

NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE PARISH OF SS ALBAN & STEPHEN



This Parish is served by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.
Parish Priest: Rev. TJ Plower MSC, Rev. Jimmy Stubbs MSC, Rev. Alan Neville MSC, Deacon Steve Pickard.

Tel: 01727 853 585 Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 1pm

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Items for the bulletin – e-mail: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk by 12noon on Wednesdays

Youth Co-ordinator Sr. Anita O’Leary SSJG, e-mail: anitaoleary@rcdow.org.uk

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

Youth Website: www.sasyouth.com. We are a Fairtrade Parish. Parish Secretary: Ivana Mearns

16th September 2018

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We’ve just heard Jesus tell the apostles that he is going to suffer terribly. Peter is having none of this: he wants to shield Jesus, his friend, from suffering. But it was Jesus’ integrity, his habit of speaking the truth, that would lead to his suffering. And Jesus was not about to compromise his integrity.

We know what it’s like to want to protect someone, to shield them from suffering and sadness. That’s what love does: it protects. But it can happen that love loses its way, becomes misguided, seeking to shield people from the consequences of their integrity. A person’s integrity might be worth suffering for.

We all want to protect those we love, just like Peter in the gospel. We want to protect children, to shield them, when they’re small, from their lack of experience of life: from flames, large dogs, moving cars.



We don’t want our loved ones to suffer! That’s the most natural concern in the world. Yet, we can’t shield our loved ones from every challenge or difficulty, nor should we.

There are sufferings which are part and parcel of being a Christian, or simply being a person of integrity. To be shielded from such sufferings is to be tempted, like Jesus was by Peter, to take the easy way.

There is good news even in this talk of the inevitability of suffering: the good news of the cross of Jesus, which is what Christians encounter whenever we suffer for doing what is right.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Parents’ Meeting

Monday 17th September at 8pm in the Parish Hall.

Services of Light

Services of Light will be celebrated in church at 7pm on **Tuesday 25th September, Wednesday 26th September and Thursday 27th September.** There will be no evening Masses on these dates.

The Programme for Children

Begins at 4pm on **Saturday 6th October 2018**, in the Parish Hall

Annual Diocesan Mass Count

A count will be taken at all Masses in the Church and Marshalswick Mass Centre on the last two weekends in September and First two weekends in October. **The first count will be taken next weekend, 22nd/23rd September.**

The Living Room St Albans

You are invited to come between 1-4.30 pm to **156 Hatfield Rd (rear of) on Thursday 20th September to our Open Day.** Learn what happens there and listen to the inspiring stories of those who have used the service. You are welcome.

Adults Journey in Faith

Our Adults Journey in Faith (RCIA) program starts on **Thursday the 20th September in Room 1 at 7.30 pm.** If you have intended to join us and have not yet contacted Deacon Steve then please call 01727863925 or email stephenpickard@gmail.com

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including Vincent O’Reilly, Liber Marzo, Bridget Laver and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Hannah Crean, Patrick Doran, Adrian Stack, Patricia McCarthy, Philomena Lines, Francisco Diaz, Catherine Elkin, Avenal Jenkins, John Moloney, Liz Smith, Carmen Minciu, Teresa Virrueta, Bernadette Marron, Mark Norris, Patrick Foley, Jim O’Neill, Mike Smith, Jack O’Mahoney, Carmaline Xavier, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O’Gorman, John Baxter, Jim O’Connor, Kathleen Murphy, Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM, Jim Moss, Geraldine McBride, Becki Vousden, Edie Hale, Vertina Fernandes, John Rowland Veronica Hamilton, Claire Whitehead, Alice Daly, Sheila Doohan, Janet Szymczak, Noah Gregorio, Gerry Smith, Edmond Mansfield, Teresa Hill, Ida Daswa, Catrin Rees-Doherty, Margaret Moloney & Derita Whyte, may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

16.9.2018

6pm John Paton Anniv.
8am Giuseppe Campanella RIP
9am M'wick Brendan Hunt RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11.30am Giuseppe Gennarao Capparaelli Anniv.
7pm George Taites RIP

Monday – St. Robert Bellarmine

10am Bronya Beeson RIP (Birthday Memories)
7pm Jozef Siedlik RIP

Tuesday – Feria

10am John Carey RIP
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – St. Januarius

10am Paddy Nevin Anniv.
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gön & Paul Chōng Ha-sang

10am Priests' Intentions
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – St. Matthew

10am Chris Small Anniv.
7pm Brian Huckle Anniv.

Saturday – Feria

10am Elisabeth Page RIP
6pm Margaret Sheehan Anniv.

Next Sunday

Twenty- Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Martin Brosnan Anniv.
9am M'wick Vincent O'Reilly RIP
9.30am Lilly Butler Ints.
11.30am Finian Gavin Anniv.
2.15pm Padre Pio Mass
4pm Polish Mass
7pm People of the Parish

*Mass Intentions are subject to change
if there is a funeral.*

This weekend, there will be a second collection
for Home Mission Appeal.

St Padre Pio Mass

Sunday 23rd September, 2.15pm

Followed by light refreshments in the Parish Hall.
Everyone is welcome.

St Padre Pio

Feast Day: 23rd September

St. Padre Pio was an Italian priest who was known for his piety and charity, as well as the gift of the stigmata, which has never been explained.

St. Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione, on May 25, 1887, in Pietrelcina, Italy. Although he always suffered from poor health, even as a child his greatest desire was to serve God. At the age of 15 he was allowed to join the Capuchin monks at Morcone. He took the name Pio in honour of Pope Pius I, whose relic he often saw at his local chapel. In 1910 he became a priest.

On September 20 1916, Padre Pio was hearing confessions when he felt pain in his hands and feet. He noticed the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, appearing on his hands and feet. The experience was painful. Bleeding occurred. The wounds smelled of roses, and although they continued to weep, they never became infected. Doctors who later examined the stigmata were amazed at their perfectly round shape.

By 1919, word began to spread about Padre Pio's stigmata and people came from far away to examine him. Padre Pio became popular with the people he encountered and they soon began to attribute supernatural occurrences to him. For example, he was said to levitate, and be able to perform miracles. A Church investigation into his stigmata concluded that his condition was not faked. Padre Pio was known for his piety, charity and the quality of his preaching. He famously advised, "Pray, hope and don't worry."

He had illnesses including cancer which was miraculously healed after just two treatments. Other problems, such as arthritis, which plagued him in his later years, never went away. Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968. His funeral was attended by over 100,000 people. Pope John Paul II recognized Padre Pio as a saint on June 16, 2002. His feast day is September 23. He is the patron of civil defence volunteers, adolescents, and the village of Pietrelcina.



First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9

The Prophet suffers for his faithfulness to God's word, but God strengthens him. May we experience God's strength.

Second Reading: James 2:14-18

God expects concrete fruits in the lives of his children. May our lives be consistent with what we hear and say!

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-35

Mere sincerity is not enough! Peter sincerely wanted to spare Jesus suffering, but his misguided sincerity set him against God's plan.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: 1 Cor 11:17-26.33; Ps 39:7-10.17; Lk 7:1-10

Tue: 1 Cor 12 :12-14.27-31 : Ps 99 :1-5 ; Lk 7 :11-17

Wed: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Ps 32:2-5.12.22; Lk 7:31-35

Thu: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 117:1-2.15-17.28; Lk 7:36-50

Fri: Eph 4:1-7.11-13; Ps 18:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

Sat: 1 Cor 15:35-37.42-49; Ps 55:10-14; Lk 8:4-15

Dates for September

CTSA Autumn Prayer Walk 2018

The annual CTSA Prayer Walk will take place on **this Sunday, 16th September**, starting at 2pm from our church. Detailed timings on the posters and flyers at the back of church.

Liturgy Meeting

There will be a meeting on **Monday 24th September** in Meeting Room 1 starting at 7.45 pm, primarily to discuss the liturgies for Advent and Christmas. Everyone is welcome to attend; if you cannot be there but have some ideas on upcoming services, please contact Sara on sara.nash1@ntlworld.com or 01727 764 601.

Knit and Natter

Parish Friends are setting up a Knit and Natter group on the **3rd Tuesday of the month starting Tuesday 18th September 2.30-4pm in the Parish Centre**. Everyone is welcome including non-knitters! We will start by making Twiddle Muffs for people with dementia and progress to other items during the year. Wool will be provided. Whether you want to knit, natter or both you will be very welcome. Light refreshments will be available.

Mercy Associates

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 19th September** in Room 1 of the Parish Centre from 5pm until 7pm. Sr. Maura will be joining us. All are welcome.

Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held on **Saturday, 22nd September at 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 (Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 1pm). If you would like to baptise your **FIRST** child you will be unable to secure a baptism date before attending this session. Baptisms are held on Sundays at 1pm. If you live outside our Parish you will need a letter from your Parish Priest giving permission to baptise here.

Happy's Circus - St. John Fisher School

Friday 28th September 2018 at St. John Fisher School, doors open 4.30 for 6pm start. £10 per ticket.
A fun packed comedy show for all the family supported by amazing International Circus Artists
www.happycircus.co.uk

Men's Breakfast

There is a men's breakfast on **Saturday 29th September** from 8.15am in the Parish Centre in Ss Alban & Stephen, followed by a short video and discussion. There will be tea/coffee, fruit, pastries and friendly conversation from 8.15am for 30 minutes or so, followed by a short DVD talk on the theme "God at work", featuring Ken Costa, a former deputy chair of UBS Bank and former chair of Alpha International. Please contact Richard on 07976 252 309 or email "d4dstalbins@gmail.com" for more details.

Dates for October

CAFOD - Film

Saturday, 6th October after 6pm Mass

Save the date for the next soup and film evening. For this CAFOD family fast day's event we will be showing "Summer in the forest" [PG], a film about the people who live in the L'Arche community and about what it means to be truly human. Tickets available nearer the time. All proceeds to CAFOD. Placed by the parish JPIC group.

Autumn Tea Party - Parish Friends

Parish Friends will be hosting an Autumn Tea Party in the Church Hall on **Sunday 7th October 3-5pm**. We are delighted that our very own Vince Cintrano (Elvince) has offered to entertain us so we look forward to a wonderful afternoon. All parishioners are invited but please, for catering purposes, do put your name on the guest list which can be found in the church porch and Marshalswick Mass Centre. Lifts can be arranged if required. Offers of food, drivers and help on the day will greatly appreciated. Please enter your name and contact details on the Helpers List. Entrance is free but there will be a raffle to defray expenses.

Any queries contact Helen 07860 830340

Walsingham Pilgrimage for the Sanctity of Life

Sunday 7th October. Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Adults £17.50 Children & Students £8.00. More info: www.prolifepilgrimage.org. To book contact Maria 01582 624024/ 07969 171422 maria@oloughlin.co.uk

Muslim / Jewish / Christian Dialogue Meal

Monday October 8th at 7.30pm at Saute Grill Meze restaurant in Adelaide Street at the centre of town. Cost £15. To book, please contact: tony@stpauls-stalbans.org or 07983 996 349. Please see more details at the noticeboard at the back of the Church.

ALPHA Course

A new ALPHA Course will be starting in the Parish on **Thursday, 11th October** at 7.30 pm. Please join us if you would like to explore the basics of our Christian Faith, ask questions and share your point of view. Over 11 weeks, we will be looking at a different question around faith. Each session will start with a light meal. This will be followed by a video talk of around 30 minutes. The talks explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity. The first talk is entitled *Is there more to life than this?* Other topics include: *How can we have faith? Why and how do I pray? How does God guide us?* We then share thoughts and ideas on the topic and discuss together in a small group. You can hear from others and contribute your thoughts and ideas (if you wish) in an honest, friendly and open environment. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact Ann Hill (anncarmelhill@gmail.com/07977 056637) or Sylvia White (sylviaacwhite@talktalk.net/01727 854596)

NEWS BULLETIN

Vincent O'Reilly R.I.P.

For about 50 years, if the Church roof was leaking or the drains were blocked (or anything else in between), the priests would call on Vincent O'Reilly for help and advice and his assistance was always given.



Vincent was a chairman of the Finance Committee for a long time and until recently he and Helen were members of the group who counted and banked the collection money each week.

When the Friends of Maryland was formed in order to support the Convent, Vincent was a very active member and he organised some very enjoyable social events which also raised money for the upkeep of the Convent. The hymns at the Mass at Maryland were accompanied by Vincent on the organ and he also played the organ on many other occasions for the enjoyment of those who wanted to have a sing-a-long.

When we used to have a May procession at Maryland, Vincent made all the necessary arrangements, setting up the microphones etc. Vincent also helped those member of the Parish who were handicapped and gave support to their families.

Thank you, Vincent, for all you have done for this Parish. May you rest in Peace.

The funeral will take place at 2pm on Friday 28th September. Lie-in: Thursday 27th Sept. at 4.30pm

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 organising team are now in the process of:

1. 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, please do so and then pass on their details.

2. 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: santa@albanstephen.com

APF Magazines

The autumn issue of Mission TODAY is now in the Church Porch for collection by promoters. For any queries please call Tony Hughes on 862087 or email: tanda.hughes@btinternet.com

Fire

Climate change is a global problem with grave implications; environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing communities in coming decades.our lack of response to these tragedies involving our sisters and brothers points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow humans upon which all civil society is founded.

Laudato Si 25

Fr Jules great motto was "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved."

The MSCs were founded by Fr Jules Chevalier in Issoudon in 1854. He believed that living out his love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus would benefit all humankind. His message was simple: God cares about every single one of us.

Fr Jules' mission was to choose the things of earth to carry out the purposes of heaven through devotion to the Sacred Heart and responding to the needs of all particularly the poor, isolated or marginalised. Between 12th and 16th October, Fr. Charles Sweeney will lead us in reflecting on this Spirituality of the Heart and how this affects our image of God and ourselves. More details will follow in future bulletins and in the porch.

Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School

Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School warmly invites you to their Open Evening on **Thursday 4th October 2018, 5.30pm - 8.30pm** (Headteacher's Address will take place at 6.30 and 7.30pm) This is an ideal opportunity for prospective families who are starting to consider secondary schools for their Children. Nicholas Breakspear is a mixed secondary school providing Catholic Education in St Albans.



Parish Safeguarding Representative Needed

The Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR) has a special responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people and adults at risk within the parish. This will involve making referrals to the Safeguarding Coordinator where necessary. The PSR is the link between the parish and the diocese and as such is in regular contact with the Safeguarding Coordinator and the DBS Administrator. If you would like to join our safeguarding team, please read the volunteer role description on the noticeboard at the back of the church or contact the Parish Office on 01727 853 585 (Monday - Friday, 9am - 1pm)

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

Confessions: Sat 10.30-11.30am & 6.45-7pm.

Baptisms: by appointment

