

NEWS BULLETIN - Ss ALBAN & STEPHEN

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – 8 MARCH 2020

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

Rev. Steve Pickard (Deacon)

Safeguarding Lead: Mary Harber / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

Fr Michael writes... At the end of today's gospel, in which we listen to Mathew's account of the Transfiguration, Jesus orders Peter, James and John not to tell anyone about what they had seen. 'Tell no one', he says 'about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead'. At first sight, it seems altogether odd. You would think that having witnessed Christ's transfiguration, when his face shone like the sun and he could be seen in conversation with Moses and Elijah, the disciples would have been encouraged to go out and tell the whole world. Certainly, it could not have been news easily kept. A clue to Christ's instruction is given in the order itself. Tell no one until the Son Man has risen. In other words, Christ seems to be saying, tell no one about what you have seen because you have seen only part of the story. There is more to come. And indeed there was. It is this other part of the story, namely Christ's suffering, death and resurrection that will reveal the true nature of his glory - not a glory that consists in dazzling clothes - but a glory that consists of concrete acts, of a suffering and pain that seems the very opposite of glory, and a resurrection that takes place in the secret of a tomb and is first known as a rumour. Lent is often referred to as a joyful season. It is a time to encounter the Lord, to go out and meet him, to see him afresh just as Peter, James and John did at the Transfiguration. In one sense Lent is like the mountain the apostles climbed with Jesus. In the prayer, fasting and almsgiving of Lent - in all the self-giving which we are encouraged to undertake in secret, and the resurrection or new life this self-giving brings to bear - may we encounter the full glory of Christ.

Way of the Cross Every Saturday morning during Lent at 9.30 am, you are invited to follow the Way of the Cross in Church. Led by different groups within the parish, each week will have a different theme but all will help us make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the 14 stations of the Passion of Christ.

Coronavirus The advice already received from the Diocese remains the same. In light of this advice we would ask that those with cold or flu like symptoms 1) receive the host in the hand and 2) do not receive from the chalice at Masses where communion under both kinds is made available. The best way of protecting us from spread is for everyone to use universal good hygiene, which will effectively disrupt spread of the virus.

1. **Catch it** - sneeze into a tissue
2. **Bin it** - bin the tissue
3. **Kill it** - wash your hands with soap and water
4. **Do not touch your face** unless you've washed your hands

See <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/advice-regarding-coronavirus/> for more details.

The next **Marriage Preparation Course** will be held in April. If you are hoping to get married in 2020, you are strongly encouraged to contact the presbytery and speak with Fr Michael. The Bishop requires at least 6 months notice of marriage and as part of the preparation for marriage, the church requires couples to complete a Marriage preparation course

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

Saturday 7 March

6.00pm Dan Burgess (RIP)

Sunday 8 March

8.00am People of the Parish

9.00am M'Wick Patricia McCarthy (Anniv.)

John Fisher School

9.30am Mary Costello

11.30am George & Freda Sumner (Anniv.)

7.00pm Lucy Baines (RIP)

Monday 9 March - Lent feria

10.00am Joseph McAllister (RIP)

10.30 - 11.30 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7.00pm Private Intentions

Tuesday 10 March - Lent feria

10.00am John Andrew (RIP)

Wednesday 11 March - Lent feria

7.00am Amancio da Silva (Anniv.)

10.00am Fr Sandy Murray MSC (Anniv.)

7.00pm Private Intentions

Thursday 12 March - Lent feria

10.00am Funeral Mass for Margaret Duncan

Friday 13 March - Lent feria

10.00am Private Intentions

7.00pm Frankie Kennedy (RIP)

7.30-8.30 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7.40-8.40 pm Confessions

Saturday 14 March - Lent feria

9.30am Stations of the Cross

10.00am Deceased members of the Brady Family

10.30-11.30 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

10.30-11.30 am Confessions

11.30 am Benediction

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 14 March

6.00pm Linda Peters (RIP)

Sunday 15 March

8.00am Michael Finucane (Anniv.)

9.00am M'Wick Mario D'Andrea (Anniv.)

John Fisher School

9.30am Peter Troy

11.30am People of the Parish

7.00pm Maureen Rowland (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 we pray for the Ministers and members of St Luke's Church.

For the Sick in Our Parish

For those who have died recently: John Taylor, Lynn Lillywhite, Rose Doyle, Celia Dunne, Margaret Duncan and Ella Vellacott.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: George & Freda Sumner, Patricia McCarthy, Fr Sandy Murray MSC, Amancio da Silva, Michael Finucane, Mario D'Andrea, Maureen Rowland

The Funeral Mass for Margaret Duncan will take place on Thursday 12 March at 10am

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

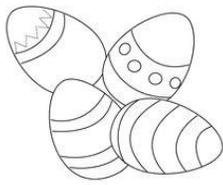
Thank you for your generosity in last week's offertory.

MSC 120-year Celebration 20th June 2020 Planning is underway for a wonderful parish party to follow the Mass on 20th June to celebrate 120 years of service of the MSCs in St Albans. Could you help with setting up or clearing away, giving someone a lift, providing entertainment, loaning a gazebo, serving refreshments or donating a dessert? If you can help in any way, please contact Dave (dave_markham@yahoo.co.uk or 07543 400650) or Melanie (mjoneill5@btinternet.com or 07900 051956). June may seem a long way off, but summer will come round very soon and we need to get our plans in place!

Faith sharing during Lent The latest diocesan faith-sharing booklet - *A Word for Lent* - invites us to see salvation gradually unfold in our own lives, as well as in the lives of the Gospel women and men, whose stories are as relevant today as they were 2000 years ago. Beautiful works of art accompany us on each stage of our journey through *A Word for Lent*. Whether alone or in a group, these Lent Sunday Gospel reflections provide stimulating insights and ways into deepening personal prayer and commitment to Jesus. We are invited to obtain a booklet and encouraged to use it during Lent to help us consider what we can do to grow after the mind and heart of Jesus. Booklets are available in the Church and at John Fisher Mass Centre, or online. If you would like to join a confidential small group during Lent, then please contact Stan for more information.

You Too Can Give an Easter Egg

Thanks to your fantastic generosity over 160 children and young adults, across 70 families, were able to share in the joys of Christmas, through the 'You Can Be Santa' scheme. As with last year, we would like to extend this scheme to the giving of Easter Eggs, so these children and their families experience the continued support from the Parish. 'You Too Can Give an Easter Egg' will be a simpler operation; no need to sign up nor draw tickets. If you wish to contribute, all you need to do is to leave an Easter Egg in the collecting box at the back of Church (not the presbytery) on the weekend of 28th/29th March. A simple branded egg from any supermarket would be ideal (preferably Fair Trade); no need for deluxe versions! Many thanks for your continued support of the children and their families, and for your help in spreading the good news of Easter.



If you are aged between 16 and 19 and are interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church (Baptism/Reception, Confirmation, Eucharist) please have a chat with Fr Julian or send him an email.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Bingo in the Parish Hall by the Knights of St Columba. On Friday, 13th March, at 8.00pm, to raise funds for HCPT - a charity offering pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes, for disabled and disadvantaged people. Admission is 50p towards refreshments and everyone is most welcome. Many thanks to all that supported our last Bingo evening. £385-00 was raised for the funds of the SVP.

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. Guest and Helpers Lists are available in the porch and Marshalswick mass centre. For catering purposes please add your name to the Guest list if you will be attending the party or to the Helpers list if you can provide help or food on the day. **NB** If the number of coronavirus cases continues to escalate we may have to consider cancelling the Tea Party. We will listen to government advice and make a decision during the week. In the event of a cancellation all those guests and helpers who have put their names and contact details on the lists in the porch and mass centre will be contacted by Thursday. Also parishioners who require lifts and those who have offered to drive will also be contacted by Thursday. Note, you will only be contacted if the Tea Party IS CANCELLED. Any queries contact Cath White

Knit and Natter The next dates for the knit and natter group are 19th and 24th March from 2.30 - 4pm in Room 1 of the Parish Centre. New members always welcomed.

Traidcraft this Sunday after 9 am mass at John Fisher School. All proceeds to Cafod.

