

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: stalbands@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: stalbands@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07882 566 020

We are a Fairtrade Parish.

25th August 2019

The parable in today’s Gospel features a narrow door and a locked door, as well as an unsympathetic doorkeeper – it’s almost as if the master wants to keep everyone out!

People knock on the door and expect to be admitted, but it’s not that simple. The master turns them away, claiming not to know them, despite protestations that they are acquainted.

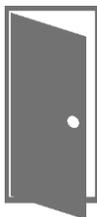
Jesus is trying to teach his followers about discipleship. What does he mean when he says we must ‘enter by the narrow door’?

Is it almost impossible to enter the kingdom of God? One thing is sure: a passing acquaintance with Jesus will not be enough.

The plea of ‘We once ate and drank in your company’ is feeble. It is not enough to know Jesus only on the surface – to attend Mass every Sunday and to turn on him only when we are in need.

To really know Jesus, one must walk the narrow path of the Gospel. Just as his listeners could not regard the mere fact of being Jews as sufficient for salvation, neither can we regard being Christians as enough.

For any relationship to be alive – either with God or with another human person – the real question is; ‘Is my heart in this relationship?’



Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary

Fr. TJ, Fr. Jimmy and Fr. Alan would like to say “thank you” to the people of the Parish for all their support over the years. We offer special thanks for all the good wishes, cards and gifts received over the past few weeks. Our prayers and good wishes in the time ahead.

Farewell to our Priests

This Sunday 25th August, 11.30am:
Special service of thanksgiving.

Wednesday 28th August:

The last day for our MSC priests.
Refreshments after both 10am & 7pm Masses.
A Parish farewell to Fr TJ, Fr Jimmy and Fr Alan:
20th October 2019.

Celebration of 120 years of service of the MSCs
in St Albans: **20th June 2020.**

Fr Philip Miller's 20th Anniversary of Ordination

Fr Philip will be celebrating his Anniversary Mass
at 12 noon on **Monday 26th August**
(Bank Holiday Monday)"
There will be no 10am Mass that day

Please pray
for the repose of the souls
of all those
who have died recently
including
Richard Joseph Preston
And
for those
whose anniversaries
occur at this time,
including
Valerie Scully
and
Patricia Mary Elliott.

Mass Intentions for the Week

25.8.2019

6pm Albertina Qunital RIP
8am Valerie Scully Anniv.
9am M'wick People of the Parish
9.30am John Brennan RIP
11.30am The Stack Family Ints.

7pm John Abela RIP

Monday - Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God

12noon Fr. Philip Miller
20th Anniv. of Ordination
7pm Tony Graham RIP

Tuesday – St. Monica

10am Reggie Kearley
NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – St. Augustine

10am Kathleen Bramford RIP
7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – The Passion of St. John the Baptist

10am Priests' Intentions
NO EVENING MASS

Friday – St. Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward

10am Peggy Cosgrove RIP
7pm McGarry and McDonald families Ints.

Saturday – St. Aidan and Saints of Lindisfarne

10am Frank Cafferky RIP
6pm William O'Leary RIP

Next Sunday

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Martin Myland RIP
9am M'wick Lisa Gratte RIP
9.30am People of the Parish
11.30am Mary Curran RIP
7pm Mark Taylor Anniv.

Mass Intentions are subject to change if there is a funeral

Thank you from Centre 33

The trustees of Centre 33 would like to acknowledge and thank the parishioners of SS Alban & Stephen Church for your ongoing generous support of the work of the Centre. Your financial assistance and the volunteers from your parish help ensure the Centre continues to open as scheduled - 11 sessions per week - to provide hot meals and shower facilities to anyone in St Albans who requires them. Some 8,700 meals were provided to visitors at Centre 33 in 2018, and the number of visitors in 2019 appears to be increasing. We are very grateful for the parish's contribution.

St Bartholomew



Saint Bartholomew is one of the 12 Apostles, mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, as well as in Acts. Besides being listed as an Apostle, he is not otherwise mentioned in the New Testament, at least not under the name Bartholomew: many ancient writers, and Catholic tradition have identified Bartholomew as Nathaniel in the Gospel of John 1:45-51). This passage is read

at Mass on the feast of Saint Bartholomew and describes how Nathaniel is introduced to Jesus by his friend Phillip, and Jesus says of him "Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him." We are presented with the Apostle's character in this brief and beautiful dialogue with Jesus. He is a good Jew, honest and innocent, a just man, who devotes much time to quiet reflection and prayer and has been awaiting the Messiah, the Holy One of God. Nathaniel was a man well-read in the Scriptures and knew what they said of the Messiah and where he would come from. This is why he is sceptical of Phillip's claim that Jesus is the Messiah, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth (1:46)?" But Nathaniel's openness to reality meant he was always ready to recognize and surrender to the truth when he encountered it. He remained open to his friend Phillip's invitation to "Come and see (1:46)." In Nathaniel we have an example of the pure man who sees and recognizes God when confronted with Him, and on seeing Him believes in Him, and upon believing in Him, follows Him. Nothing is known for sure about the life of Nathaniel/Bartholomew after the Ascension of Jesus, but tradition holds that he preached in the East and died a martyr's death in Armenia, being flayed alive for having won converts to the Lord Jesus. His feast day is 24 August.

First Reading: Is 66:18-21

'They will proclaim my glory ...' This is not only the task of missionaries and evangelists; it is our task - to live a life that give glory to God.

Second Reading: Heb 12:5-7.11-13

Suffering is inevitable, and there are some sufferings that result directly from being a follower of Christ.

Gospel: Lk 13:22-30

Jesus respects our human freedom by holding open the possibility of a definitive rejection of the God of life.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: 1 Thess 1:1-5.8-10; Ps 149:1-6.9; Mt 23:13-22

Tue: 1 Thess 2:1-8; Ps 138:1-3.4-6; Mt 23:23-26

Wed: 1 Thess 2:9-13; Ps 138:7-12; Mt 23:27-32

Thu: Jer 1:17-19; Ps 70:1-6.15.17; Mk 6:17-29

Fri: 1 Thess 4:1-8; Ps 96:1-2.5-6.10.12; Mt 25:1-13

Sat: 1 Thess 4:9-11; Ps 97:1.7-9; Mt 25:14-30

Dates for September

CWL

The Catholic Women's League will meet on **Tuesday 3rd September** after 10am Mass. Coffee and chat then Sieglinde will tell us about Nathaniel Cotton, a local 18th Century Physician and writer. Parishioners, friends and anyone interested is very welcome.



First Friday Blessed Sacrament 24 Hour Adoration

In the Prayer Room **Friday 6th September** from 11am till 11am Saturday 7th September. If you can be present, even if it's for just half-an-hour, please enter your name on the rota at the back of the church.



Traidcraft

Traidcraft after all Masses Saturday and Sunday 7/8th September. All proceeds go to Cafod. More details from Maureen, grabecki@hotmail.com 01727 765 549.
Traidcraft after 9am Mass at St John Fisher, Sunday 15th September. All proceeds go to Cafod. More details from Maureen, grabecki@hotmail.com 01727 765 549.

Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held on **Saturday 7th September**, 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. (Mon - Fri, 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.



Children's Liturgy

The next session will take place on **Sunday 8th September** at 9.30am, in the Parish Hall. More volunteers are needed to join the rota. The commitment is to be running approximately 3 sessions a year. If you are able to help, please contact Catherine: 07887 427 393 / cat_tarelli@hotmail.com

Parish Youth Club

Invitation to all year seven's (from September) to join us for a pizza and games **Sunday 8th September**, 8pm - 9pm, in the Parish Hall. Looking forward to seeing you all.



Parish Friends - Film

Parish Friends will be showing the 2017 Feel Good Film of the Year "Finding your Feet" on **Sunday 8th September at 2.45pm**. We highly recommend you do not miss this heart-warming, funny and very touching film. It is so good! Transport can be arranged and light refreshments will be served from 2.15pm. Everyone welcome. For more details contact Helen 07860 830340

Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' Prayers will next meet on **Monday September 9th** at 8pm in room 2. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from email: office@mothersprayers.org



English Conversation Classes for Ladies

The next session will be on **Monday 9th September**, 1pm until 2.30pm, in the Parish Hall.

Parents and Toddlers

Next session: **9th September**, 10.30am in the Parish Hall.



