

# NEWS BULLETIN - SS ALBAN & STEPHEN

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

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 - Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Parish Team: Rev. Michael O'Boy (Parish Priest) Rev. 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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Jesus uses the image of a great banquet to explain God's vision for our world. He speaks of a place where those who consider themselves entitled to the highest seats at the table take the low seats.



He urges us to invite the poor, the lame and the blind to this celebration. Jesus encourages us to turn the world upside down in a reversal, an upheaval, where the preferred option is for the poor and those considered least in society.

Today's readings are about Humility. Humility gives us a good foundation in whatever path we choose to follow in life. Humility means to be well rooted, to be grounded in the truth of who we are, where we come from and heights of holiness and selfless love to which we are called to ascent.

Jesus tells his disciples to make their way to the lowest place, to be happy to associate with the poor, to appreciate the common humanity shared by all people, no matter their standing in life.

Only then will our lives be rooted in the deepest truth of this life, namely the primary importance of love of God and neighbour.

We can listen to the advice of St. Augustine, who wrote: 'Do you want to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility.'

Beginnings can be daunting. For a priest there are new faces, routines and names (many names) to get used to. For parishioners too there's that getting accustomed to the 'new' priests and their ways, as you say farewell to the priests whose presence you have relied on, who shared with you in your joys and sorrows, as well as the ordinariness of everyday life.

For myself and Fr Julian our arrival at St Alban & Stephen has about it a great sense of homecoming as we return to parish ministry after several years in formation; myself as a formator at Allen Hall, our diocesan seminary, and Fr Julian as a seminarian, preparing for ordination as a Catholic priest, but I am also conscious of that understandable sadness which many feel as the MSCs 120 years of service here in St Albans draws to a close.

As you know there will be an opportunity in October to formally thank Fr TJ, Fr Jimmy and Fr Alan, and then in June 2020 to mark all that the MSCs as a whole have contributed in these 120 years, nonetheless I would like my own first words, to be words of thanks, particularly to Fr TJ, for the warm welcome and generous support I have received from the Missionaries. I would also like to thank Ivana, the parish secretary, who stepped down towards the end of last week.

Please bear with us as the ongoing staffing of the parish office is discerned, and with Fr Julian and myself as we find our feet. Above all pray for us, that we may be faithful shepherds, and for our parish community, that it may continue to flourish as it strives to witness to the Heart of Christ, which is love.

Fr Michael

## Mass Times & Intentions

**Saturday 31 August - 22 Sunday Ord. time**

**6.00 pm** William O'Leary RIP

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

**8.00 am** Martin Myland RIP

**9.00 am M'wick** Lisa Gratte RIP

**9.30 am** People of the Parish

**11.30 am** Mary Curran RIP

**7.00 pm** Mark Taylor Anniv.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Feria**

**10.00 am** Priests' Intentions

**7.00 pm** Special Intention

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - ST GREGORY**

**10.00 am** Ruari MacDonald RIP

**No Evening Mass**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September -St Cuthbert**

**10.00 am** Lily Butler Ints.

**7.00 pm** MSC Benefactors

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September - St Teresa of Calcutta**

**10.00 am** Geraldine Collis Ints.

**No Evening Mass**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September - Feria**

**10.00 am** **Funeral Mass for Richard Preston (RIP)**

**7.00 pm** Patrick Marron Anniv.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September - Memoria BVM**

**10.00 am** Richard Field RIP

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September - 23 Sunday Ord. Time**

**6.00 pm** O'Leary Family Ints.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

**8.00 am** Richard Field RIP

**9.00 am M'wick** People of the Parish

**9.30 am** 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Intention

**11.30 am** Giuseppe & Gennaro Capparelli Anniv

**7.00 pm** Algerrina da Silva RIP

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

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

**First Reading: Ecc 3:17-20.28-29** The reading speaks of gentleness and restraint, rather than lavishness. These are qualities that are good for the soul.

**St Teresa of Calcutta - Feast day 5**

**September** Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, the future Mother Teresa, was born on 26 August 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia, to Albanian heritage. She left home in September 1928, for the Loreto Convent in Dublin, where she received the name of Teresa,



after her patroness, St Therese of Lisieux. Agnes was sent to Calcutta in January 1929 and made her final profession as a Loreto nun in May 1937, and thereafter was called Mother Teresa. Having taught for 17 years in India, in 1946, Mother Teresa received what

she termed the "call within a call," which was to give rise to the Missionaries of Charity family. The mission of her new institute was "to quench the infinite thirst of Jesus on the cross for love and souls" by "labouring at the salvation and sanctification of the poorest of the poor". Throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, her order established in India a hospice; centres for the blind, aged and disabled; and a leper colony. From the late 1960s until 1980, the Missionaries of Charity expanded their reach across the globe. In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her humanitarian work. Revealed only after her death, and hidden from all eyes, was her interior life marked by an experience of a deep, painful and abiding feeling of being separated from God, even rejected by Him, along with an ever increasing longing for His love. She called this her "painful night" of her soul, which began around the time she started her work for the poor and continued to the end of her life, but it led her to an ever more profound union with God. Despite increasing health problems, she continued to travel across the world for the profession of novices, opening of new houses, and service to the poor and disaster-stricken. By 1997, the Sisters numbered nearly 4,000 members, and were established in almost 600 foundations in 123 countries. After a summer of travelling, Mother Teresa returned to Calcutta in July 1997. On 5 September she died at the Motherhouse and received a state funeral on 13 September 1997. She was canonised on 4 September 2016.

**Second Reading: Heb 12:18-19.22-24** Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant, is the one to whom we turn in all the demands of discipleship.

**Gospel: Lk 14:1-7-14** Jesus proclaims his messages not with severity, but with talk of feasting and celebrations.

# Dates for September

**CWL** The Catholic Women's League will meet on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** after 10am Mass. Coffee and chat then Sieglinde will tell us about Nathaniel Cotton, a local 18<sup>th</sup> Century Physician and writer. Parishioners, friends and anyone interested is very welcome.



**First Friday Blessed Sacrament 24 Hour Adoration** In the Prayer Room **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September** from 11am till 11am **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September**. If you can be present, even if it's for just half-an-hour, please enter

your name on the rota at the back of the church.

**Traidcraft** after all Masses Saturday and Sunday 7/8<sup>th</sup> September. All proceeds go to Cafod. More details from Maureen, [grabecki@hotmail.com](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com) 01727 765 549. Traidcraft after 9am Mass at St John Fisher, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. All proceeds go to Cafod. More details from Maureen, [grabecki@hotmail.com](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com) 01727 765 549.



**Baptism Course** The pre-baptism session will be held on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September**, 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. (Mon - Fri, 9am - 1pm). If you would like to baptise your **FIRST** child you will be unable to secure a baptism date before attending this session. If you live outside our Parish it is necessary to have a letter from your Parish Priest giving permission to baptise here.

**Children's Liturgy** The next session will take place on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September** at 9.30am, in the Parish Hall. More volunteers are needed to join the rota. The commitment is to be running approximately 3 sessions a year. If you are able to help, please contact the Parish Office

**First Communion 2020** The first parents meeting is on Monday 16 September at 8.00pm in the Hall Parish Centre.

## Parish Youth Club

Invitation to all year seven's (from September) to join us for a pizza and games **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September**, 8pm - 9pm, in the Parish Hall. Looking forward to seeing you all.



**Parish Friends - Film** Parish Friends will be showing the 2017 Feel Good Film of the Year

"Finding your Feet" on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September** at **2.45pm**. We highly recommend you do not miss this heart-warming, funny and very touching film. It is so good! Transport can be arranged and light refreshments will be served from 2.15pm. Everyone welcome. For more details contact Helen 07860 830340



**Mothers' Prayers** Mothers' Prayers will next meet on **Monday September 9<sup>th</sup>** at 8pm in room 2. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from email: [office@mothersprayers.org](mailto:office@mothersprayers.org)

## English Conversation Classes for Ladies

The next session will be on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September**, 1pm until 2.30pm, in the Parish Hall.

**Parents and Toddlers** Next session: **9<sup>th</sup> September**, 10.30 am in the Parish Hall.

**Knit and Natter** We will meet again on **September 10<sup>th</sup>** from 2.30-4pm. Contact Helen 07860 830 340 for any queries



## CTSA Autumn Prayer Walk 2019

The annual CTSA Prayer Walk will take place on **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> September**, starting at 2pm from our church and finishing at St Albans Cathedral. Please come and join in this gentle stroll around our city, pausing at some of the churches to pray for the people of St Albans. The afternoon includes a short break for tea and cake at St Michael's parish hall. Join us for all or any part of the walk. Detailed timings on the posters and flyers at the back of church.

**Mercy Associates** Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September** in Room 1 of the Parish Centre from 5pm until 7pm. All are welcome.

## North Wales Retreat 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Leader: Sister Seraphim. Weekend includes Padre Pio Day at the national shrine of St. Pio at Pantasaph and visit to the centuries-old shrine and well of Winefride. Full board accommodation at St. Winefride's Guest House, Holywell, run by the Bridgetine sisters. Cost: £190. Details: David Edwards: 01727 765 216

# NEWS BULLETIN

**Depaul UK launches Nightstop service in Hertfordshire** This service, previously run by Herts Young Homeless (HYH), forms part of the national Nightstop UP network run by Depaul UK, and will soon be ready to host young people across the entire country. Volunteer hosts are needed, willing to take in a young person at risk of homelessness for one night at a time. Comprehensive training will be provided, the next training session will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Volunteer Drivers also needed. Contact: Noreen Gilhespy 07966 742 924  
Nightstop.Hertfordshire@depaulcharity.org.uk

**Walsingham Weekend 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> October 2019.** Some walking will be involved and please note that none of the rooms have full disabled access yet. The booking deadline and final balance is due by 12th September 2019. For further information and booking form pick up a leaflet from the back of the church or Mass Centre or contact Krystyna krystyna@faithknowledge.org Tel. 01727 751 094

**Watford, St. Albans & Hemel Hospital Chaplaincy.** Mass will be offered in the hospital once a month and everyone is welcome to attend for more details about dates and times please contact the head of chaplaincy. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Litany of Lourdes in the hospital oratory on level 4 at Watford Hospital every Monday at 2pm all are welcome to join us.

If you have a relative in hospital who has requested to see a Catholic chaplain please do let us know. Would you consider giving an hour a week to join our chaplaincy support team - please contact us for details? For more information about any of the above please email the head of chaplaincy: [anthony.curran@nhs.net](mailto:anthony.curran@nhs.net)

You can contact the hospital chaplaincy directly by calling 01923 217994. Referrals can also be made via email: [spiritualcare@whht.nhs.uk](mailto:spiritualcare@whht.nhs.uk)

## Readings for the Week Ahead

Mon: 1 Thess 5:1-6.9-11; Ps 26:1.4.13; Lk 4:16-30  
Tue: 1 Thess 5:1-6.9-11; Ps 26:1.4.13-14; Lk 4 31-37  
Wed: Col 1:1-8; Ps 51:10-11; Lk 4:38-44  
Thu: Col 1:9-14; Ps 97:2-6; Lk 5:1-11  
Fri: Col 1:9-14; Ps 97:2-6; Lk 5:1-11  
Sat: Col 1:21-23; Ps 53:3-4.6.8; Lk 6:1-5

**"Fr Philip Miller's 20th Anniversary Mass - Thanks** - Fr Philip Miller would like to thank all the parishioners who came to his celebration Mass, and especially those who helped in any way, and for the cards; and particular thanks for the very generous contributions to the collection for Mary's Meals which amounted to over £1700."

**Drivers Required Please** Are you able to offer transport for senior parishioners to attend Parish Friends Tea Parties and Films? These take place in the Parish Hall on approximately 6 Sundays a year from 2.30 - 5pm. Some guests cannot attend these functions without a lift to and from the event. Please can you help? Just a couple of times a year would be appreciated. Please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830 340 / [helen.bassill@ntlworld.com](mailto:helen.bassill@ntlworld.com) if you can support us.

**Invitation CAFOD information Morning - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 10am-12.30pm, Lambeth North.** CAFOD will be hosting a supporter's information morning with a guest speaker, our new Director, Christine Allen, who has first-hand experience of our work in Uganda. Uganda is the country we are focusing on this Harvest Fast Day. Come and hear how CAFOD is helping communities, thanks to your support. Meeting will take place from 10am - 12.30pm at CAFOD's Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB. Bookings required and taken on 0208 449 6970 or e mail [westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:westminster@cafod.org.uk)

**Please Pray for** the recently departed, especially Richard Preston, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Mark Taylor, Patrick Marron and Giuseppe Gennaro Capparelli.

**Prayers for the Sick** If you would like to include someone in the prayers for the sick please contact the presbytery. Please note that names will only be included with the express permission of the sick person themselves or, where they are not able to give that permission, with the consent of their next of kin. Names will be included in the sick list recorded in the newsletter for up to five weeks unless renewed.