

NEWS BULLETIN - Ss ALBAN & STEPHEN

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – 15 MARCH 2020

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

Rev. Steve Pickard (Deacon)

Safeguarding Lead: Mary Harber / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

Coronavirus

In line with the 'Stage 2' advice received from the Bishops Conference of England & Wales we have suspended the distribution of communion under both kinds and asked people to receive in the hand only. We have also suspended the physical sign of peace, removed the Holy Water, and arranged for the Eucharistic Ministers and priests to wash their hands before and after the distribution of Holy Communion. Please note that from this weekend and for the foreseeable future the use of hymnbooks and re-use of Mass sheets will be discontinued while the usual Sunday collection will be taken at the door as people leave the church, while

In addition to these measures, all of which have been put in place to prevent or at least disrupt the spread of the coronavirus, we would:

- encourage everyone attending Mass to sanitise their hands as they come into church, using the Alcolgel hand wash located by the Holy Water Stoups in the porch and near the entrance to the Sacred Heart Centre
- encourage those with cold or flu symptoms to refrain from attending Liturgy, public events, or the Sacrament of Reconciliation if symptomatic
- encourage vulnerable people (the elderly, those with weakened immune systems and long term conditions like cancer, diabetes and heart disease) to refrain from large parish gatherings and stay at home.

- encourage everyone to observe universal good hygiene:
 - **Catch it - sneeze into a tissue.**
 - **Bin it - bin the tissue.**
 - **Kill it - wash your hands with soap and water.**
 - **Do not touch your face unless you've washed your hands.**

In addition to the above we will be reviewing whether or not planned events should take place on a case by case basis bearing in mind both the above recommendations and the Conference's advice to suspend catering (teas, coffees, etc.) at large parish gatherings where multiple people touch mugs, utensils, biscuits, etc. Full details of the advice received from the Bishop's Conference can be seen on the A3 posters at the back of the Church and found at

<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/advice-regarding-coronavirus/>

If you are unable to attend Mass, please note that Mass is streamed live from a number of Churches. Visit

<https://www.churchservices.tv/>
and click on 'churches' in the menu bar. Locally, Mass is streamed from Potters Bar, Bishops Stortford and Borehamwood.

Way of the Cross Every Saturday morning during Lent at 9.30 am, you are invited to follow the Way of the Cross in Church. Led by different groups within the parish, each week will have a different theme but all will help us make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the 14 stations of the Passion of Christ.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

Saturday 14 March

6.00pm Linda Peters (RIP)

Sunday 15 March

8.00am Michael Finucane (Anniv.)

9.00am M^WWick Mario D'Andrea (Anniv.)

John Fisher School

9.30am Peter Troy (RIP)

11.30am People of the Parish

7.00pm Maureen Rowland (Anniv.)

Monday 16 March - Lent feria

10.00am James Taylor (RIP)

10.30 - 11.30 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7.00pm Private Intentions

Tuesday 17 March - St Patrick

10.00am Private Intentions

Wednesday 18 March - Lent feria

7.00am Private Intentions

10.00am Conway Berners-Lee (Anniv.)

7.00pm Private Intentions

**Thursday 19 March - St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed
Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese**

10.00am Gerry Snaith (RIP)

Friday 20 March - Lent feria

10.00am Marco Angelo Maria (RIP)

7.00pm James Taylor (RIP)

7.30-8.30 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

7.40-8.40 pm Confessions

Saturday 21 March - Lent feria

9.30am Stations of the Cross

10.00am Mary Curran (RIP)

10.30-11.30 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

10.30-11.30 am Confessions

11.30 am Benediction

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 21 March

6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 22 March

8.00am People of the Parish

9.00am M^WWick Mary Baxter (Anniv.)

John Fisher School

9.30am Floryse Chan Far (Anniv.)

11.30am Joe Walsh (Anniv.)

7.00pm George Taites (Anniv.)

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

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans, this week pray for the Pastors and members of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship.

For the Sick in Our Parish

For those who have died recently: John Taylor, Lynn Lillywhite, Rose Doyle, Celia Dunne, Margaret Duncan and Ella Vellacott.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael Finucane, Mario D'Andrea, Maureen Rowland, Conway Berners-Lee, Mary Baxter, Floryse Chan Far, Joe Walsh, Milly Yarwood and George Taites.

