

# 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.

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - Twenty Sixth 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

Safeguarding Lead: Nicky Vellacott / stalbanssg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07882 566 020

**Growing in Faith Campaign** The five year diocesan campaign held in 197 parishes between 2013 and 2018 has now reached a conclusion. The Diocese have written to thank to everyone who helped with the campaign and generously supported it. Across the Diocese over £32 million was raised. Our parish raised £373,554 of which £60,000 was given to our 3 nominated charities, £115,165 for our own parish projects, including the new heating system for the church. The balance was apportioned between the training of diocesan priests, diocesan priorities and projects, and also for the sick and retired MSC priests. Thank you for your very generous giving!

**You Can Be Santa** The parish will again be running the 'You Can Be Santa' scheme this year, 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) at a later date. Please contact one of the Santa team Cath White, Sr Anita, Bob White, Helen Bassill or Anita O'Connor for more information. Alternatively e-mail: stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk

*Fr Julian Writes* As Christians we don't belong to the CA.....Christians Anonymous. We cannot assume that simply because we go to church and feel comfortable in our beliefs that the world beyond us is being evangelised. We need to communicate the good news of Jesus through our words and the authenticity of our actions. He commissioned us to make disciples.. people who are on an inner and outward journey of discovering their true selves as made in his image. At times he sent the disciples out on purposeful mission. He also commissions us to do the same. This month, Pope Francis invites us to consider the importance of intentional mission. Let us do so, as a springboard for what we may do now and in the future and use his words prayerfully.

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.**

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

**26 SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

**6.00 pm** Alec Anderson (RIP)

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

**8.00 am** Richard Field (RIP)

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

**9.30 am** Martin Brosnan

**11.30 am** Brendan Kearns (Anniv)

**7.00 pm** Martin Myland (RIP)

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept - St Jerome**

**10.00 am** Frank Cafferkey (RIP)

**7.00 pm** Michael Finnegan (RIP)

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct - St Therese of the Child Jesus**

**10.00 am** David Edwards (Ints)

*No Evening Mass*

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct - The Holy Guardian Angels**

**10.00 am** Ciro Lista (Ints)

**7.00 pm** Graham Bovington (RIP)

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct - feria**

**10.00 am** Christopher Small (Ann)

*No Evening Mass*

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct - St Francis of Assisi**

**10.00 am** Funeral Mass for Alice Devlin (RIP)

**7.00 pm** John Fleming (RIP)

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct - Memoria BVM**

**10.00 am** Graham Bovington (RIP)

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

**27 SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

**6.00 pm** Peters Family (RIP)

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 (Ann)

**7.00 pm** Sue Knight Jameson (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 Rodney Pellow-Jarman, Alice Devlin and Danny Onn, and for Brendan Kearns, Christopher Small and Mary and Patrick Curran whose anniversaries occur at this time.

\*\*\*\*

**Please pray for members of our parish who are ill**

## St Thérèse of Lisieux - Feast Day 1 October

Born in Alençon, France 2 January 1873, Marie Francois Thérèse Martin was the youngest of 9 children. Only Thérèse and 4 of her sisters survived. All became nuns. Her mother died when Thérèse was 4 and soon after the family moved to Lisieux. During a serious illness, Thérèse experienced a vision of Our Lady and was cured. She then resolved to enter Carmel monastery but was refused entry because of her age, however, following her personal plea to Pope Leo XIII, she was allowed to enter Carmel in 1887 aged 15. She devoted herself to living a life of holiness, doing all things with love and childlike trust in God. In 1896, after noticing the first symptoms of tuberculosis, she began to undergo a terrible trial of faith which lasted until her death on 30 September 1897 aged 24. A few years before her death she wrote her autobiographical 'Story of a Soul'. St Thérèse is often depicted holding roses - reflecting her promise on her deathbed "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses". St Therese is one of the patron saints of the missions because of her prayers and letters she gave in support of missionaries. St Thérèse was canonised in 1925 and proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1997. Her parents, Louis and Zélie Martin, were canonised in 2015.

## St Francis of Assisi - Feast Day 4 October

St Francis was a wealthy young man born in Assisi, Umbria in 1181. He was a soldier and a prisoner of war. He was a much loved son who enjoyed partying and wild times. After a dream, he gave up everything he had to follow God. He is one of the most well-known and venerated Catholic Saints. He loved all of God's creation, not least the birds of the air and the beasts of the forest. He designed the first nativity set using real people and animals, and setting the story in a cave near the church. He was the first to receive the stigmata, the wounds of Christ. He is the founder of the Franciscan order and is the patron saint of ecologists and merchants. His feast day is 4 October, the day he died in 1226.

## THANK-YOU

For your contribution to last week's Offertory and to the retiring collection for the presentation to Frs TJ, Jimmy and Alan. There is still an opportunity to contribute over this weekend.

**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 November 9th 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.

**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 The Diary

**CAFOD Family Fast day** - Friday, 4th October. 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 Sunday 12th October in the Hall. Whatever you decide to do, you will be showing solidarity with some of the poorest in the World. Thank you. Placed by the Parish J&P group. More details from grabecki@hotmail.com, 765549. There will be a retiring collection the weekend of 12/13 October.

**CWL** will meet after 10 am Mass on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October in Room 1. Liz Arendt, accompanied by her lovely dog Rufus, will speak about Hearing Dogs for

the Deaf. £2 to include tea/coffee and raffle. Everyone very welcome.

**Traidcraft Coffee Morning** Thursday 3 October 9.30 am until 12 noon at 43 Avenue Road AL13PY. everyone welcome all in aid of Cafod.

**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!

**Traidcraft** next weekend: 5/6 October at the church after all masses. Any orders or enquiries, please contact Maureen on 01727 765549.

**Knit and Natter Group** will meet on Tuesday 8th 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 11th 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 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.

**Mothers' Prayers** will meet on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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** for prospective pupils applying for 2020 will take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2019. The College opens at 6pm. Please use entrance on 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. *No parking facilities are available at the College.* Tours during the school day will take place between 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. and 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. (by appointment only). Appointments can be made from 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2019 by calling 01727 856206.

**St. Columba's College and Prep School** Open Morning for both the Prep and Senior School (4-18) on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2019 from 9.00 am – 12.00 pm. 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](mailto: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<sup>th</sup> Nov. 9:30am and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. 9:30am. A wonderful Open Day is planned for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. 10:00 to 12:00. To book onto a school tour please call 01727 861077.

## AROUND & ABOUT

**World Day of Migrants and Refugees** 29 September. For more information see Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees/>

**Come & Sing Elijah** with Hertfordshire Chorus. Now is your chance to experience rehearsing Mendelssohn's Elijah. Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 7.20 – 10.00 pm, registration from 7.10 pm. Stanborough School, Lemsford Lane, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6YR. See [www.hertfordshirechorus.org.uk](http://www.hertfordshirechorus.org.uk)

**Christianity and Climate Change** Organised by Faith Justice and the London Jesuit Centre. 6 October, 2-6pm, Mount Street Jesuit Centre.

**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<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

**The Summit at Westminster Cathedral** On 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk).

**Beginning Experience Weekend** A weekend for the divorced or widowed will be held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. Contact Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 01322-551503 or email [johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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<sup>th</sup> October. Cardinal Vincent will preside, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, preaching. No tickets are required. All welcome.

## & FINALLY

**A Plea** Several of the tablecloths normally kept in the kitchen store room have disappeared. If you have taken some home to wash please return asap. These cloths have been made by Parish Friends to use at our events and although we are more than happy for others to use them please check with us first and ensure that they are returned promptly after cleaning.