

NEWS BULLETIN - SS ALBAN & STEPHEN

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

6th October 2019 - Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Rev. Steve Pickard (Deacon) Sr. Anita O'Leary SSJG (Youth Co-ordinator) e-mail: anitaoleary@rcdow.org.uk

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*Fr Michael Writes...*After each of this weekend's Masses new parishioners are invited to tea & coffee to meet with other new, as well as existing parishioners. Being new anywhere can be somewhat daunting and being new somewhere where you have no established place or role even more so. As we welcome new parishioners I am conscious that mine and Fr Julian's experience of being new to the parish is altogether different. The new priest in any parish is not someone easily ignored. There he is Sunday by Sunday staring you in the face. Indeed the priest may well be 'new' but so much, no matter how well established things are, is shaped around him. Just by being himself he changes things. Oftentimes people ask me, how would you like it done? I am not complaining! I appreciate greatly the openness and great welcome both Fr Julian and I have received, and I appreciate the sensitivity and tact you have shown in explaining how things 'have' been done.

Certainly, I was very impressed to see on the new parishioner form a box asking new parishioners whether or not they wanted to be contacted by an existing parishioner for a chat and a coffee. Being spoken to, having a personal contact, discovering at least one name or face is a huge part of feeling and being at home. It matters when you walk into a church and can name someone. It matters that there is someone you can speak to as you leave, who you can share something of your week with. It matters that someone can ask how are you? What were the holidays like? Are you better? It matters because these ordinary everyday exchanges are part and parcel of what it is to be a community. Indeed, celebrating, being and receiving communion is at the heart of what we do every Sunday.

Our faith is an incarnational faith. Its about a God who became human, who walked this earth, who shared in all that we experience, who spoke, who listened, who related. In many ways its easy for me as a newcomer to build up these relations, and its also easy for me to feel involved and have a sense of contributing to and shaping things. That's what priests are expected, encouraged and allowed to do. But for most newcomers that sense of belonging and contributing to, even shaping, the community they are a part of is more difficult to come by.

Openness perhaps is the hallmark of a welcoming community. It's an openness which looks at the newcomer and faced with their gifts and talents asks itself, what must we do differently, because this 'new' person has arrived? How, for example, are we to use their gifts and talents, to foster that sense of commitment and belonging? Again, openness, is not so much a matter of somebody learning how we do things, rather it is a willingness to do things differently, not because a different way is any better, but because a different way may be the means by which the newcomer is no longer a stranger.

You Can Be Santa The parish will again be running the 'You Can Be Santa' scheme whereby children/families who may not otherwise enjoy the full spirit of Christmas will at least experience a visit from Santa. The feedback we had from families who took part last year was very positive, and they were very thankful for the generosity of the Parish. The organising team are now in the process of: **Identifying families of children that might benefit from the scheme.** We are asking parishioners who know of families within the Parish who may not experience the joys of Christmas to let us have their full contact details. Please be assured though that these will be kept in confidence and in accordance with data protection requirements. If you feel confident about approaching the family yourself and asking if they would like to take part, please do so and then pass on their details.

Appealing for visitors to liaise directly with families Visitors ensure we have all the required information and help the children write their letter to Santa. The commitment needed will be to visit the family during the first part of November, return all the information to the team and then deliver the gifts prior to Christmas - visitors act in pairs and full guidelines are given that explain the process. It is extremely difficult to run the scheme without a sufficient numbers of visitors, so please do consider making this commitment, your help is high valued and much appreciated.

We will be appealing for benefactors (gift donors) later. Please contact Cath White, Sr Anita, Bob White, Helen Bassill or Anita O'Connor for more information. Alternatively e-mail: stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Saturday 5th October

27 SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

6.00 pm Peters Family (RIP)

Sunday 6th October

8.00 am Noel Cregg (RIP)

9.00 am M'Wick For the People of the Parish

9.30 am Teresa Siedlik (RIP)

11.30 am Mary & Patrick Curran (Anniv)

7.00 pm Sue Knight Jameson (RIP)

Monday 7th Oct - Our Lady of the Rosary

10.00 am Myra Bagenal (RIP)

7.00 pm George Killen (RIP)

Tuesday 8th Oct - feria

10.00 am Fr. Phillip (Ints)

Wednesday 9th Oct - Blessed John Henry Newman

10.00 am Martin Brosnan (RIP)

7.00 pm

Thursday 10th Oct - St Paulinus of York

10.00 am Mary Cronin (RIP)

Friday 11th Oct - St John XXIII

10.00 am Andrew Sanderson (RIP)

7.00 pm Margaret Fitzpatrick (RIP)

Saturday 12th Oct - St Wilfrid

10.00 am Graham Bovington (RIP)

Saturday 12th October

28 SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

6.00 pm Karen Rowley-Doran (Anniv)

Sunday 13th October

8.00 am Graham Smith (Anniv)