Knit and Natter

We will meet again on **September 10th from 2.30-4pm**. Contact Helen 07860 830 340 for any queries



CTSA Autumn Prayer Walk 2019

The annual CTSA Prayer Walk will take place on **Sunday, 15th September**, starting at 2pm from our church and finishing at St Albans Cathedral. Please come and join in this gentle stroll around our city, pausing at some of the churches to pray for the people of St Albans. The afternoon includes a short break for tea and cake at St Michael's parish hall. Join us for all or any part of the walk. Detailed timings on the posters and flyers at the back of church.



Mercy Associates

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 18th September** in Room 1 of the Parish Centre from 5pm until 7pm. All are welcome.

North Wales Retreat

20th - 23rd September

Leader: Sister Seraphim. Weekend includes Padre Pio Day at the national shrine of St. Pio at Pantasaph and visit to the centuries-old shrine and well of Winefride. Full board accommodation at St. Winefride's Guest House, Holywell, run by the Bridgetine sisters. Cost: £190. Details: David Edwards: 01727 765 216

NEWS BULLETIN

Parish Lead Safeguarding Representative required:

We are looking for a volunteer to take over as the Lead Safeguarding Representative for the church from Nicky Vellacott, who has performed the role for the past ten years. As you are aware, the Parish and the Diocese take safeguarding very seriously and this role is essential for maintaining this ethos.



A lot of the role involves processing the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) applications for volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults, ensuring volunteers have access to safeguarding training and being the link between the church and Westminster Diocese should a safeguarding issue occur. Experience and knowledge of safeguarding is beneficial, but not essential; the Diocese provides training on essential safeguarding issues and the DBS process. The Lead Safeguarding Representative will continue to be supported by Nicky Vellacott, Mary Harber and the Westminster Diocese Safeguarding team. This role is both rewarding and stimulating for someone looking for a challenge. For more information, please contact the Parish office on 01727 853 585 or Nicky Vellacott on 07882 566 020.

Heart to Heart

Keeping the Spirit of the MSCs alive in our Parish



Now available, a newsletter from the MSC Lay Associates entitled "Heart to Heart" with stories on the Spirituality of the Heart in action, prayers and spiritual

resources. There will also be an online resources page that will contain more news on the MSCs and the wider Chevalier family throughout the World.

Depaul UK launches Nightstop service in Hertfordshire

This service, previously run by Herts Young Homeless (HYH), forms part of the national Nightstop UP network run by Depaul UK, and will soon be ready to host young people across the entire country. Volunteer hosts are needed, willing to take in a young person at risk of homelessness for one night at a time. Comprehensive training will be provided, the next training session will take place on 14th September. Volunteer Drivers also needed.

Contact: Noreen Gilhespy 07966 742 924
Nightstop.Hertfordshire@depaulcharity.org.uk

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Thanks are due to all who at David Edwards's birthday party contributed £1,288.75 for the SVP towards its work helping impoverished people in the area.

Walsingham Weekend

11th - 13th October 2019. Some walking will be involved and please note that none of the rooms have full disabled access yet. The booking deadline and final balance is due by 12th September 2019. 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

Watford, St. Albans & Hemel Hospital Chaplaincy.

Mass will be offered in the hospital once a month and everyone is welcome to attend for more details about dates and times please contact the head of chaplaincy. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Litany of Lourdes in the hospital oratory on level 4 at Watford Hospital every Monday at 2pm all are welcome to join us.

If you have a relative in hospital who has requested to see a Catholic chaplain please do let us know. Would you consider giving an hour a week to join our chaplaincy support team - please contact us for details? For more information about any of the above please email the head of chaplaincy:

anthony.curran@nhs.net

You can contact the hospital chaplaincy directly by calling 01923 217994 referrals can also be made via email: spiritualcare@whht.nhs.uk

Items for the Parish Website

Items for the parish website should be sent to the parish office at stalban@rcdow.org.uk
Posters advertising upcoming events should if possible be provided in A4 portrait format as either a pdf or Word (.doc) document

Drivers Required Please

Are you able to offer transport for senior parishioners to attend Parish Friends Tea Parties and Films? These take place in the Parish Hall on approximately 6 Sundays a year from 2.30 - 5pm. Some guests cannot attend these functions without a lift to and from the event. Please can you help?

Just a couple of times a year would be appreciated. Please contact Helen



Bassill 07860 830 340 /
helen.bassill@ntlworld.com

if you can support us.

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

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