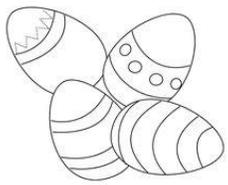
*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful
departed through the mercy of God rest in peace*

Thank you for your generosity in both the Offertory and the contribution to CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day Collection.

MSC 120-year Celebration 20th June 2020 Planning is underway for a wonderful parish party to follow the Mass on 20th June to celebrate 120years of service of the MSCs in St Albans. Could you help with setting up or clearing away, giving someone a lift, providing entertainment, loaning a gazebo, serving refreshments or donating a dessert? If you can help in any way, please contact Dave or Melanie. June may seem a long way off, but summer will come round very soon and we need to get our plans in place!

Love and Feed our Neighbour The Lay Associates of the MSCs are hoping to organise a monthly collection of food and essentials to support the work of the Vineyard in St Albans who now serve 80 individuals/families a week that are in desperate need particularly at this time. This scheme aims to improve on traditional food banks by working with the families identified and targeting specific items each month. On the weekend of 21st/22nd March, if you are able to support this project, please would you bring just one item from the following list: baby food, tinned vegetables, or washing up liquid; then place whatever you can spare into the boxes available in the porch and at Marshalswick.

Faith sharing during Lent The latest diocesan faith-sharing booklet - *A Word for Lent* - invites us to see salvation gradually unfold in our own lives, as well as in the lives of the Gospel women and men, whose stories are as relevant today as they were 2000 years ago. Beautiful works of art accompany us on each stage of our journey through *A Word for Lent*. Whether alone or in a group, these Lent Sunday Gospel reflections provide stimulating insights and ways into deepening personal prayer and commitment to Jesus. We are invited to obtain a booklet and encouraged to use it during Lent to help us consider what we can do to grow after the mind and heart of Jesus. Booklets are available in the Church and at John Fisher Mass Centre, or online. If you would like to join a confidential small group during Lent, then please contact Stan for more information.



You Too Can Give an Easter Egg

Thanks to your fantastic generosity over 160 children and young adults, across 70 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 28th/29th March. 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.

The next **Marriage Preparation Course** will be held in April. If you are hoping to get married in 2020, you are strongly encouraged to contact the presbytery and speak with Fr Michael. The Bishop requires at least 6 months notice of marriage and as part of the preparation for marriage, the church requires couples to complete a Marriage preparation course

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Men's breakfast There is a men's breakfasts on Saturday **28 March**, 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 will continue looking at the series of talks from Bishop Robert Barron on the theme of "better understanding Jesus as our Priest, Prophet and King", we aim to finish by 10am. Please contact Richard by email on d4dstalbans@gmail.com, or call for more details

The St Patrick's Day Tea Party has been cancelled in the light of the coronavirus outbreak.

If you are aged between 16 and 19 and are interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church (Baptism/Reception, Confirmation, Eucharist) please have a chat with Fr Julian or send him an email.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Baptism Preparation Session For those seeking infant baptism for their first child the next baptism preparation session will be held on April 25th 11.30-1.00. Please meet in the coffee area

Extended Adoration on Friday 27 March Our Friday evening adoration on 27 March will be start earlier than usual. Friday evening mass will be at the earlier time of 6pm and then will be followed by a period of adoration with quiet worship music until 7.45pm and then there will be a period of silent adoration until 8.30pm. As we approach the Easter period this may be an opportunity for all of us to come and spend a few minutes in quiet prayer on the way home from work or after Friday dinner. During the first period of adoration we will also open the doors of the church to welcome passing commuters to share this time of prayer with us.

Year of The Word: Come and join the monthly group reflection on St Matthew's Gospel on Saturday, 28th March at 10.45am. No prior knowledge is required: the sessions are following the Catholic Bible School 'Matthew's Gospel' booklet. The remaining dates for the year are: 28th March, 25th April, 9th May, 27th June, 18th July, 19th September and 17th October. Further details on the leaflets in the porch.

The next **Knit and Natter** meeting is Tuesday 24th March not 19th March. All welcome. Please phone Helen before attending in case of cancellation

Food bank collection A Churches Together in Marshalswick collection for the food bank will occur outside Budgens supermarket in the Quadrant on Saturday 21st March from 09.30 - 11.30am. Please come along shopping that morning to support this very worthwhile event

Global Healing. This short exploration, over two sessions in the church hall, of the papal encyclical *Laudato Si'* invites each of us to look at the world anew and encourages us to make small but meaningful changes to the way we live in relation to our delicate home. Session 2: Sunday 29 March. 2.00-5.15pm. 'Before the flood' - a National Geographic documentary film - followed by refreshments, group discussion and examination of practical responses. All are welcome. No need to book. More details from Stan

Volunteers Needed to hand out Invitations to our Easter Services, at the St Albans City Market on Sat 21 March (for a ½ hour). Contact Eric

New year, new prayer life? Why not consider joining a small group to pray and share your thoughts and experiences in strict confidence. A friendly group meets on alternate Tuesday evenings at 8pm in the café area of the Hall. Dates for our next few meetings are 17 and 31 March. No need to book, just turn up.

Life Ascending (Ascent) Meeting Tuesday 24 March 10.45 in Room 1. Talk "Rules and Regs". Life Ascending is an international movement for those in their later years. New members are welcome. Details: David

AROUND AND ABOUT

Easter Season Painting Competition - 2020 The Knights of St Columba (KSC) is again sponsoring a National Easter Season Painting Competition. Entry is free and is open to Catholic Junior Secondary and Senior pupils in three age groups, from 8 to 18 years. Entry details have been circulated to art departments in St Albans and district Catholic schools and details can also be found on posters and flyers display in the church porch and at St John Fisher school Mass centre. Prize awards will be made at KSC National, Province and St Albans stages. The closing date for receipt of entries, to school/college art departments is Monday 23 March 2020. Further details available from Pat

The SVP are **distributing 11,500 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support.

The Passage is raising funds through the Big Give from 12 noon Tues 3rd December - 12 noon Tues 10th December to support its work Helping Homeless People this winter. Double your Donation, Double your impact. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information, ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921886 andrew.h@passage.org.uk.

Churches Together in Marshalswick The third talk in the 'Ticket to Ride' series, for Lent, is taking place this evening at 7pm in the Baptist Free Church, the Quadrant, Marshalswick. The speaker is to be Revd. Natasha Woodward and the subject is titled 'First call for dinner'. Please do come along, everyone is very welcome.

SCHOOLS

Vacancy Ss Alban and Stephen Catholic Junior School are looking for an After School Club Supervisor to work Monday to Friday from 3-6pm (term time only). We are also looking for a Breakfast Club Supervisor to work Thursday and Fridays from 7.30-8.45am (term time only) If you are interested in either position, please email the school office - admin@ssasjm.herts.sch.uk for more details and an application form. Successful candidates will be required to undergo an enhanced DBS check.

AND FINALLY

Music at Easter If you would like to take part in the music during our Easter triduum, there are various rehearsals which will take place during Lent. Contact Brendan for any further details The rehearsals are as follows:

- 21 March: 10.30am-12.30pm, Rooms 1&2
- 26 March: 7.30pm-9.30pm, Hall
- 7th April: 7.30pm-9.30pm, Hall
- 11th April: 11am-1pm, Rooms 1&2

Mass for Migrants, Saturday 2nd May, 11am Banner Procession and Mass, St Anthony of Padua RC Church, Forest Gate, E7 9QB. Everyone is warmly welcome to this wonderful Mass, celebrating the tremendous contribution of migrants to the London and South-East Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster. The Mass will include the newly painted icon of Our Lady of Walsingham, recently blessed by Pope Francis, and will be celebrated by the Bishop of Brentwood, Bishop Alan Williams, in honour of St Joseph the Worker. If you are a group bringing a banner, please email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org for more information.

The Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage to Westminster - Saturday March 21 The touring statue of Our Lady of Walsingham will make a final 3-day visit (19-21 March) to Westminster Cathedral just before the re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary at Walsingham on the Feast of the Annunciation. A group from the parish will be setting off from St Albans City station, following 10am Mass. If you are interested in joining the March 21 pilgrimage, please email Rosemary or telephone 07723 546642.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony, Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 30th May 2020 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2020. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).