

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

10th March 2019

First Sunday of Lent

Lent is a great season where we are called to fasting, almsgiving and prayer. While our motivations may vary from weight loss to genuine spiritual journeying, this is a season where we take time to stop and take stock of our lives. What’s there? What’s there that shouldn’t be there? Are there things in my life that I need to change, to move around, to let go of? Are there obstacles in the way of my relationship with Jesus and with the world around me?

Lent would be an excellent time for each of us to examine our relationship with the earth in the hope that we might recognise the interconnectedness of all things.

We might fast from our cars when we can, or look at how much food, clothes and energy we consume. We might pledge to read *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment,

during Lent, and perhaps to ask a few friends to join you.

Whatever you decide to do, embrace this very special time. In the Gospel we are given encouragement as we read that Jesus is being led by the Spirit into the wilderness. The wilderness is not a place to be feared: it can be a place of transformation; a place where God is ultimately in control. We might encounter our demons and temptations there, but that is part of the journey. As with all things, we will get out of Lent what we put in. The more we put in, the greater the celebration of Easter Sunday morning.



First Reconciliations REMINDER

Tuesday 12th March,
Wednesday 13th March
& Thursday 14th March
at 4.30pm



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.

Lenten Prayers

Prayer is an important part of Lent yet some of us do find this difficult. Perhaps joining one of the parish groups will help but, if you are unable to do this, there is also a Guide to Prayer booklet freely available in the porch at the back of church.

This has several ideas that that will supplement your existing approach to prayer and help to establish your unique relationship with God that serves as the cornerstone of our spiritual lives.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **Patricia McCarthy, Trevor Wood, Vincent McGuire, Magdalena Pedroz, John Baxter, James Devlin, Sarah Booth, Tecla Page** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including **Milly Yarwood** and **Fr. Sandy Murray MSC**.

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

10.3.2019

6pm Arthur Holland RIP
8am People of the Parish
9am M'wick Ann Sargant RIP
9.30am Fr. Henry Twohig MSC RIP
11.30am Angelo Ortone Anniv.
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Andrew Fernandes Anniv.

Monday – Lent Feria

10am Fr. Sandy Murray MSC RIP
7pm Rena Murphy RIP

Tuesday – Lent Feria

10am **FUNERAL OF TREVOR WOOD**

4.30pm **FIRST RECONCILIATIONS**
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Lent Feria

10am Zbigniew Frosztega RIP and
Conway Berners-Lee RIP
4.30pm **FIRST RECONCILIATIONS**
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – Lent Feria

10am George and Freda Sumner RIP
4.30pm **FIRST RECONCILIATIONS**
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – Lent Feria

10am **FUNERAL OF SARAH BOOTH**
7pm Cait McMenamin RIP

Saturday – Lent Feria

9.30am **Stations of the Cross**
10am Priests' Intentions
6pm Jose Piedade Fernandes RIP and
George Taites RIP

Next Sunday **Second Sunday of Lent**

8am Shane Clegg RIP
9am M'wick Stan Phillips Anniv.
9.30am People of the Parish
11.30am Fr. Pat Courtney MSC RIP
7pm John Lines and Elen McHugh Anniv.

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

Next weekend, 16th / 17th March, there will be a second collection for CAFOD Family Fast Day.

Donation envelopes are available from the back of the Church and from Marshalswick Mass Centre.

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.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal

This year's Appeal focuses on the food hunger that blights the lives of many across our Diocese of Westminster. This affects so many families across the Diocese but much of it remains hidden. Did you know, for example, that over half of the people who use foodbanks have at least one household member in work? Through Caritas Westminster, we already contribute to foodbanks and other initiatives to relieve poverty. This new programme will help to fund additional food relief initiatives and provide the additional skills and resources needed for people to become independent. Parishioners can pick up a Cardinal's Lenten Appeal donation leaflet at the back of the church or from Marshalswick Mass Centre.

APF Magazines

The spring issue of Mission TODAY is now in the Church Porch for collection by promoters. For any queries please call Tony Hughes on 01727 862 087 or email: tanda.hughes@btinternet.com

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses wants the Chosen People to be able to describe what God has done for them. We can be strong in our faith only when we have a sense that God had blessed us.

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

To be a person of faith is to recognize that Jesus is Lord; but not only that: the recognition must be heartfelt – and what is heartfelt cannot but bear fruit in our lives.

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus was tempted – the Gospel is not pretending or exaggerating. Jesus had to stand his ground in the face of real, concrete temptation. It is to him we should run whenever we experience temptation.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Lev 19:1-2.11-18; Ps 18:8-10.15; Mt 25:31-46
Tue: Is 55:10-11; Ps 33:4-7.16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wed: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 50:3-4.12-13.18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thu: Est C:12.14-16.23-25; Ps 137:1-3.7-8; Mt 7:7-12
Fri: Ezek 18:21-28; Ps 129:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Sat: Deut 26:16-19; Ps 118:1-2.4-5.7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Dates for March

Traidcraft



Traidcraft this **Sunday 10th March** at John Fisher School after 9am Mass.



The Joy of Hope

Thursdays 10.45am to 12.00 repeated 7.45 to 9pm
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.



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 Bartrop of Bayswater Parish, focuses on the joy of being a missionary disciple. Copies of the Lenten faith-sharing booklet "Rejoice and be Glad" are 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.



An invitation to join a Small Group

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 **Mondays after 10am Mass in Room 1 from 11th March** or on **Tuesdays at 8pm from 5th March** 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. 854596]. All are welcome.



Mothers' Prayers

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

Knit and Natter

The next two sessions of the **Knit and Natter** group will be held in Room 1 of the Parish Centre on **Tuesday March 12th** and **Tuesday March 26th 2.30-4pm**. We are knitting a variety of items including hats for premature babies, jumpers for children in South Africa, blankets, scarves and squares. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us to knit or if you just fancy a chat, pop in for a cup of tea and biscuit.



Mercy Associates

The next meeting will be **Wednesday 13th March** in room 1 of the Parish centre from 5 until 7pm. Sr. Maura will be joining us. All are welcome.



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.



Friends or NBS – Irish Night

Friday 15th March at **Nicholas Breakspare School, 125 Colney Heath Lane, St Albans AL4 0TT**



A night of Irish music, dancing and the craic!
Hot food available to buy.

7.30pm till late – licensed bar.

£6 Adult / £3 Child. Raising essential fund to enhance the IT provision at the school. For more information contact: Friends@nbs.herts.sch.uk



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 Hall.

Parish Friends will be serving Irish Coffee, tea, cake and nibbles. Feel free to bring your own drinks and glasses. Hosted by the Fahy Brothers and St Albans

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann.



NEWS BULLETIN

Life Ascending (Ascent)

Tuesday 19th March. Visit to Tyburn Convent with guided tour of museum. Meet at City station for 1.27 train to London. Live Ascending is an international organisation for people in their middle and later years. David Edwards Tel.: 01727 765 216



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



Sharing the Light

On **Thursday 21st March** from 6.30pm to 7.30pm we will have a "Sharing the Light" service in the church. The church will be lit by candles and opened for people to come in and spend 10-15 minutes in quiet prayer.



This can be a time of peace, reflection and thanksgiving, a time to reflect on Lent and the preparations for the joy of Easter. You may want to pop in on the way home from work, or after dinner with the children for a few minutes.



Feast of Annunciation – Pilgrimage SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

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



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

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.



Finding Silence at Worth Abbey

13th - 16th May 2019

Needing some space? Finding life too fast? Come to this fully catered peaceful environment. Invite others! As long as people are happy to be in a Catholic environment and to be led by a Benedictine monk it doesn't matter where participants are in their faith journey. 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 or Tel. 01727 751094

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

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment