

# 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: [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@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)  
Safeguarding Lead Nicky Vellacott: [stalbenssg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbenssg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07882 566 020  
Youth Website: [www.sasyouth.com](http://www.sasyouth.com). We are a Fairtrade Parish. Parish Secretary: Ivana Mearns

**24<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

Today’s Gospel brings a thorny question for Jesus, as the people ask why a number of Galileans were killed by the Romans as they made sacrifices to God. The basic question is why do bad things happen to certain people? Some Jewish leaders at the time viewed the Galileans as second-class Jews, and so they are raising more than a question about meaningless suffering here. They want to know if the Galileans suffered because they were not ‘Jewish enough.’

Jesus responds with a sharp question about a recent tragedy involving those killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them. Were they worse offenders than others in Jerusalem? No. Jesus responds further by focusing on those who are still living. In the parable of the fig tree we hear that the tree is not producing any fruit and probably should be cut down. However, the owner of the vineyard agrees to one more year, during which it is given special attention.

Jesus’ response to the difficult question on suffering is to focus on the living.

We are still alive and therefore should be producing much fruit. Perhaps those who are questioning Jesus need, like the fig tree, much nourishment so that they can focus on producing fruit for the world. The parable is a reminder to all of us of the nourishment and time we have been given; it is a call to examine the fruits that we produce in this world and in our communities.



## **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

## **In Pursuit of Silence**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 7.30 - 9.30pm, 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.

## **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.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **Veronica Hamilton, Alex South, Breda Iommi, Patricia McCarthy, Trevor Wood, Vincent McGuire, Magdalena Pedroz and John Baxter** 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, Nora Barrett, Adrian McDonagh, Mary Watkins, Ida Daswa, Sue Gavin, 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, Jim O’Neill, Margaret Moloney, Patrick Foley, Jack O’Mahoney, Edie Hale, John Rowland, Carmaline Xavier, Becki Vousden, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O’Gorman, Jim O’Connor, Kathleen Murphy, Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM, Geraldine McBride, Vertina Fernandes, Claire Whitehead, Catrin Rees-Doherty, Sheila Dooan, Noah Gregorio and Edmond Mansfield, may the Lord comfort them.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

24.3.2019

6pm	William Pickard RIP
8am	Louise O'Donnell RIP
9am M'wick	Nora King RIP
9.30am	Floryse Chan-Fat Anniv.
11.30am	Mary Curran Anniv.
4pm	Polish Mass
7pm	People of the Parish

### Monday – The Annunciation of the Lord

10am	Anne Byrne RIP
7pm	Vito Leto RIP

### Tuesday – Lent Feria

10am	Priests' Intentions
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NO EVENING MASS

### Wednesday – Lent Feria

10am	Gerry Snaith Anniv.
7pm	MSC Benefactors

### Thursday – Lent Feria

10am	Anna Whittle RIP
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**4.30PM LIE-IN FOR VINCENT McGUIRE**  
NO EVENING MASS

### Friday – Lent Feria

10am	<b>FUNERAL OF VINCENT McGUIRE</b>
7pm	John Drummond Anniv.

### Saturday – Lent Feria

9.30am	Stations of the Cross
10am	Marie Aline Rangsammy Anniv. and Marie Noella Amadis Anniv.
6pm	Nancy Ginnelly RIP

### Next Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent

8am	People of the Parish
9am M'wick	John Baxter RIP
9.30am	Eileen Taylor Ints.
11.30am	A Mass of Thanksgiving – Gabina Alfonso
7pm	Fr. Tom Hewitt RIP

*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:** **Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15**

Just when it seemed that God had forgotten about his people, God appeared to Moses.

### **Second Reading:** **1 Corinthians 10:1-6.10-12**

St. Paul cautions that it is possible for us to stray even as we are being guided by God.

### **Gospel Reading:** **Luke 13:1-9**

The words 'unless you repent' are repeated in this Gospel. These words underline our freedom and urge us to live the life we have been called to live.

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

Mon: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 39:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38  
Tue: Dan 3:25.34-43; Ps 24:4-9; Mt 18:21-35  
Wed: Deut 4:1.5-9; Ps 147:12-13.15-16.19-20; Mt 5:17-19  
Thu: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 94:1-2.6-9; Lk 11:14-23  
Fri: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 80:6.8-11.14.17; Mk 12:28-34  
Sat: Hos 5:15-6.6; Ps 50:3-4.18.21; Lk 18:9-14

# Dates for March and April

## 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: [d4dstalbans@gmail.com](mailto:d4dstalbans@gmail.com), 07976 252309 for more details



## 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



## Food Bank Collection

Budgens Marshalswick

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 10am-12noon



If you can spare half an hour to help with this initiative kindly contact: Christine [cmd2512@aol.com](mailto:cmd2512@aol.com)/07900260190 or Maureen [molly\\_gus@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:molly_gus@yahoo.co.uk)/07788968654



## CWL and "Christian Mindfulness"

The CWL will be meeting on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Coffee in café area after 10am Mass with talk from 11am in Room 1.



Some of you will know about Mindfulness, but others not a thing! Trish Jones will be explaining what it is and how it can help us in our daily lives.

Everyone is welcome to come and learn from her (£2)

Some members will be going on a Lenten lunch at Adeyfield Section directly afterwards. If you would like to go please phone Anne G. (01727 837 511)



## 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)



## Eucharistic Adoration

5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Ss Alban & Stephen has a long tradition of a 24 hour Eucharistic Adoration on the first Friday of each month in the parish's prayer room. This practice will continue but this year on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, one hour of this, 5.45-6.45pm, will take place in the main church. All parishioners are invited to participate, even if you have not prayed before the Blessed Sacrament previously. As part of your Lent prayer/devotions why not come and experience adoration during this time - there is no need to sign up, it doesn't matter how long you stay; e.g. a few minutes on the way home from work would be great.



## Traidcraft

Traidcraft Saturday/Sunday  
6/7<sup>th</sup> April after all the masses at church.

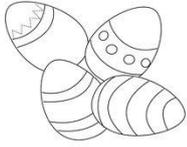


Traidcraft tea afternoon  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 43 Avenue Road  
AL13PY 2-4pm

# NEWS BULLETIN

## 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.



## Churches Together in Marshalswick Lenten Talks

**Baptist Free Church Sundays 7pm**  
**24th March:** Easy Rider Rev Simon Carver  
**31st March:** Home from Home Peter Berners-Lee  
**7th April:** Next to Nothing Rev Dennis Stamp

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019**. Competition enquiries to: [kennedy.p@ntlworld.com](mailto:kennedy.p@ntlworld.com)



## 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 751 094

## Thank you

Parish Friends would like to thank all those who supported the celebrations for St Patrick's Day last Saturday morning after 10am mass and also the evening

Irish sing - along with Irish coffee and cakes after 6pm mass. A total of £265 was donated for CAFOD.



## 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.



## 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.

## 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](mailto:spiritualcare@whht.nhs.uk)

## Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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