9.00 am M'Wick For the People of the Parish

9.30 am Neville & Shamalie

11.30 am Margaret Norris (RIP)

7.00 pm Louis Fernandes (RIP)

Confession: Sat 10.30-11.30 am & 6.45-7.00 pm

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who have died For the recently departed, especially Rodney Pellow-Jarman, Danny Onn, Alice Devlin, Peter Joseph Doran, Nancy Ayley and Fr Barry Ffrench and for Mary and Patrick Curran, Karen Rowley-Doran and Graham Smith whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Peter Joseph Doran (RIP) During the week we learned of the death of Peter Joseph Doran. A former parishioner and brother to John Doran his funeral mass will be here at St Alban & St Stephen on Tuesday 19th November at 11.30am. His nephew Dom. Roderick Jones OSB from Worth Abbey will preside.

Nancy Ayley (RIP) We have also received news of the death of Nancy Ayley. A former resident of Maryland her funeral Mass will be held at St Joseph & the English Martyrs, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2ND on Thursday 10th October at 11am.

Please pray for members of our parish who are ill.

Baptised and Sent

Is a new Diocesan booklet designed to help us live out Pope Francis' call to make October an Extraordinary month of Mission. Each of us, as a Catholic, is called to know Christ and make Him known. We do this through prayer and interaction with those we meet. *Baptised and Sent* shows how ordinary people like us have, through grace, brought Christ to others. The booklets are best used by people as part of a small group where our good and bad experiences can be shared confidentially within the group, but they can be used on your own at home or elsewhere. We have a number of small groups meeting during the daytime and evenings, if you are interested in how this could help you to know Jesus better then please contact Stan: grabecki@hotmail.com, 765549. Booklets are available in the porch and at St John Fisher after Mass priced £2.00.

THANK-YOU

**For your contribution to last week's Offertory and to
the retiring collection for the presentation to Frs TJ, Jimmy and Alan.**

Next Week there will be a retiring collection in support of the recent CAFOD Family Fast Day

Celebrating the MSCs If you have suggestions for the memorial to mark 120 years of the MSCs here in St Albans, which will be located in the church, possibly in or near the Sacred Heart altar, please let one of the PPC members know. Donations towards the cost of the memorial will be requested later this year.

Baptism Course The next Baptism Preparation Morning for parents who want to have their child baptised is on Saturday 9 Nov between 10.30 am and 12.00 noon. Please register with Fr Julian contacting him on 01727 853585 or at juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk.

Marriage Couples hoping to get married should contact Fr Michael. Six months notice is required.

Children's Liturgy More volunteers are needed to join the rota for the 9.30 am Children's Liturgy. The commitment is to running approximately 3 sessions a year. If you are able to help, please contact Catherine: 07887 427 393 / cat_tarelli@hotmail.com

Dates For The Diary

CAFOD Family Fast day - This autumn's focus is on drought and it's effect on children. You are invited to eat a simple meal, either lunch or dinner, and give the money saved to help children gain access to clean drinking water. You may like to eat your meal at home or you could consider joining other people at the Soup and film lunch (see below) on Saturday 12 October in the Hall. Whatever you decide to do, you will be showing solidarity with some of the poorest in the World. For further detail contact grabecki@hotmail.com, 765549. There will be a retiring collection next weekend 12/13 October.

Traidcraft this weekend 5/6 October after all masses at church. Next Sunday 13 October at John Fisher School after 9am mass. All proceeds to Cafod. Any orders or enquiries, please contact maureen on 01727 765549.

Knit and Natter Group will meet on Tuesday 8 October 2.30-4pm in Room 1 of the Parish Centre. New members warmly welcomed. Contact Helen 07860 830340 for further details.

Bingo Parish Hall Friday 11 October at 8.00pm. Proceeds to Catholic Worker Farm - provides food and shelter for homeless women and children. Admission 50p towards refreshments. Everyone is most welcome. Our last Bingo evening raised £200 towards the LIFE garden. Many thanks.

Bread, soup and film lunch in support of Cafod family Fast Day. Tickets £2 - available after Masses. Saturday 12 October, lunch at 12 noon. **Green Book**

[classified 12] - based on the true story of a black American musician and his driver, the film explores prejudice and segregation in 1960s Deep South America. ★★☆☆ rating. More details from Stan - grabecki@hotmail.com, 765549.

Mothers' Prayers will meet on Monday 14 October at 8pm in room 2. Information from ; office@mothers'prayers.org Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome.

Cheese & Wine Evening Friday 18 October at 7.30 pm to be held at 7 Cunningham Avenue in aid of supplying milk to children in Syria through Aid to the Church in Need. Cost £7.50. Open to all. For details phone Sheila on 01727 853100.

