

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

7th October 2018

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's gospel is challenging. It contains two instances of Jesus correcting a popular opinion of the time and offering an alternative way. The first one of the few times Jesus is presented as speaking about marriage.

The question asked by the Pharisees is whether it is 'against the Law' for a man to divorce his wife. Note that they do not ask whether divorce is right, or just - only whether it is legal. They are testing Jesus of course. They know the answer and so does he: divorce was indeed allowed under the law. Divorce was relatively common in the society of the time, though there were different interpretations of the law.



But Jesus, as always, is less concerned about the law than the rightness of the situation. He directs his questioners instead to God's plan for marriage and the unity between a married couple.

When he delivers his strongest words about divorce, it is in the context of adultery; the sin is not the breaking of the legal agreement, but the betrayal of one's spouse.

The second part of the gospel sees Jesus once again teaching people to look at things in a new way. Children at the time of Jesus, not unlike wives, were often viewed as property, without any rights of their own. The disciples fail to show any concern for them when they turn them away. But Jesus welcomes them, blesses them, and treats them with love and concern. He goes so far as to present them as teachers, on account of their faith and openness. Another surprising attitude!

Form Signing

for Secondary School Admissions

The priests will be available to sign your Certificate of Catholic Practice on **Monday 8th October, 4pm - 6.30pm** and **Tuesday 9th October, 6.30pm - 8pm**.

For more information on Certificates of Catholic Practice, please visit www.loreto.herts.sch.uk or www.nicholasbreakspearschool.co.uk

"Our love of neighbour should be tender-hearted and compassionate"

Fr. Jules Chevalier's fundamental ideals have stood the test of time and are applicable to life today. The MSC mission today is mindful of Jesus's calling to do everything with love and to respect everyone whatever their gender, race and social standing. Pope Francis lays a strong emphasis on mercy and compassion as central to the mission of the Church and displays similar sentiment to those articulated by Fr. Jules 160 years earlier.

Starting on 12th October, Fr Charles Sweeney will lead us next weekend in reflecting on this Spirituality of the Heart and how this affects our image of God and ourselves. See the flyers and poster in the porch for more details. You will also be invited to write a prayer for whatever is in your heart which will be left on the altar to be prayed over during the weekend. On the 16th October, everyone in the parish is invited to share in the final celebration of all that is done, individually or in groups, here in our parish, for the love of God and neighbour. Mass will be celebrated at 7pm in Church followed by a meal in the Parish Hall. We simply ask that people bring a plate of food to share, drinks will be provided free of charge.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including Brendan Kearns, Fr. Pat O'Sullivan MSC, Billy Goodall, Vincent O'Reilly, Bridget Laver and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Mary Minogue.



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 Mincu, 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 Dooan, Janet Szymczak, Noah Gregorio, Gerry Smith, Edmond Mansfield, Teresa Hill, Ida Daswa & Derita Whyte, may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

7.10.2018

6pm Alec Anderson RIP
8am People of the Parish
9am M'wick Lilian & John Walsh
and Anne & Peter Headley
9.30am James Smith Anniv.
11.30am Pat and Mary Curran RIP
7pm The Moore Family Ints.

Monday – Feria

10am Ruari MacDonald RIP
7pm Martin Brosnan Anniv.

Tuesday – St. Denis

10am FUNERAL OF WILLIAM GOODALL
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – St. Paulinus of York

10am Fr. Pat O'Sullivan MSC
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. John XXIII

10am FUNERAL OF JOHN BRENDAN
KEARNS
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – St. Wilfrid

10am Alexander and Loni Vengler Anniv.
7pm Spirituality of the Sacred Heart

Saturday – St. Edward the Confessor

10am NO MASS
11am MEMORIAL MASS FOR FR. TOM
DUANE MSC
6pm Karen Rowley Doran Anniv.

Next Sunday

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Graham Smith Anniv.
9am M'wick Fiona Wright RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11.30am Mary Curran RIP
and Tim Donohue Anniv.
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Carlo Grilli Anniv.

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

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

CAFOD Family Fast Day Collection this weekend

CAFOD works with poor communities overseas on our behalf, helping them to tackle poverty and injustice. Last Friday was Family Fast Day, please return your CAFOD envelope this weekend, with your donation and contribute to of the second collection which will take place at all Masses.

Fast Day Prayer

Creator God,
in love you give life.
In your generosity
you create the gifts of the earth.
As daughters and sons of the
same Father, may we learn
to share the plentiful gifts of
creation, especially with those
most in need.
Give us open hands and
loving hearts, so that we take less
and give more.
We ask that all may benefit from
your goodness, and share in the
fullness of life you have promised.
Amen.

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.

What has happened in our parish since the Parish Assembly in June 2017?

The Parish Assembly held in June 2017 confirmed that the existing strategy areas (Liturgy, Mission, Youth, Community Support and Justice & Peace) should continue to be areas of focus for the parish. It also highlighted three main areas (communication, youth and leadership of the laity) for particular attention. Much has been done since June, 2017! Full details are in given in the sheet available with the bulletin this week.

First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

The woman is described as the man's 'helpmate'. Far from being a put-down, the same word is used of God himself elsewhere in the Bible.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

Jesus was made low, then raised high. We are called to follow him, so that God may raise us up.

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:2-16

This section of Mark's Gospel reminds us of the demands of following Christ.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Gal 1:6-12; Ps 110:1-2.7-10; Lk 10:25-37
Tue: Gal 1:13-24; Ps 138:1-3.13-15; Lk 10:38-42
Wed: Gal 2:1-2.7-14; Ps 116:1-2; Lk 11:1-4
Thu: Gal 3:1-5; Ps Lk 1:69-75; Lk 11:5-13
Fri: Gal 3:7-14; Ps 1Ps 110:1-6; Lk 11:15-26
Sat: Gal 3:22-29; Ps 104:2-7; Lk 11:27-28

Dates for October



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 (sylviaacwhite@talktalk.net/01727 854596)



'Refugees: Where to Start? A Parish Response'

Thursday 11th October, 7-9pm, at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN. Tea and coffee will be available from 6.30pm. Bishop Paul McAleenan will be leading the event, and will be joined by other organisations including the Jesuit Refugee Service, Enfield Welcome Group, Notre Dame Refugee Service and the Haringey Migrant Support Centre, as well as many others. Please RSVP to caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk, or call on 0207 798 9030

"What is Spirituality", "What might Sacred Heart Spirituality look like?" led by Fr Charles Sweeney MSC



Friday 12th October:

7.30pm, Meeting room 1. Come and learn more about the ethos that guides our priests and makes our Parish unique. **"To see as Christ saw - a dangerous thing to do!"**

led by Fr Charles.

Saturday 13th October:

In Church: 11am Mass

followed by 11.45am **Way of the Cross**

12.30pm **Simple lunch in Parish Centre.**

In Parish Hall: 1.15pm **Images of God** followed at 2.15pm **Images of Ourselves.**

3.30pm **Meditation with scripture reading.**

Prayer walk in St Albans led by Fr Charles, Sunday 14th October, 2pm with meditations outside

Church, returning to the Parish Centre for tea and cake around 3.30pm.

Monday 15th October:

7.30pm in Parish Hall: **"Join the Mission - a journey of 8,047 miles in one night!"** - Experience how Sacred Heart Spirituality is lived out in missionary work in South Africa "Our love of neighbour should be tender-hearted and compassionate"

Tuesday 16th October:

7pm Mass: **We celebrate all that is currently done by parishioners for love** - everyone is invited to share in this witness that their work is living out the Spirituality of the Heart; followed by meal in the Hall, please bring a plate of food to share, drinks will be provided.

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.



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 400 650

NEWS BULLETIN

....more dates for October



Knit and Natter

The Knit and Natter Group will be meeting on **Tuesday 16th October 2.30-4pm** in the Parish centre. All welcome - wool and light refreshments will be provided.

Churches Together in St Albans Vatican II and You

Vatican II had a big impact on ecumenism. But what was it about, what did it do and what effect did it have on you? *Come and have your say.* The Churches Together Autumn Forum 7.45pm for 8pm start **Thursday 18th October** City Church, Unity Works, Lyon Way, AL4 0LB. ctstalbans.org.uk



Men's Film Night

We have a men's film night in the Parish Centre, on Friday 26th October. This month we are going for a 1980s classic, "the Mission" about two Jesuits working in South America in 1700s, starring Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons.

You can join us for drinks and pizza from 7.30pm and then we will watch the film at 8.30pm. You are very welcome to bring one or two friends along. For more details please contact me Richard on 07976 252 309.

Graves Blessing

Fr Kevin Moule will be blessing graves on **Sunday 4th November 2018**. Fr Kevin will be at London Road Cemetery, St Albans, at 12.45pm; and then he will then go on to the Cemetery by S. Peter's Church in London Colney for 1.30pm. At 1.45pm Fr Kevin will be at the Cemetery in Shenley and at 2.15 in Christchurch Cemetery in Radlett (please meet in Christchurch carpark).

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 third count will be taken this weekend, 6th / 7th October.**

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: sylviaacwhite@talktalk.net or tel. 01727 854596

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

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.

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 handed out "Bags 2 School" at Mass on Sunday 30th September 2018. Any old or unwanted items of clothing or shoes can be put in these Bags, ready for collection this Sunday 7th October 2018, from the Mass Centre. For further details contact Ofure. Tel.No: 07944 167 802
ofuregov@sifisher.herts.sch.uk

School Governors Needed

Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Junior are great schools and are particularly seeking candidates to fulfil governor duties, who have accountancy skills or do not have children at either school. Governors simply by asking the school some key questions and listening to the responses, can help the schools improve their performance.

If you're ready to start asking the right questions, then you are be ready to join the Governing Body. For more information, please in the first instance email: governors@ssasinfants.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)

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

