on 28 February 2020.

SCHOOLS

The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School is seeking part-time invigilators for their summer exams. Please refer to their website for details. <https://www.cvms.co.uk/Staff-Vacancies/>

St. Columba's College, the independent Catholic boys' day school in St Albans, will be holding a Prep Open Afternoon on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 between 1:30pm and 2:30pm. To register for this event please complete the registration form on our Visit Us page on the school's website, www.stcolumbascollege.org or contact the Admissions Registrar, Mrs Hilary Causer: admissions@stcolumbascollege.org or 01727 892040

AND FINALLY

The Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage to Westminster - Saturday March 21 The touring statue of Our Lady of Walsingham will make a final 3-day visit (19th-21st March) to Westminster Cathedral just before the re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary at Walsingham on the Feast of the Annunciation. A group from the parish will be setting off from St Albans City station, following 10am Mass. If you are interested in joining the March 21 pilgrimage, contact Rosemary

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, 04th May 2020. £649.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with breakfast and dinner. All excursions included. Lunches on days out. Single supplement £100. Contact Patricia on 01268762278 or 07740175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony, Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 30th May 2019 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2020. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Come and find out about **40 Days for Life in London**, enjoy a buffet and watch Abby Johnson's remarkable true story, where she goes from abortion centre manager to Pro-Life activist, in the Hollywood film *Unplanned* (rated 15). 6pm Sunday 16th February. Polish Church Hall, 2 Windsor Road, Ealing, London, W5 5PD, nearest tube Ealing Broadway. No need to book, donation only, just come along or call Sarah for more information

Catholic Leadership Retreat - Join us at the SPEC Retreat Centre on Saturday, 7 March 2020 as we explore what it means to be a young Catholic leader. With guest speakers including Dame Mary Richardson, Brendan Thompson of Catholic Voices, Mark Besford of Young Christian Workers, Mike Roche of Alpha UK and others, we will cover topics such as resilience, how to use our time effectively, where our identity comes from and how to impact our peers. Please see the poster for more details.