

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



30th September 2018

If we were to take every word of Jesus in the gospel literally, there'd be a lot of blind, lame and maimed people about. *'If your hand, or your foot, or your eye, should cause you to sin, tear them off'.*

- so says Jesus in today's gospel reading. Clearly, we're not intended to take

these words to the letter. But not taking words *literally* doesn't mean not taking them *seriously*.



It doesn't actually take too much effort to get to the meaning of those strong words: Jesus is telling us that if something that is a part of our life is causing us to sin, or has become a problem, we may need to cut it off.

An alcoholic doesn't need to drink less, but to quit drinking, to amputate any part of his or her former life that might lead back to drink. The effort involved in giving up an addiction may feel like an amputation. But it's only the way to life: indeed it's the *only* way to life.

Jesus understands our tendency to sin. He knows that left to ourselves, we often go with gravity, with the flow. Given our natural tendency to fall rather than to rise, it will sometimes be the case that we need to cut *out*, rather than just cut *down*.

If we examine ourselves and discover that, by the grace of God, there is nothing in our life that is particularly harmful, any specific occasion of sin, then we thank God. But even if that's the case, Jesus' words still have something to say to us. They invite us to be on our guard and to seek the Lord's help in our weakness.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CAFOD - Film

Saturday, 6th October after 6pm Mass

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 after Masses. 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 be appreciated. Please enter your name and contact details on the Helpers List. We would be very grateful for donations of homemade cakes and apple crumbles. All food can be left in the Tea Bar or brought to the hall from 1pm on 7th



October. Entrance is free but there will be a raffle to defray expenses.

Any queries contact Helen 07860 830340

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 second count will be taken this weekend, 29th / 30th September.**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including Fr. Pat O'Sullivan MSC, Billy Goodall, 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 Mary Miskell, Magdalena Pedroz, Callum Gathard, 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, Margaret Moloney, Alice Daly, 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, Catrin Rees-Doherty, Sheila Doohan, Janet Szymczak, Noah Gregorio, Gerry Smith, Edmond Mansfield, Teresa Hill, Ida Daswa & Derita Whyte, may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

30.9.2018

6pm Conal Boyle RIP
8am People of the Parish
9am M'wick Vincent O'Reilly RIP
9.30am Joseph Spudic & Ann McCandless RIP
11.30am Deceased members of the Coyne
and Mullane Family
7pm Catherine Mayes Ints.

Monday – St. Thérèse of the Child of Jesus

10am COMMUNION SERVICE

7pm COMMUNION SERVICE

Tuesday – The Holy Guardian Angels

10am COMMUNION SERVICE

NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Feria

10am Dalar Family Ints.

7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. Francis of Assisi

10am Damien Meyer Anniv.

4.30pm LIE-IN FOR BRIDGET LAVER

NO EVENING MASS

Friday – Feria

10am FUNERAL OF BRIDGET LAVER

7pm Elisabeth Page RIP

Saturday – St. Bruno

10am Paolo Grilli RIP

6pm Alec Anderson RIP

Next Sunday

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am People of the Parish
9am M'wick Lillian & John Walsh
and Anne & Peter Headley
9.30am James Smith Anniv.
11.30am Pat and Mary Curran RIP
7pm The Moore Family Ints.

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

Next weekend,
there will be
a second collection
for CAFOD Harvest Day.

Monday & Tuesday – 1st / 2nd October

Please note that there will be Communion Services
on Monday 1st October (10am & 7pm) and Tuesday
2nd October (10am) instead of Mass.

Everyone is very welcome.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux



Marie Francois Thérèse Martin was born in Alençon, France 2 January 187, the much loved and spoilt youngest of 9 children of which only 5 daughters survived all of whom were to become nuns. Her mother died when Thérèse was 4 and soon after the family moved to Lisieux. In 1882, Thérèse became seriously ill and her family constantly prayed before a statue of Our Lady.

Thérèse later described how “the statue became animated” and all pain vanished. Cured of all illness, she resolved to enter Carmel. She became more convinced of her vocation aged 14 on Christmas Eve when she felt. Jesus came into her heart effecting a change that left her able to appreciate others’ feelings above her own.

Initially, she was refused entry to Carmel because of her age, but permission was granted following her personal plea her to Pope Leo XIII. In 1887, she entered Carmel aged 15. She devoted herself to living a life of holiness, doing all things with love and childlike trust in God. She sometimes struggled with life in the convent, but tried to be charitable to all, especially those who irritated her. She performed little acts of charity and little sacrifices not caring how unimportant they seemed. She always dreamed of being a missionary, an Apostle, a martyr – yet she was a nun in a quiet cloister in France. How could she fulfil these longings? Thérèse offered herself as a sacrificial victim to the merciful Love of God and the following year, she noticed the first symptoms of tuberculosis, the illness which would lead to her death. Thérèse welcomed the suffering as an answer to her offering the previous year. She also began to undergo a trial of faith which lasted until her death a year and a half later on 30 September 1897 at the age of 24.

A few years earlier, she wrote her personal story, this “Story of a Soul” unexpectedly very quickly achieved the worldwide circulation it still enjoys. St Thérèse wrote, “You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them.” Millions have been inspired by her ‘little way’ of loving God and neighbour. Many miracles have been attributed to her intercession.

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” – reference to the many graces obtained through her intercession. She also said “I will come down and I will help priests, missionaries and the whole church”. Unsurprisingly then she is the patron saint of missionaries. Lisieux remains an inspiring place of pilgrimage. 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. On 1 October, her feast day, we honour the life of St Thérèse.

First Reading: Numbers 11:25-29

Moses shows us that one sign of an authentic prophet is the desire that all people be filled with God’s Spirit.

Second Reading: James 5:1-6

The rich are condemned, not because they have more than they need but because they have turned a blind eye to those who have less than they need.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Jesus wants everyone to do God’s work; he wants all his disciples to shine with God’s light.

Dates for October

Catholic Women's League

Tuesday 2nd October

Meet after 10am Mass for coffee and a look around our new St. Albans Museum and Art Gallery. Everyone is welcome.

Holy Hour for Men

4th October 2018 in The Prayer Room at 8pm

Come join us for this Holy Hour.

The Holy Hour includes Rosary, a Gospel reading, meditation and silent prayer, and is followed by refreshments. For more information please contact Michael Crabtree on 07510 140759 or via email michael.crabtree@hotmail.co.uk



First Friday 24-hour Adoration

First Friday 24-hour adoration of the blessed sacrament in the Prayer Room. 11am Friday 5th October to 11am Saturday 6th October

Family Fast Day

Friday 5th October

On Family Fast Day CAFOD invites us to eat simply – perhaps having a bowl of soup instead of a meal – and give the money we save to help in remote villages in Uganda. The area is so hot and dry, that people used to struggle to get enough clean water to survive. Donation envelopes are available at the back of the Church and in Marshalswick, after 9am Mass.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Programme for Children

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

Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' Prayers will meet on Monday

October 8th at 8pm in room 2.

Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome.

Information from; office@mothersprayers.org

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.

Youth

The next Youth Strategy Team meeting will be held in room 1 of the parish centre on Tuesday Oct 9th from 9:15am to 9:55am finished in time for 10am mass should that be on your 'to do list' for the day.

If you might be curious as to what we do, or be interested in joining the team, you'll be very welcome.

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)



BINGO.

In the Parish Hall on Friday, 12th October at 8 O'Clock to raise funds for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Admission is 50p towards refreshments, and everyone is most welcome to come.

Thank you to everyone that supported our last Bingo evening. £100-00 was raised for the Knights of St. Columba.



Chevalier Family

*We are to be on Earth the heart of God.
God has no other heart than ours.*

Fr Jules Chevalier understood that lay people as well as religious and clerics were integral to the society that he founded. Thus, lay people are invited to discover ways to live this Spirituality of the Heart in their day to day lives just as religious men and women express and fulfil this spirituality in community. Lay women and men here in St Albans, as elsewhere, express this spirituality in their lives as single or married people in their homes, work places and beyond.

On 16th October we will particularly celebrate all that is done, individually or in groups, in our parish for love of God and neighbour; you are invited to a Liturgy in Church at 7 pm followed by a shared plate meal in the Parish Hall. During the weekend of 12th to 14th 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.

X:site St. Albans

Party for school years 3-6. Fun and games; Live music; Drinks and snacks. Supported by our parish for young Christians to have fun and learn about Jesus. Saturday 13th October, 6-8pm. £2 per child.

Venue: St. Lukes Church, Cell Barnes Lane, St. Albans. AL1 5QJ. Or please could you help on the night. Youth and adult volunteers needed.

For more info contact David Markham 07543 400650

NEWS BULLETIN

Schools

Loreto College - Open Weeks

Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3RQ

For prospective pupils applying to Loreto College for a secondary school place in September 2019, guided tours during the school day will take place from 1st and 12th October.

Appointments can be made by calling 01727 856206.

St. Columba's College - Open Morning

St. Columba's College and Prep School, the independent Catholic boys' school in St Albans, will be holding an Open Morning for both the Prep and Senior School (4-18)

on Saturday 6th October 2018, 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Means-tested bursaries are available for a small number of Catholic boys entering Year 3 & Year 7 Bursary applications for Sept. 2019 entry must be made by the end of Oct. 2018 and, if eligible, will need to be successful in the entrance exams to be held in January.

For further information, contact Mrs Hilary Causer: admissions@stcolumbascollege.org / 01727 892 040

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.



Site Manager Vacancy

St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School (Marshalswick) are looking for a friendly and reliable part-time site manager (20 hours per week) to take care of our school. Caretaking experience is desirable, however training will be provided. For further details about this position please visit www.teachinherts.com and search for the school name.

Marshalswick Mass Centre - Bags 2 School

As a fund raising scheme, the Governors of St John Fisher Primary School, Marshalswick will be handing out "Bags 2 School" at Mass, Sunday 30th September 2018. Any old or unwanted items of clothing or shoes can be put in these Bags, ready for collection Sunday 7th October 2018, from the Mass Centre.

For further details contact Ofure. Tel.No: 07944 167 802
ofuregov@sfisher.herts.sch.uk

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. 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)

Getting Married in the next 12 months?



A Marriage Preparation programme will be running in the Parish soon. If you are planning to get married in the next 12 months, please contact Fr. Jimmy as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

Can you help?

Help is required to prepare a light meal for our Alpha guests, for just one night of the course, at 7.30pm in the parish hall. This can be prepared at home and brought in. Help will be available in the kitchen on the night. The course starts on Oct. 11th on Thursday nights until Dec. 6th. And runs again on 3 nights after Christmas. If you feel you could help out, please contact Sylvia on: sylviacwhite@talktalk.net or tel. 01727 854596

Formation for Liturgical Ministries

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy

Communion & Ministers of the Word

Ministers already commissioned or appointed in their parishes are invited to take part in two days' training and the Day of Prayer and Reflection.

Speakers: Sister Anne Walsh OP and Sister Karen Marguerite d'Artois OP are Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of Saint Catherine of Siena of Newcastle, Natal based at Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire. **Training starts in October.** This programme will be run in 2 central locations. For full information on dates, times and locations, please visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/liturgicalministries> or e-mail to livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk
Registration is required at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or leave a voice message at 020 7931 6078.

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

Prayer for the Earth

*All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures,
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists,
Pour out upon us the power of your love that we may protect life and beauty, Fill us with peace, that we may live as sisters and brothers, harming no one.
O God of the poor, Help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation and to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray,
in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.*

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

