

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.

28th April 2019

Divine Mercy Sunday

It's perfectly understandable: Thomas is having trouble believing that Jesus has returned to be with his friends again. The disciples, who witnessed Jesus' arrest, death and burial, are now talking about having seen Jesus in the flesh again. It sounds impossible.

Thomas was not there when Jesus first appeared to the disciples. His moment of doubt earned him the nickname 'Doubting Thomas', which might seem a little unfair.

Thomas' wobble of faith does not necessarily cast him in a negative light - it makes him easier to relate to. He is grieving after the death of his master and friend.



He is not ready to hear the words of comfort and consolation offered by the others, when they tell him *'We have seen the Lord.'* His pain is too deep. He can't believe it, or won't believe it, until he experiences it for himself. And when he does finally encounter Jesus, his declaration of faith is swift: *'My Lord and my God!'* We can almost hear the relief and joy in this exclamation.

It can be hard to hang onto our faith when we are in pain, or grieving, or anxious. It might be difficult to accept the assurances of others that God is with us. We might also struggle to pray. Sometimes we just can't see the light.

Thomas is a saint for those times of darkness and doubt. In our darkest day, may we, like Thomas, encounter the healing presence of the Risen Christ.

BINGO - in aid CAFOD.

In the Parish Hall on Friday, 3rd May at 8 0'Clock.

Admission is 50p towards refreshments and everyone will be most welcome.

Thank you to everyone that supported our last Bingo event. £200-00 was raised for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal.



Parish Friends - Tea Party

Parish Friends will be holding a Tea Party on Sunday May 12th from 3-5pm.

We are very happy to announce the return of The Ukulele Sunshine Band who will be entertaining us at this event. All parishioners are welcome to attend including young and old and those in between. Lifts will be available if required. **Please write your name on the guest list** if you would like to attend stating if transport is required and/or you have special dietary requirements. Help for the event would be appreciated. If you can offer lifts, make scones or cakes or provide help on the day please write your name and contact details on the Helpers List. Contact Helen 07860 830340 if you have any queries.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including

Eva McMahon,

Kathleen Carroll,

**Margaret Norris,
Adrian McDonagh,**

Lisa Gratte

and Mary Hudson,

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including

Mary Gallagher and Marie Yvette Theanne.



Mass Intentions for the Week

28.4.2019

6pm Lillie and Chris Butler Ints.
8am Ita O'Mahony Anniv.
9am M'wick People of the Parish
9.30am Tom Farrell RIP
11.30am Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Ints.
4pm Polish Mass
7pm Patrick Joseph McCarthy Anniv.

Monday – St. Catherine of Siena

10am Ann Quinn RIP
7pm Isaura da Silva RIP

Tuesday – St. George (transf. from 23.4.2019)

10am Richard Richardson RIP
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – St. Joseph the Worker

10am Myra Myers RIP
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. Athanasius

10am Mary B. Keane Anniv.
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – Ss Philip and James

10am Nora King RIP
7pm William and Eileen Miller Anniv.

Saturday – The English Martyrs

10am Nan Collins RIP
6pm Deceased members of Sheehan Family

Next Sunday

Third Sunday of Easter

8am People of the Parish
9am M'wick John Baxter RIP
9.30am Martin and Bridget Cloherty Anniv.
11.30am Andrea Ezcurra RIP
7pm Katy, Patrick & Matty Conefrey Anniv.

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

Feast of St Joseph the Worker 1 May



To foster a deep devotion to Saint Joseph, and in response to the May Day celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955 to be celebrated on 1 May. Beginning in the

Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind both fulfils the command to care for the earth and to be productive in their labours. Saint Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labour. Jesus, too, was a carpenter; he learned the trade from Saint Joseph and spent his early adult years working side-by-side with Joseph before leaving to pursue his ministry. Pope John Paul II stated: "the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide social changes so as to ensure authentic progress by society." Saint Joseph is held up as a model of such work. Pope Pius XII emphasised this when he said, "The spirit flows to you and to all from the heart of the Saviour of the world, but certainly, no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work."

50th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to
Rosa & Michelangelo Venetico
on the wonderful occasion
of their
50th Wedding Anniversary.

First Reading:

Acts 5:12-16

The first Easter was a season of 'signs and wonders' that flowed from the great sign of Christ's resurrection.

Second Reading:

Apoc. 1:9-13.17-19

This reading shows how all sufferings, all trials, are to be lived and understood in the light of the victory of Christ, 'the First and the Last, the Living One'.

Gospel Reading:

John 20.19-31

The Easter Message is one of peace and mercy – even for the unbelieving and those who struggle to believe.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Ps 102:1-4,8-9,13-14,17-18; Mt 11:25-30

Tue: Rev 12:10-12; Ps 125; Jn 15:18-21

Wed: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 33:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thu: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 33:2.9.17-20; Jn 3:31-36

Fri: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 18:2-5.; John 14:6-14

Sat: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 32:1-2.4-5.18-19; Jn 6:16-21

Dates for May & June

First Friday Blessed Sacrament 24-hour Adoration

In the Prayer Room 11am Friday 3rd May till 11am Saturday 4th. If you are able to attend, even if it's just for half-an-hour, please enter your name at the back of the church.



Traidcraft

next weekend 4th /5th May after all masses at church

Traidcraft Tea Afternoon

Thursday 9th May 2-4pm, 43 Avenue Road.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Next Session for Children:

Saturday 4th May, 4-5.15pm in the Parish Hall

Next Meeting for Parents:

Wednesday 8th May, 8-9pm, in the Parish Hall

First Holy Communion will be celebrated in our Parish on Sat 11th & 18th May at 11am & 2.30pm.

Please note that there will be no 10am Masses or confessions on these days.

CONFIRMATIONS

Next Session for Candidates:

Sunday 5th May in the Parish Hall, 5-6.30pm

Reconciliation Service for Candidates:

Wednesday 15th May, 4.30-5.30pm in the Church

Confirmation Rehearsals:

Friday 24th May, 5-6pm and 6-7pm

Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 25th May 2019.

The ceremonies will be held in the Church at 11am and 3pm. Please note that there will be no 10am Mass or confessions.



CWL – National Coffee Morning

The Catholic Women's League will be holding their annual National Coffee Morning in the Parish Centre after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 5th May. Cake sale in aid of Charity. Everyone is welcome.



Catholic Women's League

The next monthly meeting will be held after the 10am Mass on Tuesday 7th May. Talk by Gary Fisher on the History of Hatfield House.



Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' prayers will meet on Monday 13th May at 8pm in room 2.

Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from: Office@mothersprayers.org



Bread Making for Beginners.

7-9.30 pm, Thursday 16th May in the church hall.

Free, but donations taken on the night. No experience necessary, please bring a bowl, pint jug, apron and a 1lb metal bread tin if possible. Book via grabecki@hotmail.com or 765549 as spaces are limited. More details from Stan. This is a parish J&P event in support of St Albans Sustainability Festival.



TWAM – Tools with a Mission

Tool Collection at Dagnall Street Baptist Church (Hall below the church, Dagnall Street AL3 5EE)

On Wednesday 29th May 2019, 12noon – 7pm

Yes please: All hand, electric & garden tools, IT equipment, sewing & knitting machines & haberdashery. *No thank you:* Broken tools, lawn mowers, bicycles, disability aids, printers, typewriters.

More details: www.twam.uk Twam collects unwanted tools and equipment and enables people to switch from Aid dependency to self-sufficiency



Spirit in the City Festival,

31st May & 1st June 2019. Theme 'Life to the Full'. Catholic Faith Festival celebrating and witnessing faith in London's Leicester Square. Starts Friday evening from 7pm in Notre Dame de France Church. Saturday all day in the Square gardens. Includes live stage music, street evangelisation, prayer teams, all day Adoration, Confessions, feet washing, activities for children, talks, etc. For more information, contact Allegra, info@spiritinthecity.org or call 07915 537 125.

To register as a helper, visit spiritinthecity.org



Catholic Worker Farm - Open Day

1st June 3pm till late, International Buffet at 6pm
The Catholic Worker Farm, Old Uxbridge Road, Rickmansworth, WD3 9XJ

Meet the team and learn about the work they do with homeless women and children. Life performance from Ooberfuse, Face Painting, Henna Tattoos, Trampolining, Paddling Poole and more
www.thecatholicfarm.org / 07983 477 819



Life Ascending (Ascent) Retreat

Aylesford Priory, Kent.

Monday 17th June – Thursday 20th June.

Led by Fr. Peter Griffiths SJ.

Full board accommodation £205.

Details: David Edwards, Tel: 01727 765 216

NEWS BULLETIN

Ministers of The Word needed!

Do you have a clear speaking voice? Could you proclaim the Word of God at Mass? If so, please consider becoming a Minister of the Word and joining the rotas to read at one of our weekend masses approximately once a month. If you can help or for more information, please contact Melanie (07900 051 956 or mjoneill5@btinternet.com)

Half an Hour a Week to visit a Sick or Housebound Parishioner

There are many parishioners who are unable to get to Church and would welcome the visit of a Eucharistic Minister. Jesus sets the example of choosing ordinary people to carry out his ministry. We are those people, all called by Jesus. Our Parish needs Eucharistic Ministers for Sunday Masses, usually once a month. If you are able to give half an hour of your time either regularly or for a short time to visit, you will be given training and support.

Please contact the Parish Secretary
(stalbans@rcdow.org.uk
01727 853 585, Mon - Fri, 9am - 1pm)
or Anne Myles (annemyles@ymail.com
01727 852 930) for more information

Thank you

Thank you to all volunteers who helped to hand out cards at the St. Albans market and to all other volunteers for their help with Easter Preparations.

**Keys - A set of church keys is currently missing.
If you borrowed keys from the Parish Office recently and haven't returned them yet, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.**

Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held on **Saturday 1st June**, 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.

Walsingham Weekend

11th - 13th October 2019

Open to anyone, this silent retreat will be led by the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk and will include joining them in their rhythm of prayer. Some walking will be involved and please note that none of the rooms have full disabled access. Rooms are available from 3pm on Friday and the retreat will end with lunch on Sunday. The cost of either single or shared accommodation with full board is £116 per person for a standard room and £145 per person for an en-suite room, whether single or shared. For further information and booking form pick up a leaflet from the back of the church or Mass Centre or contact Krystyna krystyna@faithknowledge.org Tel. 751094

Northern Catholic Conference

"Love one Another as I have loved you" is the theme at the Northern Catholic Conference 7th - 9th June at Liverpool HOPE University. Mass, Adoration, healing service and inspiring speakers.
northerncatholic@outlook.com Denise 07543 800 812

Feast of the English Martyrs 4 May

The feast of the English Martyrs is celebrated on 4 May. The 40 martyrs canonised under Paul VI in 1973, previously celebrated on October 25, are celebrated with the 85 beatified Martyrs of the Reformation and the other martyrs of the 16th and 17th century. The feast coincides with the Church of England celebration of English saints and martyrs of the Reformation. These are a significant group of saints in British Catholicism and include St Margaret Clitherow, the butcher's wife from York who became a Catholic at the age of 18 and was arrested for harbouring a priest. She was crushed to death under a large door loaded with weights. St John Houghton, St Robert Lawrence, St Augustine Webster, and St Richard Reynolds were Carthusian monks executed at Tyburn on May 4 1535. This is the date when the first martyrs of the Protestant Reformation were hanged, drawn and quartered for opposing the Act of Succession that recognised the progeny of the adulterous relationship of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn as the legitimate heirs to the throne and the Act of Supremacy, through which the King asserted himself as "the only Supreme Head on earth of the Church of England".

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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