

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.org

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

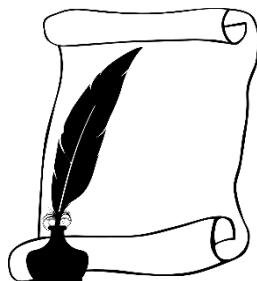
Youth Co-ordinator Sr. Anita O'Leary SSJG, e-mail: anitaoleary@rcdow.org.uk

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

27th January 2019

There is something about the opening sentences of Luke's Gospel that grabs one's attention. He is the only Gospel writer to give us information about his purpose and sources. He writes for Theophilus, whose name in Greek suggests 'lover of God'. Theophilus may have been a patron of Luke's but we can also take this name that Luke writes for all lovers of God, i.e. for all of us.



Jesus, as was his custom, attends the service at his local synagogue. It is clear that Jesus was a faithful Jew even though he is about to have some serious run-ins with the Jewish religious leaders.

This moment is one of the most powerful passages in the New Testament, as Jesus sets out his manifesto for ministry. Reading from Isaiah, Jesus tells the crowd that this passage is being fulfilled as they hear it, his ministry would be one focused on freeing people from various types of oppression.

This passage is as relevant in our world today as it was for Jesus' time: people still await liberation, the oppressed are not free. This is not a passage read in the past: it is very much alive, a vision for all to have as Christians and to work out of.

Just as the scriptures are fulfilled in Jesus, they are also fulfilled in each of our lives.

*'Although they heard you, Lord,
They failed to listen.*

They heard only what they wanted to hear.

*The truth hurt them, you made them feel
uncomfortable, and they rejected you...*

*Show us how we may seek your Kingdom
and help to bring peace to a troubled world.'*

Tony Singleton

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

CONFIRMATIONS

Next Meeting for Parents

Monday 28th January 8pm, in the Parish Hall

Services of Light

Tuesday/Wednesday,

5th / 6th February 7pm, in the Church

Next Meeting for Candidates

Sunday 10th February,

5pm - 6.30pm, in the Parish Hall

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Westminster Cathedral, London

Saturday 8th June 2019 at 3pm.

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th
and 60th (and every year over 60)

wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2019.

If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the Parish Office the following details:

Husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and e-mail (or telephone number, if no e-mail) **by 20th March 2019**

Tel.no: 01727 853 585 (Mon - Fri, 9am - 1pm)

E-mail: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including Myra Myers, Robert O'Sullivan Giuseppina Procaccini, Thomas McGovern and Catherine Mayes, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Malcom Smith and Lily Nicholson.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Mary Watkins, Frances Flavin, Sue Gavin, Joe Smalls, Margaret Norris, Betty Nicklin, Joe Spatafora, Mark Norris, Magdalena Pedroz, Teresa Hill, Callum Gathard, Ida Daswa, Patrick Doran, Hannah Barquero-Stack, Adrian Stack, Patricia McCarthy, Liz Smith, Philomena Lines, Francisco Diaz, Catherine Elkin, John Moloney, Carmen Mincu, Teresa Virrueta, Mike Smith, Bernadette Marron, Margaret Moloney, Alice Daly, Patrick Foley, Jim O'Neill, Jack O'Mahoney, Jim Moss, Carmaline Xavier, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O'Gorman, John Baxter, Jim O'Connor, Kathleen Murphy, Edie Hale, Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM, Geraldine McBride, Becki Vousden, Vertina Fernandes, John Rowland, Veronica Hamilton, Claire Whitehead, Catrin Rees-Doherty, Sheila Doohan, Noah Gregorio, Gerry Smith and Edmond Mansfield may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

27.1.2019

6pm Maureen Bishop nee Mannion RIP

8am People of the Parish

9am M'wick Shirley Hennessy RIP

9.30am Fr. Tom Hewitt MSC Anniv.

11.30am Maddalena Lazzara RIP

4pm Polish Mass

7pm Pat and Carmel Moloney Anniv.

Monday – St. Thomas Aquinas

10am Bridget Laver RIP

7pm Richard Richardson Ints

Tuesday – Feria

10am **FUNERAL OF MYRA MYERS**

NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Feria

10am **FUNERAL OF ROBERT O'SULLIVAN**

7pm Malcom Smith Anniv.

Thursday – St. John Bosco

10am Priests' Intentions

NO EVENING MASS

Friday – Feria

10am Fr. Tom Hewitt MSC Anniv.

11.30am **FUNERAL SERVICE**

FOR THOMAS McGOVERN

7pm Declan O'Donoghue RIP

Saturday – The Presentation of the Lord

10am May Poe RIP

6pm Joseph Spudic Anniv.

Next Sunday

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Giuseppe Campanella Anniv.

9am M'wick Stephen Cummins RIP

9.30am People of the Parish

11.30am Leonardo Venetico Anniv.

7pm Mick Walsh RIP

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

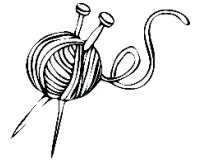
Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter group will be held in

Room 1 on Tuesday January 29th

2.30-4pm. We are all at different stages in our knitting skills but can all enjoy a cup of tea, a biscuit and a

natter. Everyone is welcome.



Life Ascending (Ascent)

Meeting on Tuesday 29th January at 10.30am

in Room 1. Talk on "Political Correctness v. Christianity. All are welcome.

Traidcraft

Traidcraft after all Masses at the church on 2nd/3rd February. All proceeds to Cafod.

Traidcraft after 9am Mass at St John Fisher on Sunday 10th February.



Traidcraft coffee afternoon at 43 Avenue Road on Tuesday 12th February, 2 - 4pm.

More details, enquiries or orders please contact Maureen on 01727 765 549.

Watford, Hemel & St. Albans NHS Hospital Chaplaincy

On admission to hospital, please ensure that your religion is registered and ask for this information to be given to the hospital chaplaincy team. Chaplains visit the wards during the week and will organise sacramental and pastoral care; they also provide an 'on-call' service in case of emergency. Please let your parish clergy know if you or a close relative are in hospital or you can contact the hospital chaplaincy directly by calling 01923 217994 referrals can also be made via email: spiritualcare@whht.nhs.uk

First Reading:

Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

When the people hear God's word and realize how they have failed to live by it, they are saddened. But then they are reassured: *'The joy of the Lord is your stronghold'.*

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

St. Paul describes how different people with different gifts make up the church. We are not in competition, any more than a hand and a foot are in competition. We are all necessary.

Gospel Reading:

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

What qualifies Luke to draw up his Gospel is his love for the truth of Jesus. We gain credibility from our closeness to Jesus.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Heb 9:15.24-28; Ps 97:1-6; Mk 3:22-30

Tue: Heb 10:1-10; Ps 39:2.4.7-8.10.11; Mk 3:31-35

Wed: Heb 10:11-18; Ps 109:1-4; Mk 4:1-20

Thu: Heb 10:19-25; Ps 23:1-6; Mk 4:21-25

Fri: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 36:3-6.23-24.39-40; Mk 4:26-34

Sat: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 23:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

Dates for February

First Friday

Blessed Sacrament 24-hour Adoration in the Prayer Room 11am **Friday 1st February till 11am Saturday 2nd**. If you are able to attend, even if it's for just half-an-hour, please enter your name in the rota at the back of the church.

X:site

Saturday 2nd February, 6-8pm

£2 per child. For school years 3-6. Fun and games; Live music; Drinks and snacks. A joint event with our parish for young Christians to have fun and learn about Jesus. Venue: St. Luke's 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. Register on the website www.the267project.com



You Can Be Santa - Thanksgiving Mass

Mass on **Monday 4th February** at 7pm will be offered in thanksgiving for the overwhelming success of the 2018 project; the response from the Parish was once again outstanding. Everyone who helped in any way, as visitor, benefactor or co-ordinator, is invited to the Mass and afterwards to join the Santa team for light refreshments in the Parish Centre. We would welcome any observations about the process, and suggestions for improvement, at the social or by e-mail santa@albanstephen.com You have truly spread the real joy and true message of Christmas!

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Concert with Alexander Armstrong

Alexander Armstrong will be performing at a fundraising concert in aid of SVP Vinnie Packs for the homeless alongside renowned soprano, Miranda Heldt, actor Alex Macqueen and the Choir With No Name on **Monday 4th February at 7pm** at Farm Street Church, Mayfair. Tickets costing £30 are available by typing Vinnie Packs in the "Looking for" section on the Eventbrite website www.eventbrite.co.uk. Thank you.



Catholic Women's League

The CWL will be meeting in Room 1 after 10am Mass on **Tuesday, 5th February**. Sr. Anita will be sharing some "Random Reflections" with us. Everyone is very welcome to come to it. £2 (includes coffee / tea and raffle)



Parish Friends - Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Friends Group will be held In Room 1 on **Wednesday 6th February** at 7.45pm. New members welcome.

BINGO

In the Parish Hall on **Friday, 8th February at 8 O'Clock**. Admission is 50p towards refreshments and everyone is most welcome to come. Many thanks to those that supported the last Bingo evening by the Knights of St. Columba. £275 was raised for Centre 33.



New Parishioners' Welcome

We would like to invite all new parishioners to join our priests and members of the Parish Pastoral Council and other fellow parishioners for tea and coffee after all Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday on the **weekend of 9th and 10th February**. We look forward to meeting you!



Use of the Parish Kitchen and Coffee Bar

A training session on hygiene in food preparation will be held on **Saturday 9th February** at 10.45am in the Parish Hall for all people who use or wish to use the parish kitchen or coffee bar. Please make every effort to attend if you wish to continue to use these parish facilities.

Mother's Prayers

Mother's Prayers will meet on **Monday February 11th at 8pm in room 2**. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from email: office@mothersprayers.org

Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held on **Saturday 16th February, 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 it is necessary to have a letter from your Parish Priest giving permission to baptise here.



Parish Friends - Film

Parish Friends will be showing the highly acclaimed film "Mama Mia-Here We Go Again" on **Sunday 17th February** in the Hall. Refreshments will be served from 2.30pm and the film will be shown at 3pm. All welcome.

NEWS BULLETIN

'Learn from Me' Formation Programme Information Evenings

A new Formation Programme, for all involved in parish ministry. Developed in partnership with the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham.

**Certificate in Parish Mission and Ministry,
Certificate in Catechesis
and A Catechesis on Marriage and Family.**

Tuesday 29th January 2019

The Most Precious Blood & St Edmund, 115 Hertford Rd, Edmonton N9 7EN, 7.30 - 9.00pm

Wednesday 30th January 2019

SS Alban and Stephen, 14 Beaconsfield Rd, St Albans AL1 3RB, 7.30-9.00pm, Parish Hall

Thursday 31st January 2019

Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1W 1QN, 7.30-9.00pm (This Information Evening will be the only one at which A Maryvale Institute - A Catechesis on Marriage and Family will be presented along with the other two courses.)

For further information and Application Forms please contact Ausra Cane at the Agency for Evangelisation at ausracane@rcdow.org.uk or 020 7931 6078

"Prayer becomes all powerful when united with the sentiments of Jesus' heart, and when we imitate the example he gave us."



Jules Chevalier, Le Sacré-Cœur, p.224

Living the joy of the Gospel: St Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis by Fr Paul Rout OFM



7-8.30pm, Vaughan House,
46 Francis Street,
London SW1P 1QN

A series of talks
on the following themes:

February 7th, 2019,

'Francis, rebuild my Church':

Being Church in the 21st Century

February 14th, 2019: 'Praised be you, my Lord, for all that you have made': Caring for our common home.

February 28th, 2019: Looking to Christ

Please register at livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk or leave a message at 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation: £5.

Schools

St. Columba's College: St. Columba's College, the independent Catholic boys' school in St Albans, will be holding an assessment day for 13+ entry to the Senior School on Friday 1st February 2019. For more information, or to apply for the tests, please contact Mrs Hilary Causer, Admissions Registrar. 01727 892 040, admissions@stcolumbascollege.org

Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School: Starting Nursery 2019:

Families with a child born between 1. 9. 2015 and 31. 8. 2016 can apply for a Nursery place for September 2019. The application window for Nursery applications closes on Thursday 14 February.

Applicants must complete Application and Options Forms. These can be downloaded from www.ssasininfants.herts.sch.uk or are available from the school office. Parents are welcome to visit the school and a list of dates and times for Foundation Stage tours can be viewed on the school website - please call 01727 854643 to book your appointment.

Loreto College: Loreto College are consulting on proposed changes to the criteria for admission in September 2020. The main change is a proposal to remove the priority given to Practising Catholics over Baptised Catholics. The proposed criteria can be found on the school's website or a copy can be obtained from the school. Any comments on the proposed change should be made in writing to Mrs Williams (PA to the Head) at the school, or by email to swilliams@loreto.herts.sch.uk by 31st January 2019.

Finding Silence at Worth Abbey

13th - 16th May 2019.

In this fully catered stay we are led and directed by a Benedictine monk. You don't have to be Catholic. The cost is £189 (£160.65 concession) per person for a single room or £160.65 per person for a shared room. Booking deadline and final payment: Thursday 4th April. Complete a booking form from the back of the Church or contact krystyna@faithknowledge.org Tel. 01727 751 094

Proclaim Spring Gathering 2019

supporting the setting up and development of Parish Evangelisation Teams, for the formation of Missionary Disciples and development of Missionary Parishes.

With Bishop Paul McAleenan

Saturday 16th February 2019, 9.30am - 3.00pm, Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School, Colney Heath Lane, St Albans AL4 0TT For laity and clergy The events are free, with coffee & tea etc. provided. Please bring your own lunch. To register for the Proclaim Spring Gathering: e-mail Warren Brown at catadmin@rcdow.org.uk, Tel.no: 0207 798 9152

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment