

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



10th February 2019

Imagine you were Peter that day on the shores of the Lake of Gennesaret. He was probably exhausted after fishing all night and fed up that he and his companions had not caught any fish despite all their efforts. It was a very poor return by any standards.

Peter had begun to wash the nets in preparation for the next night's work, silently hoping that it would be more successful. Then Jesus appears on the scene, gets into Peter's boat and asks to sail out a little from the shore. Perhaps Peter had planned to go home and get some rest before another night's fishing. He may have been irritated by Jesus' request but said nothing.



Then, having taught the crowds, Jesus asks Peter to go fishing again. What was Peter's reaction? A brief moment of honest frustration followed by agreement, even though he thought that it was a pointless exercise. He decided to give it a chance because Jesus asked him. He put his trust in Jesus and what a reward he received in return!

There are times in our lives when things get on top of us when things don't go according to plan despite our best efforts. There are times when, like Peter, we can get frustrated. When we are down in ourselves, feeling burnt-out, upset, annoyed by circumstances sometime outside of our control, we should take comfort in Christ's reassuring advice, *'Do not be afraid'*.

He is walking alongside us on our journey. We should put our trust in him and reach out to him in prayer. Are we brave enough to take that risk and see where it leads us?

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Pat Courtney MSC - RIP

Fr. Pat Courtney MSC, former Parish Priest of Ss Alban and Stephen passed away peacefully on Thursday 7th February.
May he rest in peace.



Schools - Form Signing

Our priests will be available for form signing in the Parish Centre on **Monday 11th February, 4.30 - 6pm**

Parish Friends - Film

Parish Friends will be showing the highly acclaimed film "Mama Mia-Here We Go Again" on **Sunday 17th February** in the Parish Hall. Refreshments will be served from 2.30pm and the film will be shown at 3pm. All Welcome. If anyone coming has a spare seat in their car and can offer a lift to someone who does not have transport please contact Helen 07860 830 340.



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 this weekend of 9th and 10th February.**
We look forward to meeting you!

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **Fr. Pat Courtney MSC, Zbigniew 'John' Frosztega, Conway Berners-Lee, Carmela Martin, Nora King, Myra Myers, Robert O'Sullivan, and Thomas McGovern** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including **Mario D'Andrea and Jimmy Murtagh**

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including **Adrain McDonagh, 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, Gerry Smith, Hannah Barquerro-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, Jim Moss, Patrick Foley, Jim O'Neill, Jack O'Mahoney, John Baxter, Carmaline Xavier, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O'Gorman, Jim O'Connor, Kathleen Murphy, Edie Hale, Becki Vousden, Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM, Geraldine McBride, Becki Vousden, Vertina Fernandes, John Rowland, Veronica Hamilton, Claire Whitehead, Catrin Rees-Doherty, Sheila Doohan, Noah Gregorio, and Edmond Mansfield** may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

10.2.2019

6pm	Sr. Mercedes Brogan RIP
8am	Sheila Aylward Anniv.
9am M'wick	Ainsley Lambert Anniv.
9.30am	People of the Parish
11.30am	Peter Baines RIP
4pm	Polish Mass
7pm	Paolo Grilli RIP

Monday – Our Lady of Lourdes

10am	Priests' Intentions
7pm	Carmela Sellecchia RIP

Tuesday – Feria

10am	Tom Taylor Anniv.
12noon	FUNERAL OF CARMELA MARTIN
NO EVENING MASS	

Wednesday – Feria

10am	Josephine Patricia Scanlon RIP
7pm	MSC Benefactors

Thursday – Ss Cyril & Methodius

10am	Sr. Mary Aelred Ints. (Birthday)
NO EVENING MASS	

Friday – Feria

10am	Aidan Clerkin RIP
7pm	Sean Sheridan RIP

Saturday – Feria

10am	Sr. Mary Aelred Ints. (Feast Day)
6pm	Family and Friends of Freda Clancy Ints.

Next Sunday

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am	People of the Parish
9am M'wick	Arthur and Kate Ball Anniv.
9.30am	Christopher Brennan RIP
11.30am	Michael Finucane Anniv.
7pm	Catherine Mayes RIP

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

Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette

During February we are reminded of the events that happened in Lourdes some 160 years ago. February 11th is the feast day of our Lady of Lourdes. February 18th is the feast day of St Bernadette.



St Bernadette was born in Lourdes, France on January 7, 1844. Her parents were very poor and she was the first of nine children. As a toddler, Bernadette contracted cholera and suffered extreme asthma. Unfortunately, she lived the rest of her life in poor health dying at the age of 35.

On February 11, 1858, 14-year-old Bernadette was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather firewood, when a very beautiful lady appeared to her above a rose bush in a grotto called Massabielle. The woman wore blue and white and smiled at Bernadette before making the sign of the cross with a rosary of ivory and gold. Bernadette fell to her knees, took out her own rosary and began to pray. This was the first of daily visions over the next fortnight. In total, Bernadette saw Our Lady 17 times.

Many did not believe Bernadette; she was challenged and tested by the authorities. However, as a result of her belief and, following requests from Our Lady through Bernadette, a chapel was built. A spring dug by Bernadette flowed from the ground in the grotto and 69 miracle cures have been accredited by the Catholic church as a result of drinking or bathing in this water. The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes is now one of the major Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world.

Saint Bernadette is often depicted in prayer with a rosary or appealing to the Holy Virgin. She was beatified in 1925 and canonised by Pope Pius XI in December 1933. Saint Bernadette is the patroness of illness, people ridiculed for their piety, poverty, shepherds, shepherdesses, and Lourdes, France. We can celebrate these two February feasts by saying the rosary and praying for peace as we have been asked to do by Our Lady.

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

In the presence of God's glory, Isaiah feels sinful, unclean. But once he has experienced forgiveness, Isaiah is ready and willing to be God's messenger, willing to accept his calling as a prophet.

Second Reading: Corinthians 15:1-11

Paul urges the Corinthians to be steadfast in believing the gospel he has preached to them. There will always be temptations to turn to right or to left, but we are called to perseverance in the truth.

Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11

At the heart of this Gospel reading are St. Peter's wonderful words. He is tired and despondent, yet he says to the Lord: 'If you say so...'

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Gen 1:1-19; Ps 103:1-2.5-6.10.12.24-35; Mk 6:53-56
Tue: Gen 1:20-2:4; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13
Wed: Gen 2:4-9.15-17; Ps 103:1-2.27-30; Mk 7:14-23
Thu: Acts 13:46-49; Ps 116; Lk 10:1-9
Fri: Gen 3:1-8; Ps 31:1-2.5-7; Mk 7:31-37
Sat: Gen 3:9-24; Ps 89:2-6

Dates for February

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

Traidcraft

Traidcraft coffee afternoon at 43 Avenue Road on **Tuesday 12th February, 2 - 4pm**. More details, enquiries or orders contact Maureen on 765549.

Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter group will be held in Room 1 on **Tuesday 12th February, 2.30-4pm** (then every other Tuesday). 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.

"West the road half-a-mile singers club"

Irish Sing Along Group

After 6 o'clock Mass on Saturday 16th February in the café area in the Parish Centre. All welcome, song sheets and tea provided! Hosted by the Fahy Brothers and St Albans Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann.



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.



Proclaim Spring Gathering 2019

with Bishop Paul McAleenan

on **Saturday 16th February** at **Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School, Colney Heath Lane, St Albans AL4 0TT**, will help all who are interested in sharing their Faith to respond to Pope Francis' call to grow 'Missionary Parishes' and form 'Missionary Disciples'. You are invited to hear talks and presentations, and join in discussion with participants from other parishes, looking at practical ways to enrich and grow our parishes, and to reach out to others through local evangelisation. The event which is free to attend runs from 9.30am to 3.00pm and is open to all. Refreshments will be provided. Please bring your own lunch. To register for Proclaim Spring Gathering e-mail Warren Brown at catadmin@rcdow.org.uk Telephone contact is 0207 798 9152

Men's Film Night

There is a men's film night coming up on **Friday 22nd February in the Parish Hall**. 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 from within or outside the parish.

Rejoice and be Glad

In his third Apostolic Exhortation "*Gaudete et Exsultate*", Pope Francis reflects on the call to holiness. In response to that call, the Lenten faith sharing booklet, written by Monsignor Keith Barltrop of Bayswater Parish, focuses on the joy of being a missionary disciple.

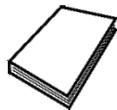
Launch Event

Saturday 23rd February, 10.45am - 1pm in the Parish Hall. To launch this Lenten resource, Mgr Keith will explore themes in "*Gaudete et Exsultate*" to show us what holiness means and why in the Beatitudes, Jesus tells us to "Rejoice and be Glad". This will give us a good base from which we can explore further, using the faith sharing booklet, to grow in holiness during Lent. The talk will be followed by group discussions and a pizza lunch.

Small Groups

Copies of the faith-sharing booklet "Rejoice and be Glad" will soon be available in the church porch and at Marshalswick Mass centre [£3].

Intended for use in a small group or in the setting of one's own home, either as a family or alone, "Rejoice and be Glad" explores how the themes of joyful evangelisation of recent Pope's can bring a new sense of missionary purpose in our parish and help us to grow in holiness. If you would like to join a small group to share and discuss how we can respond to the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, please contact Mike or Sylvia 01727 854 596 or whitew@talktalk.net.



Homemade Soup and Bread Lunch and Film

Please come and join fellow parishioners in this CAFOD Lenten fast day lunch. All welcome. **Saturday 9th March** in the Church Hall. Lunch at noon followed at 1.30pm by the acclaimed animation "The Breadwinner" [rated 12, run time 90 minutes] and tea/coffee and conversation until 4pm. Tickets £2 available after Masses soon. The Breadwinner tells the tale of an 11 year old girl growing up under the Taliban in Kabul in 2001 and how she and her family manage once her father is wrongfully arrested. ★★☆☆ Total Film.

City Centre Churches Lent Course

Finding a voice -

A course based on the "King's Speech"

Weekly sessions all following the same programme so you can mix and match times and days as you wish. **Tuesdays** 12th March - 9th April at Cross Street Centre, Dagnall Street, Baptist Church 10.30am or 8.00pm, or St Peter's, St Peter's Street at 1.30pm. **Thursdays** 14th March - 11th April at 10.00am at Marlborough Road Methodist Church.

NEWS BULLETIN

Feast of Annunciation - Pilgrimage

On the Feast of the Annunciation **25th March 2019**

There will be a pilgrimage to Walsingham with coach from St Albans, to pray for the Sanctity of Life.



Holy Mass in Walsingham at 12noon will be celebrated by the Bishop of East Anglia, Alan Hopes, followed by a visit to the Slipper Chapel and a walk along the Holy Mile to the Priory, the

original site of the holy house requested by Our Lady in 1061. The cost is £20 with special price for families. To book or for further info please contact Rosemary Roscoe 07723 546 642
rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com

Easter Season Painting Competition

The Knights of St Columba (KSC) is promoting a National Easter Season Painting Competition - 2019. Entry is free and is open to students in Catholic secondary schools and also to Catholic students in non-

Catholic secondary schools, in two age groups, from 12 to 18 years. Entry details have been circulated to art departments in Catholic secondary schools in St Albans and district and details can also be found on

Posters and Flyers displayed in the church porch and at Mass centres. In addition to KSC national prizes, there are KSC Provincial and KSC St Albans prizes to be won. The closing date for receipt of entries, to School/College Art Departments, is:

Monday 1st April 2019. Competition enquiries to:
kennedy.p@ntlworld.com

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



Casserole and Baking Dishes

We still have some lovely casserole and baking dishes and plates left from the Christmas Day and Turkey and Tinsel lunches. They are in one of the cupboards in the downstairs kitchen.

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

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

Rough Sleeping in St Albans

Thinking Evening, **Wednesday 13th March 2019** at **Marlborough Road Methodist Church**, when Tom Snell, the Housing Options Team Leader for St Albans City and District Council will be talking about Rough Sleeping in St Albans. Tom is very involved in developing the county wide response to homeless young people. Arrive from 7.30pm for refreshments, 8pm start ending by 9.30pm. Donations to cover expenses and profits will be given to Centre 33, a local charity working with the homeless, and socially or materially disadvantaged people in our community.

Scripture from Scratch

A Journey Through Lent with the Gospel of Luke with Sr Anne Walsh OP. These five sessions explore the Sunday Readings of Lent, inviting us to open our hearts to God's Word in preparation for Easter.

**Thursdays, 14th & 28th February;
14th & 28th March; 11th April
(7.30-9 pm refreshments from 7pm).**

Suggested donation £5/session. **Niland Conference Centre at Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE**

(www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk/programme-of-events or nilandcentre@gmail.com for details).

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment