

# 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](http://www.albanstephen.org)

Items for the bulletin - e-mail: [stalbans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk) by 12noon on Wednesdays

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

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Youth Website: [www.sasyouth.com](http://www.sasyouth.com). We are a Fairtrade Parish. Parish Secretary: Ivana Mearns



**17th March 2019**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

That the transfiguration happened on a mountain top comes as no surprise. There is something about a mountain. A mountain gives us a wider view and an over-all view.

It helps us to see the pattern in things and puts things into perspective. It also raises the spirits.

We are in the presence of great majesty and beauty. We feel close to God. Indeed, we feel we are in the presence of God.

Peter wanted to stay on the mountain top. He wanted to hug and hold onto the blessedness of the experience. He did not want to go back down to the everyday and common things again, but to remain forever in the enchanted land. But Jesus summoned him to go back down the mountain and to face the future.

That experience was not meant to provide an escape from the struggle that lay ahead, but to help him face it. The hour of light was meant to help him face the hour of darkness.

We too can experience rare moments of light and joy. We get glimpses of the promised land towards which we are travelling in faith. In his love for us, God allows us to taste on earth the joys of the world to come.

But these moments of transfiguration are given to us to strengthen us for our everyday tasks, and to enable us to face the cross which in shape or form comes to everyone. The moment of glory does not exist for its own sake. It exists to clothe the common things with a radiance they never had before.



## **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.



## **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.

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** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Treena Troy, Eileen Taylor, Jose Maria Ezcurrea, 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 Vouden, 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

17.3.2019

6pm Jose Piedade Fernandes RIP and  
George Taites RIP  
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.

### Monday – St. Joseph

10am Priests' Intentions  
7pm Myra Myers RIP

### Tuesday – Lent Feria

10am Marco Onofrio RIP  
NO EVENING MASS

### Wednesday – Lent Feria

10am FUNERAL OF MAGDALENA PEDROZ  
4.30pm LIE-IN FOR JOHN BAXTER  
7pm MSC Benefactors

### Thursday – Lent Feria

10am FUNERAL OF JOHN BAXTER  
NO EVENING MASS

### Friday – Lent Feria

10am Mary B. Keane Anniv.  
7pm Zbigniew Frosztęga RIP

### Saturday – St Turibius of Mogrovejo

9.30am Stations of the Cross  
10am Patrick Scanlan RIP  
6pm William Pickard RIP

### Next Sunday

### Third Sunday of Lent

8am Louise O'Donnell RIP  
9am M'wick Nora King RIP  
9.30am Floryse Chan-Fat Anniv.  
11.30am Mary Curran Anniv.  
4.30pm Polish Mass  
7pm People of the Parish

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

## Journey On Faith For Adults (RCIA)

Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral,  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2019

My name is David and last year, through the RCIA, I became a Catholic, and was invited back this year to take part in the Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral. I'm here to give you a bit of an insight to the day. The 2019 RCIA group, their sponsors and supporters, Deacon Steve, Father Jimmy, and I headed to London together at lunchtime.

We had enough time to stop for a quick chat over cuppa before heading into our incredible cathedral. If you haven't had a chance, it really is worthwhile to visit and see the largest Catholic church building in England and Wales; for the architecture, the striking marble pillars and the roof that seems to disappear into the stars – it really is breath-taking and the perfect setting for such a spiritual day.

My role today was to be the bearer of the Book of the Elect, to carry it to the Sanctuary to be blessed by the Cardinal, and at the end of the ceremony to then take it to the Baptistry.

What a vantage point I had! As the bearer of the book, I had the best seat in the house, getting to sit in the Sanctuary and watch as each of the parishes Elect and their candidates came forward to be welcomed and greeted by the Cardinal and Bishops. Looking back to this time last year when I was in the same position, to now, as an observer – it was wonderful to see the joy and the excitement on the faces of the RCIA candidates for this rite of passage. Today's trip brought me full circle to the start of my Catholic journey and a reminder of what a great community we have in our parish and if you're thinking about taking part in the RCIA 2020, I would recommend it wholeheartedly.

### **First Reading: Gen 15:5-12.17-18**

We learn of the solemn covenant  
God made with Abraham.

### **Second Reading: Phil 3:17-4:1**

Paul urges his converts to remain faithful to Christ, and promises them that one day they will share in his glory.

### **Gospel Reading: Lk 9:28-36**

We hear Luke's version of the transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor.

### **Reading for the Week:**

Mon: Dan 9:4-10; Ps 78:8-9.11.13; Lk 6:36-38

Tue: 2 Sm 7:4-5.14.16; Ps 88:2-5.27.29; Rom 4:13.16-18.22;  
Mt 1:16.18-21.24

Wed: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 30:5-6.14-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thu: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4.6; Lk 16:19-31

Fri: Gen 37:3-4.12-13.17-28; Ps 104:16-21; Mt 21:33-43.45-46

Sat: Mic 7:14-15.18-20; Ps 102:1-4.9-12; Lk 15:1-3.11-32



# Dates for March

## Life Ascending (Ascent)

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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



## The Joy of Hope

**Thursdays 10.45am to 12.00 repeated 7.45 to 9pm  
21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March in the Parish Hall**

An inspiring and practical new DVD course from CaFE. Filmed on the stunning Holy Greek island of Patmos. Light refreshments provided for the morning course and a light buffet in the evening.



## Sharing the Light



On **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.



## Feast of Annunciation – Pilgrimage SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

On the Feast of the Annunciation **25<sup>th</sup> 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 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](mailto:rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com)



## Knit and Natter



The next session of the **Knit and Natter** group will be held in Room 1 of the Parish Centre on **Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Men's Breakfast

There is a men's breakfast on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March** from 8.15am in the Parish Centre. There will be tea/coffee, fruit, pastries and friendly conversation from 8.15am for 30 minutes or so, followed by a short DVD talk on the theme "God at work", featuring Ken Costa, a former deputy chair of UBS Bank and former chair of Alpha International. Please contact Richard: [d4dstalbins@gmail.com](mailto:d4dstalbins@gmail.com), 07976 252309 for more details

# Dates for April

## Post-Synod Reflections for Young Adults

The next meeting of young adults at Archbishop's House, Victoria, London, will take place on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**, 6.30pm. Bishop John Sherrington will be leading our reflections this time. All young adults are invited to attend. RSVP: [youth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk). For more details, go to [www.dowym.com/events](http://www.dowym.com/events)



## In Pursuit of Silence

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**7.30 to 9.30pm in the Parish Hall**

A meditative film, by Patrick Shen, exploring our relationship with silence, sound and the impact of noise on our lives. Featuring John Cage's ground-breaking composition 4'33", *In Pursuit of Silence* takes us on an immersive cinematic journey around the globe and inspires us to experience silence and celebrate the wonders of our world. **Please maintain an air of silence on entering the hall.** The film will start at 7.40pm (running time 81mins) and begins with 4 minutes 33 seconds of experiential silence as a tribute to composer John Cage's famous composition, 4'33". There will be time for discussion with refreshments after the film. Donations to support this small independent film producer. All Welcome.



## Finding Silence at Worth Abbey

**13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> April**. Complete a booking form from the back of the Church or contact [krystyna@faithknowledge.org](mailto:krystyna@faithknowledge.org) or Tel. 01727 751094



## You Too Can Give an Easter Egg



Thanks to your fantastic generosity over 145 children and young adults, across 60 families, were able to share in the joys of Christmas, through the 'You Can Be Santa' scheme. As with last year, we would like to extend this scheme to the giving of Easter Eggs, so these children and their families experience the continued support from the Parish. 'You Too Can Give an Easter Egg' will be a simpler operation; no need to sign up nor draw tickets. If you wish to contribute, all you need to do is to leave an Easter Egg in the collecting box at the back of Church (not the presbytery) **on the weekend of 6/7<sup>th</sup> April**. A simple branded egg from any supermarket would be ideal (preferably Fair Trade); no need for deluxe versions! Many thanks for your continued support of the children and their families, and for your help in spreading the good news of Easter.

# NEWS BULLETIN

## Market Stall – Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are required to hand out at the **Saturday Market on 6<sup>th</sup> April** Invitations to the Easter Services at St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Church. Please contact Eric Harber 07815 810 289

## Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Westminster Cathedral, London Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (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 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019** Tel.no: 01727 853 585 (Mon - Fri, 9am - 1pm) E-mail: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

## 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

## Rejoice and be Glad – a Lenten Resource

Copies of the Lenten faith-sharing booklet "Rejoice and be Glad" are available in the church porch [£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 can bring a new sense of missionary purpose in our parish.

## 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 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.



## EASTER BREAK

### Conversation Classes for Ladies

Last session: **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1pm in the Parish Hall.**  
Back on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April.**

### Toddlers Group

Last session: **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 10.30am in the Parish Hall.**  
Back after the break on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April.**  
MORE HELPERS NEEDED



### Children's Liturgy

Last session: **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 9.30am in the Parish Hall**  
back on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**



## Feast Day of St Patrick 17<sup>th</sup> March

St Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain around 380 and when he was 14 or so, he was captured by Irish pirates and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep during which time he turned to God in prayer. When he was 20, after having a dream sent from God to stow away on a boat, he escaped to Britain and was reunited with his family. Patrick was inspired to study for the priesthood. He was ordained by St Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre and later ordained a bishop and then sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on 25 March 433. There are several legends about what happened next, the most prominent claim was that a chieftain of a druid tribe tried to kill him. After an intervention from God, Patrick was able to convert the chieftain and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland. There, he converted many people –

eventually thousands – and began building churches across the country. It is believed that he used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity, and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message. For over 40 years in Ireland, he worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God. After years of living in poverty, travelling and enduring much suffering he died 17 March 461 at Saul, where he had built the first Irish church. He is believed to be buried in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick. His grave was marked in 1990 with a granite stone.



## APF Magazines

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

## Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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