

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.

5th May 2019

Third Sunday of Easter

The theme of light and darkness in John's Gospel is strong. In today's reading, we hear that it was 'just after daybreak' when Jesus appeared to the disciples. The disciples had been fishing all night but caught nothing. Then, with the dawn, Jesus appears on the beach and gently suggests that they cast the nets on the other side of the boat.

We are invited to reflect on resurrection here, moments where we were given a sense of new life, and with that, an abundance of gifts. Perhaps a friendship had broken down or we were dealing with a crisis. Like the disciples, we may have simply been going through the motions of day to day life, in the dark, without much enthusiasm. And then... a daybreak. A gentle voice guided us, a friend or in a moment of prayer. In time, we realised that this was Jesus' voice pointing us in the right direction, and once we allowed ourselves to be guided by Him, the 'catch' was huge.

Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him. Peter is once again by a charcoal fire so this scene mirrors the three denials of Peter during the trial of Jesus. Peter becomes upset, and one can understand the regrets he must have. Yet here, Jesus is giving Peter the space to undo his denials.

There is healing, new life. We can imagine Jesus' question to Peter at the end of the passage being addresses to us: '*Simon, son of John, do you love me?... Tend my sheep!*' Place yourself in this story throughout the week.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS



Next Meeting for Parents:

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

First Holy Communions 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

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.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including
Sr. Eta Keane (Sister of Mercy, Birmingham),

**Eva McMahon,
George Ackers,
Kathleen Carroll,
Margaret Norris,
Adrian McDonagh,
Lisa Gratte**



and Mary Hudson,
and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including **Lazerian Purcell.**

Mass Intentions for the Week

5.5.2019

6pm Deceased members of Sheehan Family

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

Monday – Easter Feria

10am Brian Delaney RIP

7pm Terry Mahabir RIP

Tuesday – Easter Feria

10am Clelia Gallo RIP

NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – Easter Feria

10am Barrie Witchard Anniv.

7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – Easter Feria

10am **FUNERAL OF MARGARET NORRIS**

NO EVENING MASS

Friday – Easter Feria

10am **FUNERAL OF EVA McMAHON**

7pm James Taylor RIP

Saturday – Easter Feria

NO MORNING MASS

11am **FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS**

2.30pm **FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS**

6pm Kathleen D'Arcy RIP

Next Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter

8am Deceased Members of Bergin
and Cowley Families

9am M'wick People of the Parish

9.30am Thomas and Mary Miskell Anniv.

11.30am Anna Ortone Anniv.

4pm Polish Mass

7pm Owen & Margaret Watters RIP

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

RCIA - Congratulations

We welcome

into the Christian community

Fangfei,

Olayinka

and **Emily,**

who were baptised

during the Easter Vigil

and

Rosalind

and **Sebastian**

who were

received into Full Communion.

Missing 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.

First Reading:

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

Paul and Barnabas engage in a central pastoral task: they urge people to remain faithful to the grace of God – even in times of difficulty and misunderstanding.

Second Reading:

Apocalypse 5:11-14

The victory of heaven is immense: John sees 'a huge number, impossible to count,' who have been faithful in persecution and hardship.

Gospel Reading:

John 21:1-19

The Lord describes his sheep, his followers, as people who listen to his voice. There is no discipleship without attentive listening.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 118:23-24.26-27.29-30; Jn 6:22-29

Tue: Acts 7:51-8:1; Ps 30:3-4.6-8.17.21; Jn 6:30-35

Wed: Acts 8:1-8; Ps 65:1-7; Jn 6:35-40

Thu: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 65:8-9.16-17.20; Jn 6:44-51

Fri: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 116; Jn 6:52-59

Sat: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 11:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

Dates for May & June

Traidcraft

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

Traidcraft Tea Afternoon

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



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.



Parish Friends Knit and Natter.

The next meeting will be
on **Tuesday**
7th May, 2.30-4pm.



Do join us in knitting jumpers
for children in Africa,

baby beanie hats for new born babies,
scarves for the homeless and squares
to make blankets for those in need.

Please bring your forget-me-knots
on 7th May for Dementia Action Week.
All grades of knitters and natterers welcome



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.



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



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 0791 5537125.
To register as a helper, visit spiritinthecity.org



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

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

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 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. 01727 751 094

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 / 07543 800 812

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.

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 and more

www.thecatholicfarm.org / 07983 477 819



Encounters

with the Risen Jesus Christ

- Brian Purfield from the Mount Street Jesuit Centre will be leading a series of Post Easter scriptural talks at Sacred Heart, Berkhamsted starting on Tuesday 7th May at 7:30pm. For 4 successive Tuesdays, we will reflect on the different post resurrection stories and on those who encountered the Risen Lord.

All welcome. For more information:

berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk

CAFOD - Volunteers Needed

CAFOD are looking for volunteers with public speaking skills and the ability to work with, and co-ordinate, small teams of volunteers locally.

To find out more, book a place on their volunteer day on Saturday 11th May, in offices near Lambeth North tube station. Contact Tony on 0208-449-6970 or tsheen@cafod.org.uk for further details.



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

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment