

# NEWS BULLETIN - St 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.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 22 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

By now you will be aware that in line with efforts to curtail the spread of the Coronavirus the public celebration of Mass has been suspended. The Sunday Mass stands at the centre of our Christian Catholic lives. As the Vatican Council reminds us, the Eucharist is the source and summit of all that we do. It is in the celebration of the Eucharist that the Church is most fully herself, that she calls upon God as she offers to God both thanks and praise, and where, nourished and strengthened by Christ who is present among those who are gathered, in the Word that is proclaimed, and the bread and wine that become his body and blood, she is equipped for the task of proclaiming and living out the Gospel.

Where Christ is, we his body, are also there. Our belief then is that wherever Mass is celebrated the whole church, the whole community is present. And by 'community' we do not simply mean the visible assembly, the people we can see around us, for the Church believes that the community incorporates not only the living, but also the saints in heaven and the departed who have gone before us in faith. Simply put, the Church, the community that gathers every time we celebrate Mass transcends both time and space. Certainly, it will be odd not to gather on Sunday for a public Mass, but as myself and Fr Julian celebrate 'private' masses, be assured that you will be present, not only in our thoughts and in our prayers, but precisely because a Mass which transcends time and space can never be private, cut off, apart or isolated.

In this Year of the Word, and in the precautions that we have been called to take, it seems to me that there remains a real opportunity to understand more fully the mystery at the heart of the Mass and to listen and pray the scriptures. So, we may not gather physically on Sunday, but we will gather mysteriously, and in that gathering I encourage you to take up the scriptures that we would have listened to on Sunday – read them, reflect on them, talk about them.

There are resources and links to help; click the Coronavirus tab on the website homepage, but remember the Church itself remains open for private prayer. If you are not self-isolating, maybe pay a visit in the week to pray for our community, for the sick, for those striving to care for them, for those who have died, for those who mourn. Pray that our faith may be strengthened, our hope undiminished, and the call to serve our brothers and sisters lived out and enriched.

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, but there are several other parishes in the Diocese also livestreaming

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on request. Please ring or call at the presbytery.

When visiting the church please remember to use the hand sanitisers provided, to keep a distance between yourself and others, and at all times to observe proper 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.**

*Dear Guardian Angel, go for me to the church, there kneel down at Mass for me. At the Offertory, take me to God, and offer Him my service: What I am, what I have, offer as my gift. At the Consecration, with your seraphic strength, adore my Saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me, and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all. During Holy Communion, bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus uniting Him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become His dwelling place. Plead with Him, that through His sacrifice all people throughout the world may be saved. When the Mass ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing. Amen.*

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

**On Saturday 21 March Mass will be said for Mary Curran (Anniv)**

**On Sunday 22 March, Mass will be said for the People of the Parish, Floryse Chan Far (Anniv) and Mary Baxter (Anniv).**

**Monday 23 March – Lent Feria  
Mass will be celebrated for Michael Leahy (Anniv) and Michael Bridge (RIP)**

**Tuesday 24 March – Lent Feria  
Mass will be celebrated for Joe Walsh (Anniv) and for George Taites (Anniv). *The Mass for Cath Molloy (RIP) will be said at a later date.***

**Wednesday 25 March – THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD  
Mass will be celebrated for Carolyn Gower and one for the donor's Private Intentions.**

**Thursday 26 March – Lent Feria  
Masses will be celebrated for Christine Cleary (RIP) and for Joao Paolo Martins whose funeral service will be held today.**

**Friday 27 March – Lent Feria  
Mass will be celebrated for Jean Yves Theanne whose funeral service will be held today. Mass will also be celebrated for Sister Mary Aelred (Ints)**

**Saturday 28 March – Lent Feria  
Mass will be said for Marie Noella Amadis & Aline Rangasamy and the Deceased members of Brennan family**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Sunday 29 March  
Mass will be said for Frances Turner (RIP) and the People of the Parish.  
*The Intentions for Antonia Gramegha (Anniv) will be said on Tuesday 31 March and the intention for, Michael Camaniello (Anniv.) will be said on Thursday 2nd April. The intention for Anne Byrne will be offered privately by another priest.***

**PLEASE PRAY**

Together with Churches Together in St Albans, this week pray for the Ministers and members of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban.

For those suffering with the Corona Virus and for all the the Sick: Bernadette Witchard, Mary Miskell, Philomena Lines, Nancy Falloon, Jeff Tan, Johnny Doran, Eileen Cleary, Mary Malloney, Richard Sumner, Sue Gavin, Jim Moss, Ana Isabel Paz.

For those who have died recently: John Taylor, Lynn Lillywhite, Jean Yves Theanne, Michael Theanne and Rose Doyle.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Curran, Mary Baxter, Floryse Chan Far, Joe Walsh George Taites and Michael Leahy.

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

**Thank You**

Thank you for your generosity in last week's offertory which amounted to just under £1,500.

**Coronavirus – let's not forget the vulnerable** In light of the uncertainty over the Coronavirus, it is understandable that we want to ensure our kitchen cupboards are well stocked. However, we must not forget that this can leave foodbanks struggling. Hundreds of people rely on generous donations from our parishioners. This includes the need for hygiene items, toilet paper, sanitary products etc, as well as sealed packages of dry food, tins, and long-life milk etc. Foodbanks also welcome donations of money - please give what you can. Please also consider if you could spare some time to volunteer - perhaps by driving to collect food for a foodbank - or simply by looking out for your neighbours. Contact [cfc@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cfc@rcdow.org.uk) or call 020 7931 6077 to add your name to a list of people who would be willing to help respond.

**Knit and Natter** All knit and natter meetings are cancelled until further notice. Ladies do continue to knit at home - think what can be achieved in 12 weeks. Numerous blankets for the elderly, beanie hats for babies, twiddle muffs for those with dementia and wonderful stripy jumpers for the orphans in South Africa. If you need more wool contact Helen (07860 830340) and I can arrange for some to be delivered to you. Keep safe and well.

**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 - grabecki@hotmail.com; 765549 - for more information.



**You Too Can Give an Easter Egg - CANCELLED** Sadly, given the current coronavirus outbreak and restrictions in place we have had to cancel the Easter Egg scheme this year. If

you have already purchased an Easter egg and would still like to donate, please leave it in the box marked "You Too Can Give an Easter Egg" at the back of the church and they will be donated to the foodbank. If this is not convenient please e-mail the team at [ycbs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ycbs@rcdow.org.uk).

**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

The **Marriage Preparation Course** scheduled for April will almost certainly be cancelled. No new enquiries for Marriage preparation will be initiated for the time being. Fr Michael will be in contact with those who have already initiated a marriage enquiry.

**English Conversation Class for Ladies** has been cancelled until further notice due to the concerns around Coronavirus.

**Parent & Toddler Group** has been cancelled until further notice due to the concerns around Coronavirus.

**Mothers' Prayers** will meet on Monday April 6<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).

**Mercy Associates** - cancellation of next meeting. The meeting scheduled for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March will not now take place following the latest government guidelines regarding the Coronavirus.

**Baptism Preparation Session** The baptism preparation session scheduled for April is now cancelled.

The **Extended Adoration planned for Friday 27 March** is now cancelled.

**Year of The Word:** The session planned for 28<sup>th</sup> March is now cancelled. These remaining sessions reflecting on 'Matthew's Gospel' are currently scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> September and 17<sup>th</sup> October.

**Global Healing.** Session 2 'Before the flood' planned for Sunday 29 March is now cancelled.

**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. These meetings are currently suspended.

**Life Ascending (Ascent)** The meeting planned for Tuesday 24 March on "Rules and Regs" is now cancelled. Life Ascending is an international movement for those in their later years. New members are welcome. Details: David Edwards. Tel: 765216

## AROUND AND ABOUT

**Easter Season Painting Competition - 2020** Owing to the current situation The Knights of St Columba (KSC) have had to announce the cancellation of this year's Easter Season Painting Competition.

## AND FINALLY

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 3<sup>rd</sup> December - 12 noon Tues 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:andrew.h@passage.org.uk).

**Love and Feed our Neighbour.** As we have all seen, the coronavirus is causing extreme distress, particularly amongst those who depend on foodbanks to feed their families. As advertised in the Bulletin, the Lay Associates of the MSCs are collecting this weekend 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. 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 box available in the church porch. If you are unable to come to church during the current crisis – please try to put something into the foodbanks available at many supermarkets.

**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](mailto:frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org) for more information.

**Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony,** Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 3pm. This event has now been cancelled.