Mothers' Prayers will meet on Monday 9th March at 8pm. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from email; office@mothersprayers.org

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 17th and 31st March. No need to book, just turn up.

Meet a Medieval Monk from St. Albans A Talk by Peter Godwin, an Abbey Guide and member of the Knights of St. Columba, in Rooms 1 & 2 of the Parish Centre, commencing at 8.00pm on Monday, 9th March. There is not a charge and everyone is invited.

Men's breakfast Saturday 28th March There is a men's breakfasts on Saturday 28th January, from 8.15am in the Parish Centre. There will have tea/coffee, fruit, pastries and friendly conversation from 8.15am for 30 - 45 minutes, followed by a short DVD talk. We will continue looking at the series of talks from Bishop Robert Barron on the theme of "better understanding Jesus as our Priest, Prophet and King", we aim to finish by 10am. Please contact Richard for more details

Love and Feed our Neighbour The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart have always tried to make God's love known wherever and whenever it is needed most - directly responding to Jesus' call to love our neighbour. With this in mind, the Lay Associates of the MSCs are hoping to organise a monthly collection of food and essentials to support the work of the Vineyard in St Albans who now serve 80 individuals/families a week that are in desperate need. This scheme, which has the backing of all the St Albans City Centre Churches, aims to improve on traditional food banks by working with the families identified and targeting specific items each month. On the weekend of 21st/22nd March, if you are able to support this project, please would you bring just one item from the following list: baby food, tinned vegetables, or washing up liquid; then place whatever you can spare into the boxes available in the porch and at Marshalswick.

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 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.

AROUND AND ABOUT

Easter Season Painting Competition – 2020 The Knights of St Columba (KSC) is again sponsoring a National Easter Season Painting Competition. Entry is free and is open to Catholic Junior Secondary and Senior pupils in three age groups, from 8 to 18 years. Entry details have been circulated to art departments in St Albans and district Catholic schools and details can also be found on posters and flyers display in the church porch and at St John Fisher school Mass centre. Prize awards will be made at KSC National, Province and St Albans stages. The closing date for receipt of entries, to school/college art departments is Monday 23 March 2020. Further details available from

Churches Together in Marshalswick are holding a series of talks this year, all to be held at Marshalswick Baptist Church, with a theme of 'Ticket to Ride'. The second talk in the "Ticket to Ride" series is being held at 7pm this evening (Sunday 8th) at Marshalswick Baptist Free Church. The speaker is the Revd Canon Dennis Stamps and the talk is titled 'Penalty for Improper Use'. Everyone is welcome, just come along, there's no need to book a place.

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.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Collection this weekend CAFOD works with poor communities overseas on our behalf, helping them to tackle poverty and injustice. Last Friday was Family Fast Day, please return your CAFOD envelope this weekend, with your donation and contribute to of the second collection which will take place at all Masses. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity. For further information, see www.cafod.org.uk

Volunteers Needed to hand out Invitations to our Easter Services, at the St Albans City Market on Sat 21st March (for a ½ hour) Contact Eric

SCHOOLS

Vacancy Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Junior School are looking for an After School Club Supervisor to work Monday to Friday from 3-6pm (term time only). We are also looking for a Breakfast Club Supervisor to work Thursday and Fridays from 7.30-8.45am (term time only) If you are interested in either position, please email the school office - admin@ssasjm.herts.sch.uk for more details and an application form. Successful candidates will be required to undergo an enhanced DBS check.

FAO Past pupils/parents/staff of St John Fisher School St John Fisher PTA are holding a spring ball on Saturday 14th March at St Michael's Manor hotel in St Albans. Five years on from our last very successful 'Fisher 50' Ball, we would like to hold another to raise funds for an additional classroom. We would very much welcome a reunion of past pupils, parents and teachers/staff and your partners. St Michael's Manor is a beautiful venue. The cost of a ticket is £50 per person which includes a welcome drink, three course meal, wine on the table and a disco. We can seat you with friends, or if you would like to put your own table of 8-10 people together, even better! If you are interested please contact the PTA at PTA@sjfisher.herts.sch.uk

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, please email Rosemary

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).