

# NEWS BULLETIN - SS ALBAN & STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Tel: 01727 853 585

e-mail: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org

Items for the bulletin by Noon on Wednesdays. We are a Fairtrade Parish.

## 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Team: Fr Michael O'Boy (Parish Priest) Fr Julian Davies (Assistant Priest)

Rev. Steve Pickard (Deacon) Sr. Anita O'Leary SSJG (Youth Co-ordinator) e-mail: anitaoleary@rcdow.org.uk

Safeguarding Lead: Nicky Vellacott / stalbanssg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07882 566 020

*The following was written by Bishop John Arnold on behalf of the Bishops Conference of England & Wales*

Sunday 1 September was the "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation." This day of prayer was instituted in the Catholic Church in 2015 by Pope Francis, although it has been celebrated in the Orthodox church since 1989.

It also marked the start of the "Season of Creation," which unites Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home. The Season of Creation ends on 4 October, the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. During this season we are encouraged to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Especially at this time, with attention on the fires in the Amazon Rainforest, we pray for those in positions of power and influence to be effective 'guardians of God's creation,' which includes all of us who exercise influence as consumers. We also pray for those who are involved in the preparations for the Synod on the Amazon, that their discussions will be fruitful in highlighting the challenges faced in the region and bringing more people to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We all have our part to play in caring for our common home, and in our recent statement, "Guardians of God's Creation" we encourage a Christian spirituality of ecology, and a call to a new lifestyle, beginning in personal and family life. As disciples, we are invited to be part of the redeeming mission of Christ and to approach our task with joy and gratitude. "Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise [Laudato Si', 12]."

Father, Lord of all creation,  
we praise you with all your creatures and the  
whole universe that comes forth  
from the work of Your hands.  
We acknowledge the privilege and responsibility  
that You give us as stewards of Your creation.  
In our ignorance we have done damage to our  
common home and our  
brothers and sisters are suffering.  
Through faithfully following your Son  
guide and direct us to prepare for a better future.  
Teach us to contemplate You in the beauty of the  
universe, for all things speak of You.  
Give us the grace to recognise, respect and protect  
all You have created,  
using wisely all that you have entrusted to us.  
Holy Spirit,  
who first hovered over the dawn of creation and  
drew order out of the chaos help us  
to build your kingdom of  
justice, love, peace and beauty  
where the poor of the earth are crying out.  
You, who live and reign, world without end,  
Amen.

*For further information on the Season of Creation:  
<http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/ourwork/environment/season-of-creation/season-of-creation-background/>*

**Fr Michael Writes** Thank you for your warm welcome. Slowly but surely we are settling into the Presbytery and getting used to the new routine. There have been some issues with the sound system, partly it is a matter of our getting used to the way the sound system works, but also there appears to be a fault with the loop system used by those with hearing aids. We are looking into this and hope to have the problem rectified soon.

**Fr Michael**

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September

23 SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

6.00 pm O'Leary Family Ints.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September

8.00 am Richard Field RIP

9.00 am M'wick People of the Parish

9.30 am 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

11.30 am Giuseppe & Gennaro  
Capparelli Anniv

7.00 pm Algerrina da Silva RIP

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September - feria

10.00 am Vincent O'Reilly (RIP)

7.00 pm Personal Intentions

Tuesday 10<sup>rd</sup> September - feria

10.00 am Priest's Intentions  
*No Evening Mass*

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September - feria

10.00 am Frank Cafferkey (RIP)

7.00 pm Liber Marzo (Anniv)

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September - feria

10.00 am Wedding Anniv  
*No Evening Mass*

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September - St John Chrysostom

10.00 am Frank Cafferkey (RIP)

7.00 pm Daniel Brudney (Anniv)

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

10.00 am Personal Intentions

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September

24 SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

6.00 pm George Taites (RIP)

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September

8.00 am Richard Field (RIP)

9.00 am M'wick Pro Pop

9.30 am Karol Jozef Gajewski (RIP)

11.30 am John Paton (RIP)

7.00 pm Taylor Family (Ints)

**Confession:** Sat 10.30-11.30 am & 6.45-7.00 pm.

*Please note that Mass intentions may change at short notice to accomodate funerals*

## PLEASE PRAY

**For those who have died** For the recently departed, especially Amparo Melendez Dieste and Richard Preston who have died recently, and for Giuseppe & Gennaro Capparelli, Liber Marzo, Daniel Brudney and Vincent O'Reilly whose anniversaries occur at this time.

\*\*\*\*

**Prayers for the Sick** If you would like to include someone in the prayers for the sick please contact the presbytery. Please note that names will only be included with the express permission of the sick person themselves or, where they are not able to give that permission, with the consent of their next of kin. Names will be included in the sick list recorded in the newsletter for up to five weeks unless renewed.

## THE WORD TODAY

**First Reading:** The greatest part of wisdom is to know the limits of our own wisdom, and to turn to God whose wisdom is without limit.

**Second Reading:** Paul knows two Christians, Philemon and Onesimus, who are connected to each other as master and slave. But Paul regards them both as his brothers in Christ, and so they must learn to see each other in a new light.

**Gospel:** Luke's Gospel famously portrays Jesus as gentle, meek and mild; yet here, Jesus urges us to make the deepest and strongest of sacrifices for his sake.

Next Sunday is Home Mission Sunday. The Bishops of England & Wales ask that a retiring collection be taken to support the work of its Home Mission Office whose work is focussed on helping the local church here in England and Wales to make the joy of the Gospel a reality. If you would like to know more about the work of the Home Mission Office you can visit its website at [www.homemission.org.uk](http://www.homemission.org.uk)

# Dates for September



**Baptism Course** If you wish to have your child baptised please call the presbytery on 01727 853 585. (Mon - Fri, 9am - 1pm). If it is your first child you will be asked to attend one of the baptism

preparation courses before booking a date. If you live outside our Parish it is necessary to have a letter from your Parish Priest giving permission to baptise here.

**First Communion 2020** The first parents meeting is on Monday 16 September at 8.00pm in the Hall Parish Centre.

**Marriage** Couples hoping to get married should contact the presbytery and speak with Fr Michael or Fr Julian. Please note that at least six months notice is required for the necessary preparation and paperwork to be completed.

**Become a Parish Sponsor/Godparent** Every year we have been blessed to receive New Catholics into our Church Community at the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday). We have been doing this for over twenty-five years and it is always such a joy for us at SS Alban & Stephen. To assist / walk alongside these wonderful people we do need volunteers, each year, to become Sponsors / Godparents willing to journey with each person on their pathway to Easter. To become their spiritual 'agony aunt / uncle' is a joy. We would very much appreciate anyone who is interested in becoming part of our team (September > Easter). Please contact Deacon Steve on 01727 863925 or at stephenpickard@gmail.com The rewards are great!

**Children's Liturgy** More volunteers are needed to join the rota for the 9.30 am Children's Liturgy. The commitment is to running approximately 3 sessions a year. If you are able to help, please contact Catherine 07887 427393.

**Parish Youth Club** Invitation to all year seven's (from September) to join us for a pizza and games **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 meet on **Monday September 9<sup>th</sup>** at 8pm in room 2. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from email: [office@mothersprayers.org](mailto:office@mothersprayers.org)

**English Conversation Classes for Ladies** The next session will be on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September**, 1pm until 2.30pm, in the Parish Hall.

**Parents and Toddlers** Next session: **9<sup>th</sup> September**, 10.30 am in the Parish Hall.

**Knit and Natter** We will meet again on **September 10<sup>th</sup> from 2.30-4pm**. Contact Helen 07860 830340 for any queries.



**Bingo** is back! On **Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> September** in the Parish Hall at 8 O'Clock to raise funds to support the garden maintenance of LIFE house in St.Albans. Admission is 50p towards refreshments, and everyone is most welcome. Thank you to all those that supported our last Bingo event. £200-00 was raised for the Tyburn Nuns.

**CTSA Autumn Prayer Walk 2019** The annual CTSA Prayer Walk will take place on **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> September** in Room 1 of the Parish Centre from 5pm until 7pm. All are welcome.

**Mens Breakfast - 28 September** The Men's breakfasts are back after the summer break. Our first breakfast will be Saturday 28 September, from 8.15am in the Parish Centre. There will have tea/coffee, fruit, pastries and friendly conversation from 8.15am for 30 - 45 minutes, followed by a short DVD talk. We are starting a new series of talks which are from Bishop Robert Barron on the theme of "better understanding Jesus as our Priest, Prophet and King". We will finish by 10am. Please contact Richard by email on [d4dstalbans@gmail.com](mailto:d4dstalbans@gmail.com), or call 07976 252309 for more details.

# NEWS BULLETIN

**St. Columba's College** the independent Catholic boys' day school in St Albans, will be holding an 'Stay and Play' session in the Prep School on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019 between 9am and 11am. Boys aged 3+ are invited to stay and play while their parents visit. For more information, please see our website

[www.stcolumbascollege.org](http://www.stcolumbascollege.org) or contact the Admissions Registrar, Mrs Hilary Causer: [admissions@stcolumbascollege.org](mailto:admissions@stcolumbascollege.org)

**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 14<sup>th</sup> September. Volunteer Drivers also needed. Contact: 07966 742924

[Nightstop.Hertfordshire@depaulcharity.org.uk](mailto:Nightstop.Hertfordshire@depaulcharity.org.uk)

## **North Wales Retreat 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 St. Winefride. Full board accommodation at St. Winefride's Guest House, Holywell, run by the Bridgetine sisters. Cost: £190. Details: David Edwards: 01727 765216

**Support Victims of Modern Slavery**\_Classical Concert, St Mary's Church (Cadogan Street) - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm. In one of the hidden architectural treasures of London, St Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, the Janus Ensemble, alongside soloists Ariana Kashefi (cello) and Oliver Wass (harp) will present an evening of classical music, in aid of Caritas Bakhita House & Saint John Of God Hospitaller Services. Drinks and food will be provided during the intermission. Tickets are available to purchase by searching for the event title on Eventbrites.

See <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/support-victims-of-modern-slavery-classical-concert-tickets-61926624200>.

**Good Counsel Network** On Saturday 28th September, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed as there was a large increase in the number of abortions in this country last year. For details of our live saving work see

[www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)

**Walsingham Sunday 6 October** Pilgrimage to pray for the sanctity of life led by Bishop Mark O'Toole. Coach departs from St Bartholomew's, Vesta Avenue at 7.30am. Please contact Geraldine on 07971 028415 £17.50 Adults, £8 children & full-time students.

## **Walsingham Weekend 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 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 01727 751094

## **Watford, St. Albans & Hemel Hospital Chaplaincy.**

Mass is offered in the hospital once a month and everyone is welcome. For more details 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 welcome. If you have a relative in hospital who has requested to see a Catholic chaplain please 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](mailto: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](mailto:spiritualcare@whht.nhs.uk)