

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: stalbands@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: stalbands@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07882 566 020

Youth Website: www.sasyouth.com. We are a Fairtrade Parish. Parish Secretary: Ivana Mearns



24th February 2019

*Lord, teach me to be generous,
to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to seek reward,
save that of knowing that I do your holy will.*

The ‘Prayer of Generosity’, which many of us learned as children, is associated with St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuit Order, yet it is unclear whether he actually composed it.

One of the earliest references to it comes from 1910, when it began to be used as a prayer for the French scouting movement. To this day it is often known as ‘The Scout Prayer’ and is used by many Scout groups as a blueprint for the work they do.

The prayer perfectly sums up the generous spirit of the many volunteer organisations and charities whose members give their time and energy so freely and generously to help others.

There are thousands of volunteers all over our country who put love into action by visiting those who are lonely, listening to those who are struggling, providing food and other supplies for those in need, and fundraising for all sorts of worthy causes. Week in and week out, they give without ever counting the cost.

These volunteers are living the message of today’s Gospel, which can be summed up in one short sentence: Thank you, Lord, for volunteers. Make us ever more generous with our time, energy and resources. Help us to be compassionate, as you are compassionate.



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **James Devlin, Sarah Booth, Fr. Pat Courtney MSC, Fr. Henry Twohig MSC, Nora King, Tecla Page** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including **Elizabeth Delaney, William Miller and William Rigg.**

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Nora Barrett, Adrain McDonagh, Mary Watkins, Ida Daswa, Frances Flavin, Sue Gavin, Joe Smalls, Margaret Norris, Betty Nicklin, Joe Spatafora, Mark Norris, Magdalena Pedroz, Teresa Hill, Callum Gathard, Patrick Doran, Gerry Smith, Hannah Barquerro-Stack, Adrian Stack, Patricia McCarthy, Liz Smith, Philomena Lines, Francisco Diaz, Catherine Elkin, John Moloney, Jim Moss, Carmen Mincu, Teresa Virrueta, Mike Smith, John Baxter, Bernadette Marron, Margaret Moloney, Alice Daly, Patrick Foley, Jim O’Neill, Jack O’Mahoney, Edie Hale, Carmaline Xavier, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O’Gorman, Jim O’Connor, Kathleen Murphy, 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

24.2.2019

6pm Mary and Andrew Brady Anniv.
8am People of the Parish
9am M'wick Ken and Mary Neal Anniv.
9.30am Antonio Gramegna Anniv.
11.30am Thomas Kiely Anniv.
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Mary Curran RIP

Monday – Feria

10am Mario D'Andrea Anniv.
7pm Nan Collins RIP

Tuesday – Feria

10am Mary Watkins Ints.
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Feria

10am Myra Myers RIP
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – Feria

10am Priests' Intentions
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – St. David

10am Michael Burke Anniv.
7pm Sue Gavin Ints.

Saturday – Feria

10am Peter McGeeney Anniv.
6pm Linda Peters RIP

Next Sunday

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am People of the Parish
9am M'wick Mr. Vic Taylor RIP
9.30am Christopher Brennan RIP
11.30am Joe Walsh Anniv.
7pm Rod Stones RIP

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

Last weekend's offertory amounted to £1,881.34
The second collection
for Racial Justice amounted to £758.71.
Many thanks for your generosity.

Rejoice and be Glad – a Lenten Resource

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. Copies of the Lenten 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.

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.

Lenten Small Groups

You are invited to join a small group during Lent to explore the themes in the "Rejoice and be Glad" booklet. You are welcome to come along on a Monday after 10am Mass in Room 1 or on Tuesdays at 8pm in the Parish Centre. There are also a few spaces in small groups meeting at other times. For details contact Mike or Sylvia [whitemw@talktalk.net or Tel. 01727 854 596]. All are welcome.

First Reading: Samuel 26:2.7-9.12-13.22-23

David shows mercy to someone who had sought to harm him. Mercy is not a generic, spineless matter: it is a concrete decision in favour of those who have not shown one favour.

Second Reading: St. Paul 15:45-49

As a wise teacher and catechist, St. Paul finds it useful to draw comparisons and contrasts between the sinful Adam and the sinless Christ. Indeed, he 'nicknames' Jesus 'the last Adam'. In Adam, sin had the first word, but in Christ, sinlessness has the last.

Gospel Reading: Luke 6:27-38

"Be Compassionate as your Father is Compassionate"

There is only one way Jesus can have spoken these words with conviction: he was convinced of the love of God the Father. Only those who know they are loved by God can find the wherewithal to love those who do not love him.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Ecclus 1:1-10; Ps 92:1-2.5; Mk 9:14-29
Tue: Ecclus 2:1-11; Ps 36:3-4.18-19.27-28.39-40; Mk 9:30-37
Wed: Ecclus 4:11-19; Ps 118:165,168,171-172. 174-175; Mk 9:38
Thu: Ecclus 5:1-8; Ps 1:1-4.6; Mk 9:41-50
Fri: Ecclus 6:5-17; Ps 118:12.16.18.27.34-35; Mk 10:1-2
Sat: Ecclus 17:1-15; Ps 102:13-18; Mk 10:13-16

Dates for March

First Friday Blessed Sacrament 24 Hour Adoration

In the Prayer Room **1st March from 11am till 11am Saturday 2nd March**. If you can be present, even if it's just for half-an-hour, please enter your name on the rota at the back of the church.

Churches Together in St. Albans World Day of Prayer

Friday 1st March, 10am service at St. Leonard's Church in Sandridge & at 2.30pm at St. Stephen's Church in Watling Street

Flame

The biggest Catholic Youth event in England and Wales. **Saturday 2nd March, 2019, Wembley, London** Contact Sister Anita anitaoleary@rcdow.org.uk for further details.



Embraced

Saturday 2nd March, Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, London N11 1AA. Caritas Westminster invites you to an afternoon highlighting opportunities for volunteering and befriending in a variety of ways. The day will have testimonies, showcases of work already being done and a chance to learn more.

RSVP: 0207 798 9030

czzaritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk

Traidcraft

Traidcraft next weekend **2nd / 3rd March** after all the Masses at church

Traidcraft afternoon,

Thursday 7th March 2-4pm at 43 Avenue Road AL13PY Everyone is welcome.

CWL

The Catholic Women's League will be holding their Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday, 5th March**, at 11am in the Parish Hall.

Soup and roll after the meeting.

The Joy of Hope

Thursdays 10.45am to 12.00
repeated 7.45pm to 9.00pm

7th, 14th, 21st and 28th March in the Parish Hall

An inspiring and practical new DVD course from CaFE. Filmed on the stunning Holy Greek island of Patmos where Scripture says St John had a life-changing revelation of our future eternal destination. Each session includes an engaging mix of teaching, scripture meditation and prayerful response. These four enjoyable sessions will help you to face the challenges of everyday life with renewed hope and joy. Light refreshments provided for the morning course and a light buffet in the evening. Everybody is welcome to as many sessions as they can make.

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 8pm, or St Peter's, St Peter's Street at 1.30pm.

Thursdays 14th March - 11th April at 10.00am at Marlborough Road Methodist Church.

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.

CAFOD Family Fast Day

Friday 15th March. You are invited to eat a simple meal in solidarity with the poor of the world. Any money you may save can be given in the Family Fast Day collection on 16/17th March. Gift-aid envelopes will be available in Church if you are a tax-payer and want to allow Cafod to reclaim tax paid on your donation. You may also like to consider taking your Fast Day meal with others **in the Church Hall at noon on Saturday 9th March**:



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 available after Masses [£2]. 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.

More details from Stan - 01727 765 549,
grabecki@hotmail.com

St Patrick's Day

Saturday 16th March, 10am: As an early celebration for St Patrick's Day, Parish Friends will be serving tea, coffee, cake and Irish Coffee **after 10am Mass**.

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

Irish Sing Along Group **after 6pm Mass** on Saturday 16th March in the Parish Centre. All welcome, song sheets provided! Parish Friends will be serving tea, coffee, cake and Irish Coffee. Hosted by the Fahy Brothers and St Albans Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann.

All donations will go to Cafod.

NEWS BULLETIN

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 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).

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

Churches Together in Marshalswick

Baptist Free Church, The Quadrant
Sunday Lent Series of Talks at 7pm.

'On the Way Up' - a look at some of the people Jesus came across or helped Him on His last journey from Jericho to Jerusalem

10th March: Bartimaeus, Rev John Steele
17th March: Zacchaeus, Rev Abigail Thompson
24th March: Easy Rider, Rev Simon Carver
31st March: Home from Home, Peter Berners-Lee
7th April: Next to Nothing, Rev Dennis Stamps

Baptism Course



The pre-baptism session will be held on **Saturday 6th April**, 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.

Marriage Preparation Programme

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.



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

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

MSC Emergency Fund 2018

Fr. Michael O'Connell MSC would like to thank all Parishioners on behalf of the Sacred Heart family around the world, for reaching out to help those who need it most, donating €715.00 to MSC Emergency Fund in 2018. Your generosity makes all the difference. May God bless you always for your kindness.

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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