

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

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB. Parish Website: www.albanstephen.com

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

9th September 2018

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

There’s a striking phrase in the gospel for this Sunday that we’d do well to reflect on for a moment. It’s the words: ‘Their admiration was unbounded.’ People had heard what Jesus had said, and witnessed what he had done, and they felt deep admiration for him. They were drawn by his goodness, which wasn’t just a matter of words, or fine talk, but a goodness that expresses itself in action.



This invites us to ask ourselves: ‘What kind of qualities do I *admire* in people? What things do I find attractive, genuine, appealing?’ Jesus, the Son of God, had the best and finest of human qualities ... qualities that people couldn’t but admire.

‘Their admiration was unbounded.’

There is a phrase ‘People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.’ That was the case with Jesus – it wasn’t just his wisdom and his teaching that drew people – it was the fact that he lived the vision he shared, and lived the principles he taught. And so, ‘their admiration was unbounded.’

There’s another telling comment in today’s gospel, where we hear that Jesus didn’t want people going and publishing the news of the good he was doing. The main reason for that was that the Lord didn’t want people to follow him only because they were looking at a miracle.

He wanted followers who were willing not just to admire him, but to share
– and live by – his vision.

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 stephenrpickard@gmail.com

First Holy Communion

Table Leaders’ Meeting

Meeting for Table Leaders Volunteers only, **Monday 10th September** in the Parish Hall at 7pm, followed by safeguarding meeting at 7.30pm

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**.

The Programme for Children

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

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including Lillian Lowe and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Marie Smith, Maurice Bambury and Hannah Moore.



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

Mass Intentions for the Week 9.9.2018

6pm Algerina da Silva Anniv.

8am People of the Parish

9am M'wick Mary Kate Geoghegan RIP

9.30am James and John O'Brien Anniv.

11.30am Brendan Hunt RIP

4pm Polish Mass

7pm Elisabeth Page RIP

Monday - Feria

10am Fr. Tom Hewitt MSC

7pm Pino D'Anziri RIP

Tuesday - Feria

10am Jean Mulderrig RIP

NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – The Most Holy Name of Mary

10am Priests' Intentions

7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. John Chrysostom

10am Lily Kelly RIP

NO EVENING MASS

Friday – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

10am Catherine Davis Ints.

7pm Elie Kiely Ints.

Saturday – Our Lady of Sorrows

10am Joseph Collins Ints.

6pm John Paton Anniv.

Next Sunday

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

Last week's offertory amounted to £2,048.93

Thank you for your generosity.

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

Life Houses – Thank You

Life Houses provide temporary accommodation to homeless pregnant women and homeless mums and their babies. In the St Albans Life house there are currently 3 tenants, two of which are pregnant and one has a baby. Due to the generosity of the Knights of St Columba, who hold a bingo for Life each year, St Albans Abbey Cathedral who give an annual donation and our very supportive parishioners and Life members, the house has been refurbished quite considerably this year. Every year the Life houses at St Albans and High Wycombe (1 mum and baby and two expectant mums), are included in the You Can Be Santa scheme and the Easter Egg distribution. (There is no local Life group in High Wycombe to offer financial and other support). Janice Impey, the support worker for both Houses, gives regular cookery lessons to the mums and donations from parishioners help towards the costs. Janice and the mums from both Life houses would like to thank everyone for continual support of prayers, money and donations of baby clothes and equipment. They are greatly appreciated.

Air

'The earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail" (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf Gen 2:7), our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters...

The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.'
Laudato Si, 2,21

Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School Sixth Form

Come and join Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School Sixth Form. There are still courses available for you to join the NBS community which is considered in the top 10% of sixth forms in the country. The sixth form is welcoming and aspirational and our students benefit from small class sizes, a wide range of academic courses, as well as exceptional guidance and support. Contact Mr Laing (Head of Sixth Form) on laingc@nbs.herts.sch.uk or telephone 01727860079 for more information.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

God's prophet has a word that is tailored to the faint-hearted: 'Courage! Do not be afraid.'

Second Reading: James 2:1-5

The letter of St. James is steeped in practical Christianity. We are not to make distinctions on the basis of appearance or social standing – God himself has not done so.

Gospel Reading: Mark 7:31-37

Jesus frees the speech and hearing of a deaf and dumb man. We are all called to speak God's praise and to hear his word.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7.12; Lk 6:6-11

Tue: 1 Cor 6 :1-11 ; Ps 149 :1-6.9 ; Lk 6:12-19

Wed: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 44:11-12.14-17; Lk 6:20-26

Thu: 1 Cor 8:1-7.11-13; Ps 138:1-3.13-14.23-24; Lk 6:27-38

Fri: Num 21:4-9; Ps 77:1-2.34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Sat: Heb 5:7-9; Ps 30:2-6.15-16.20; Jn 19:25-27

Dates for September

Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' Prayers will meet on **Monday September 10th at 8pm in room 2.**

Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome.
office@mothersprayers.org

Finding Silence Weekend

19th-21st October 2018, Walsingham, Norfolk

Come to a meeting on **Thursday 13th September at 8pm** in the parish hall if interested or already booked on. **The booking deadline and final payment is 14th September.**

Some standard rooms costing £110 remain available for anyone needing time away. We will be led by the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham and can benefit from closeness to the Norfolk countryside. For further information pick up a leaflet from the back of the church or Marshalswick Mass Centre or contact Krystyna at krystyna@faithknowledge.org
Tel 01727 751 094.

BINGO, is back.

On Friday, 14th September in the Parish Hall at 8 O'Clock, to raise funds for the Knights of St. Columba. Admission is 50p towards refreshments and everyone is most welcome.



CTSA Autumn Prayer Walk 2018

The annual CTSA Prayer Walk will take place on **Sunday, 16th 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.

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.



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.



The Grace of the Present Moment

A morning reflection with Sr Regina McGarry OP & Monika Cleaver. Give your spirit time as another month unravels and allow God's grace to sooth you. **Thursday, 27th September**

(10.00 am - 12.30 pm). Suggested donation £6; registrations welcome. Niland Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE.

Information: nilandcentre@gmail.com

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 29th September

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 "d4dstalban@gmail.com" for more details



NEWS BULLETIN

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.

Walsingham Pilgrimage for the Sanctity of Life

Sunday 7th October

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Adults £17.50
Children & Students £8.00. For more
information: www.prolifepilgrimage.org.
To book contact Maria 01582 624024/ 07969 171422/
maria@oloughlin.co.uk

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



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 (sylviacwhite@talktalk.net/01727 854596)



Ethos and Principles of the MSCs

"The Spirit of our society is one of love and kindness, humility and simplicity"

Since 1899 Ss Alban & Stephen has been blessed to have been served by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Their ministry is founded in the Spirituality of the Sacred Heart, whereby Christ's love for His people is empowering, healing, liberating and challenging. This ethos gives our parish the unique and distinctive atmosphere that prevails today.

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.

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:

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 and asking if they would like to take part, 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

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment

