

NEWS BULLETIN - SS ALBAN & STEPHEN

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

15th September 2019 - Twenty Fourth 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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ADULTS JOURNEYING IN FAITH (R.C.I.A.) NEWS

Our adult journeying in faith programme will commence on September 19th in the Parish Centre 7.30p.m. (Room 1).

If you, a friend or relative: -

Want to complete your Catholic initiation e.g. to be Confirmed in your faith

Are the spouse / partner of a Catholic and would like to know more about joining our Catholic community

Want to become a Christian e.g. Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation

Just curious about the Catholic Christian way of life

Want to share and know more about your faith as a Catholic

Please contact Deacon Steve Pickard on 863925 or e-mail

stephenrpickard@gmail.com

or any of our priests on 853585 or e-mail stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

Sponsored link www.life4seekers.co.uk (seeking, exploring, finding)

Fr Julian Writes I should like to thank you all for your warm welcome. I am the most recent member of the team, as I was ordained only some seven weeks ago, although I'm no stranger to parish life, having served in parishes for some twenty five years. We all face adjustments in our life, and so I thought I would share with you how

my faith helps me to cope with change which may or may not help you in similar circumstances.

The first thing is to seek God's will in the circumstances of our life. Bring everything under his scrutiny. Ascertain if change is God ordained well before any major adjustments take place. Be convinced that God wants you to change. If he does not then you will not have the peace which you will need.

The second is to recognise that that peace is not the absence of challenge or difficulties but the sense that the direction you are moving in is the right one, a growth of confidence in the decision that you have made and a general sense of well-being. Remember that the peace of Christ goes deeper than a surface understanding of peace.

The third is to recognise that God's picture is much bigger than what we see or know. It is important not to plan things which might hinder God's vocation for you in the future. God's heart is for you to operate freely in your service to Him so see the bigger picture not just the immediate, and don't get bogged down by momentary issues.

The fourth is to recognise that once we know the direction of travel, don't be over scrupulous about making decisions about circumstantial issues. God has given us a brain to make decisions ourselves....it's part of being made in his image, and he honours our freedom of choice. We are not puppets on a string. Sometimes it is not a question of either or, but both and.

The fifth is give thanks to God in all circumstances, as He always turns things to His and our advantage, even when we take a wrong turn.

Fr Julian

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Saturday 14th Sept

24th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

6.00 pm George Taites (RIP)

Sunday 15th Sept

8.00 am Richard Field (RIP)

9.00 am M'wick Pro Pop

9.30 am Karol Jozef Gajewski (RIP)

11.30 am John Paton (RIP)

7.00 pm Taylor Family (Ints)

Monday 16th Sept - Ss Cornelius & Cyprian

10.00 am Priests Intentions

7.00 pm Algerina da Silva (Anniv)

Tuesday 17th Sept - feria

10.00 am Peggy & Alban Brampton (RIP)

No Evening Mass

Wednesday 18th Sept - feria

10.00 am Bronya Beeson (RIP)

7.00 pm Ian Doe (RIP)

Thursday 19th Sept - feria

10.00 am Paddy Nevin (Anniv)

No Evening Mass

Friday 20th Sept- Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang & Companions, Martyrs

10.00 am SAS School Year

7.00 pm Kasia Powierza (RIP)

Saturday 21st Sept - ST MATTHEW

10.00 am Br Clement SC (Ints)

Saturday 21st September

25th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

6.00 pm Eileen Brennan (RIP)

Sunday 22nd September

8.00 am Moore Family (Ints)

9.00 am M'wick James Scully (Anniv)

9.30 am Irene Payne (RIP)

11.30 am Finian Gavin (Anniv)

7.00 pm Richard Field (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

PLEASE PRAY

For those who have died For the recently departed, especially Amparo Melendez Dieste, Tom Carter, Sebastino Lazzara and Sr Marie Thérèse, and for Algerina da Silva, Paddy Nevin, James Scully and Finian Gavin whose anniversaries occur at this time.

For the Sick especially Carys McGill, Mary McGrath, Bernadette Witchard, Veronica Willans and Barbara Richfield.

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.

THE WORD TODAY

First Reading No sooner have they been brought out of captivity in Egypt than God's people fall into idolatry and apostasy. God resolves to punish them, yet he listens to the plea of Moses and relents.

Second Reading When Paul preached the gospel of mercy, he was preaching autobiographically; nobody had experienced mercy more than Paul, the one who had once tried to destroy the Church.

Gospel The sheep is lost away from home. The coin is lost at home. The prodigal is lost away from home. The older brother is just as truly lost at home, in resentment and anger. There are many ways of being lost. There is just one merciful Father.

Farewell to Frs TJ, Jimmy & Alan

As part of our parish thank you and farewell to Fr TJ, Fr Jimmy and Fr Alan, **there will be a retirement collection after all Masses on the weekends of 22nd and 29th September.** If you are away on these dates, but would like to contribute, please put your donation in an envelope, marked 'Frs TJ, Jimmy and Alan collection', through the presbytery door. The donations will be given to the priests at their farewell Mass on Sunday, 20th October.

An appropriate memorial to the 120 years service of the MSCs in St Albans is also being planned. It is hoped that the memorial will be dedicated by Cardinal Vincent at the celebratory Mass on Saturday, 20th June 2020. If you have suggestions for the memorial, 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 If you wish to have your child baptised please speak with Fr Julian (01727 853 585) who will register parents for the baptism preparation course. If you live outside our Parish it is necessary to have a letter from your Parish Priest giving permission to baptise here.

Marriage Couples hoping to get married should contact the presbytery and speak with Fr Michael. Please note that at least six months notice is required for the necessary preparation and paperwork to be completed.

Become a Parish Sponsor/Godparent Every year we have been blessed to receive New Catholics into our Church Community at the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday). We have been doing this for over twenty-five years and it is always such a joy for us at SS Alban & Stephen. To assist / walk alongside these wonderful people we do need volunteers, each year, to become Sponsors / Godparents willing to journey with each person on their pathway to Easter. To become their spiritual 'agony aunt / uncle' is a joy. We would very much appreciate anyone who is interested in becoming part of our team (September > Easter). Please contact Deacon Steve on 01727 863925 or at stephenpickard@gmail.com The rewards are great.

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 September

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

CTSA Autumn Prayer Walk 2019 takes place Sunday afternoon 15th September starting at 2pm from our church and finishing at St Albans Cathedral. Join in for all or part of the walk. The afternoon includes a short break for tea and cake at St Michael's parish hall. Detailed timings on the posters and flyers at the back of church.

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

Men Breakfast - 28 September The Men's breakfasts are back after the summer break. Our first breakfast will be Saturday 28 September, 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 are starting a new series of talks which are from Bishop Robert Barron on the theme of "better understanding Jesus as our Priest, Prophet and King". We will finish by 10am. Please contact Richard at d4dstalban@gmail.com or call 07976 252309 for more details.

Blessing of Family Pets Close to the feast of St Francis of Assisi in October, a simple service of blessing and thanksgiving for the animals we love will be held at 11.30am on Saturday 5th October in Loreto School grounds. **All well behaved pets and owners welcome!** Please bring your pet for a blessing. If your pet is of a nervous disposition bring a photo and we can pray with that instead!

Bread, soup and film lunch in support of Cafod family Fast Day. Tickets £2 - available after Masses from next weekend. Saturday 12th 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.

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

October 23rd, 7:45pm for 8:00pm, at Marshalswick Baptist Free Church Sherwood Avenue, AL4 9QL All Welcome A Churches Together Forum

SCHOOLS

Open Evening Loreto College, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3RQ for prospective pupils applying to the College for 2020 will take place on Tuesday 24th September 2019. The College opens at 6pm. Please use the entrance in Upper Lattimore Road. Guided tours will be organised from 6pm to 7.45pm. The Headteacher will address parents at 6.15pm, 7.15pm, and 8.15pm. *Please note that there are no parking facilities available at the College.* Tours during the school day will take place between 30th September and 11th October (by appointment only). Appointments can be made from 25th September 2019 by calling 01727 856206.

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

CAFOD information afternoon - Wed 18th Sept 2.30pm-4pm, Volunteer Centre, 1st Floor, Church of Christ the King, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood, London, N14 4HE. CAFOD will be hosting a supporter's information afternoon with a guest speaker, Laura Ouseley, who has first-hand experience of our work in Overseas. Come and hear how CAFOD is helping communities, thanks to your support. Bookings taken on 0208 449 6970 or e mail westminster@cafod.org.uk

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 21st September There are places available on the Berkhamsted Coach travelling to Walsingham on the Diocesan Pilgrimage, led by Cardinal

Vincent, next Saturday. Adults £20, Children £10. For more information and/or book your place, contact Fr David on 01442 863845 or email: berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk

Caritas in Your Community Saturday 21st September 9am-12pm at Waltham Cross. Caritas will be holding a gathering at the Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph, Waltham Cross. The gathering is an opportunity for Hertfordshire-based parish groups and social action projects to learn about Caritas Westminster, network with other organisations and recruit volunteers, in the form of a roadshow-style networking fair. Please RSVP by calling 020 7931 6077, emailing francesmoore@rcdow.org.uk or search the title "Caritas in Your Community" on Eventbrite.

North Wales Retreat 20th - 23rd 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 St. Winefride. Full board accommodation at St. Winefride's Guest House, Holywell, run by the Bridgetine sisters. Cost: £190. Details: David Edwards: 01727 765 216.

Volunteering in Your Community: Getting Started Wednesday 25th September, Vaughan House Caritas Westminster invites anyone interested in volunteering to a free session covering the basic need-to-knows about becoming a volunteer. The event will run from 6.30pm-8.30pm, with refreshments available from 6pm, at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN. RSVP by calling 020 7931 6077 emailing caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk or search the title "Volunteering in the Community: Getting Started" on Eventbrite.