X:site Saturday 19 October, 6-8pm. £2 per child. For school years 3-6. Fun and games; Live music; Drinks and snacks. A great opportunity for young Christians to have fun and learn about Jesus. Venue: St. Luke's Church, Cell Barnes Lane, St. Albans. AL1 5QJ. Youth and adult volunteers needed. For more info contact David Markham 07543 400650. Register on the website www.the267project.com

There is No Planet B There is an overwhelming consensus that the planet faces a climate catastrophe for which humans are responsible. We have to act in the next decade to prevent disaster and there is no suitable 'planet B'. But what can we do? An urgent and necessary discussion that involves us all. With Mike Berners-Lee author of *There is No Planet B*. ***Please put this date in your diary!*** Wednesday 23 October 7:45pm for 8:00pm, at Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Avenue, AL4 9QL All Welcome. A Churches Together Forum.

Churches Together in Marshalswick invite you to a musical evening at Homewood Road URC on Saturday the 26 October at 7pm. Tickets are £7 each, including a fish and chip supper. (*Please bring your own drinks and glasses*). Tickets are available from Chris and Maureen at Marshalswick Mass Centre each Sunday after 9am Mass.

World Mental Health Day 2019 Every 40 seconds someone loses their life to suicide. This should be as much a concern to us as it surely is to God, so you are warmly invited to an evening discussion on this challenging but important topic. Come and hear what Hertfordshire is doing to support those with suicidal thoughts through 'Spot the Signs' Thursday 7 November 2019, 19.30 - 21.00 in the Parish Hall.

SCHOOLS

Open Evening Loreto College Tours during the school day until 11 Oct. (by appointment only). Appointments can be made by calling 01727 856206.

St. Columba's College and Prep School A few means-tested bursaries are available for Catholic boys entering Year 3 and Year 7. Bursary applications for Sept. 2020 entry must be made by the end of October 2019. If eligible, boys will need to be successful in the entrance exams held in Jan. 2020. Contact Mrs Hilary Causer, Admissions Registrar at admissions@stcolumbascollege.org or 01727 892040.

St John Fisher Catholic Primary For children starting school September 2019 Families with children born 01/09/2015 - 31/08/2016 can apply for a place in Reception. You are welcome to visit our school. Miss O'Donnell, our Head Teacher will be happy to show you around. The Open days for the school are: Tuesday 5 Nov. 9:30am and Thursday 7 Nov. 9:30am. A wonderful Open Day is planned for Saturday 9th Nov. 10:00 to 12:00. To book onto a school tour please call 01727 861077.

AROUND & ABOUT

CPW Lecture on Faith, Politics And Power: The Catholic Effect in Public Life Catholic People's Weeks is hosting a lecture at Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent, on 8 October at 7pm. The speaker will be Mike Kane MP, Shadow Minister for Schools. The event is free. For more information see www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org/events/2019/autumn-lecture.

Poverty in the UK Social Justice and Peace Forum, 12 October 2019 from 10.30-1.30 (including a shared lunch). Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate, 373 Bowes Road, London N11 1AA (very close to Arnos Grove station on the Piccadilly tube line). Speakers: Anna Gavurin of the CARITAS Food Collective, Paul Morrison speaking to the UN report on UK poverty, and Fr Dominic McKenna, parish priest at St Teresa of the Child Jesus in Borehamwood.

Events at the London Oratory On Sunday 13 October at 11am there will be a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving for the canonisation of Bl John Henry Newman with *Te Deum*. On Thursday 17 October at 6.30pm there will be Solemn Pontifical Mass in honour of our new saint celebrated by Cardinal Vincent.

The Summit at Westminster Cathedral On 18 October, Westminster Youth Ministry will host *The Summit* at the Cathedral, an opportunity for young people to

socialise, learn more about their faith and be introduced to a deeper level of prayer and adoration. The event will run from 6:30-8:00 pm and include exposition, a reflection from Cardinal Vincent, and a talk from Brenden Thompson of Catholic Voices. *The Summit* is free to attend and all are most welcome. For further information, email youth@rcdow.org.uk.

Beginning Experience Weekend A weekend for the divorced or widowed will be held from 18 to 20 October 2019 at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. Contact Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 01322-551503 or email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk.

Newman Vespers Following the Canonisation of Cardinal Newman, Westminster Cathedral will host Solemn Ecumenical Vespers at 3.30pm (seating from 2.45pm) on 19 October. Cardinal Vincent will preside, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, preaching. No tickets are required. All welcome.

And Finally

Novena to John Henry Newman In last week's pastoral letter Cardinal Vincent spoke of the forthcoming canonization of Blessed John Henry Newman whose feast day will fall on 9 October. In preparation for the canonization a novena, which begun on Friday, will continue to be prayed through the week in the Church following the morning Masses.

Pope Francis' Mission Prayer

God our Father,
when your Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he
commissioned his followers
to 'go and make disciples of all nations'.

Through our Baptism you send us out
to continue this mission among all peoples.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to be courageous and enthusiastic
in bearing witness to the Gospel,
so that the mission entrusted to us,
which is still far from completion,
may bring life and light to the world.

May all peoples experience the saving love
and generous mercy of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Amen.