



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 30th August 2020



VirginMoney Giving

Parish Team: Fr Michael O'Boy (Parish Priest) Fr Julian Davies (Assistant Priest)
Rev. Steve Pickard (Deacon)

Fr Julian Writes... Baptism is something that is done to us, but being baptised takes a lifetime and involves a conscious act of our will. I have to will to lead a baptised life that honours the Lord. It's so easy to say well I'm done and that's it. Just as the married life starts on the wedding day, so the baptised life starts at baptism. Much has to be unravelled. Even when we accept Christ into our lives, and decide to recognise his claims on our life and consciously become his disciples, we are generally unaware of the implications of what we have done. It dawns on us slowly that we can withhold nothing back from him, and surrendering all that we are (/were) in order to become all that we are (/will be) is a continuous call. This is what renouncing self is all about. It's an ongoing turning to Christ away from self. This is positive rather than negative, for in doing so we discover our real self, made in his image. It is interesting to note that when Jesus calls those who want to follow him to follow him, he's actually speaking to those who are *already* following him-his disciples! He was calling them to be more effective witnesses. So for us as for them the act of following him is ongoing, involving turning over to Jesus will, heart, mind and strength every day. Like the disciples we have to seek consciously and continually to bring ourselves into obedience and alignment with him, by giving way to him and letting him be the first in our lives. This guest is not content at being a tenant but wishes to take over the property. Yet so often he is treated as some kind of discomfiting squatter who has happened to set up residence and who is recognised as if only to be evicted. Hold on you say... I like my own security and space! True, everyone needs security and space, that's not in question, but what today's gospel reminds us is that our true security or space can be found *only* in Him...and let's rejoice that he gives us the Holy Spirit, the sacraments and the host of heaven as the means of obtaining it.

Talking of baptism, it has been a joy to catch up with some of the baptisms postponed because of the lockdown. We are pleased to say that our RCIA can finally take place on 6th September when those who have been preparing to be received and initiated into the Christian faith can finally do so. This means that there will be less space available at the 11.30mass than normal. Please note that from that weekend we shall be resuming the normal times for masses (save for the time being the 9.00 mass Marshalwick). Sat vigil 6pm, Sunday 9.30, 11.30, 7pm. Also from 12th we shall reinstate a regular time of exposition from 10.00-10.45 on Saturday mornings. Fr Michael and I are very grateful for all those who have volunteered to steward in the past. With the increase of masses, and occasional services, obviously we need more assistance. If your health allows it, and you are willing to volunteer, please contact Melanie O'Neill who is coordinating the rota of volunteer stewards on mjoneill5@btinternet.com or 07900051956 . May you have a blessed week.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 30 August – 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6pm Vigil Mass will be offered for Tommy Collins (Ann)
10am Mass will be offered for William O'Leary (Ann)
6pm Mass will be offered for George May Xuereb Brennan (Ann)
Reading 1, Jeremiah 20:7-9
Responsorial Psalm, 62
Reading 2, Romans 12:1-2
Gospel, Matthew 16:21-27

Monday 31 August - St Aiden

10 am Mass will be offered for Anne & Michael Quinn (Int)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Responsorial Psalm, 118
Gospel, Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday 1 September

10 am Mass will be offered for Ethelreda 'Betty' Forster (RIP)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16
Responsorial Psalm, 144
Gospel, Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday 2 September

10 am Mass will be offered for Maureen Meade (Int)
7 pm Mass will be offered for Janina Chilczuk (RIP)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Responsorial Psalm, 32
Gospel, Luke 4:38-44

Thursday 3 September - Pope St Gregory the Great

10 am Mass will be offered for Patrick Cahill (RIP)
Reading 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:2-8
Responsorial Psalm, 95
Gospel, Matthew 16:13-19

Friday 4 September -St Cuthbert

10 am Mass will be offered for Patrick Cahill (RIP)
7 pm Mass will be offered for Patricia Eyre (RIP)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Responsorial Psalm, 36
Gospel, Luke 5:33-39

Saturday 5 September

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 4:6-15
Responsorial Psalm, 144
Gospel, Luke 6:1-5

For confession please call at the Presbytery or email the office

Sunday 6 September – 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6pm Vigil Mass will be offered for Ray Lawson (RIP)
9.30am Mass will be offered for Mira Murawski (RIP) & Janusz Murawski (RIP)
11.30am Mass will be offered for the People of the Parish
7pm Mass will be offered for Algenia da Silva (Ann)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans, this week we pray for the pastor and members of St Albans Pentecostal Assembly of God Church.

For all those suffering from Coronavirus and the Sick in our Parish.

For those who have died recently: Marion Haye, Anthony O'Shea, Antoinette Igoe and Royln Seeboruth.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Tommy Collins, Algenia da Silva, William O'Leary and George May Xuereb Brennan

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

Housekeeping Notes for Attending Church It is now a legal requirement to wear a face covering in church. Please have your face covering in place before entering the porch and keep it in place throughout Mass. Vulnerable people who are unable to wear a face covering are advised not to come to church at this time. Please book in advance. Observe 2m distancing at all times. Refrain from moving around the Church. Avoid touching surfaces as you move around. Do not to return to your seats after receiving Holy Communion. If you are under 70 please consider volunteering

Memorial Service for John Taylor John's family would like to invite you to join his Memorial Service online at 2pm on 12th September. Please contact his daughter Caroline (c.taylor94@hotmail.co.uk) for details.

The 11.30am Mass on Sunday 6th September will include our RCIA candidates joining the church fully. In light of this, space will be limited as it will be reserved first for the families of the candidates.

Bank Holiday Monday 31st August There will be no evening Mass on Monday 31st August due to the Bank Holiday. There will still be a Mass at 10am.

Sunday & Weekday Masses Please remember there are a limited number of spaces in church so it is necessary to pre-book a seat. Please contact the parish office stalbans@rcdow.org.uk or phone **01727 853585** to reserve a place.

The Sunday Obligation As Catholics we are asked to attend Mass every Sunday. It is an integral part of what it is to be a practicing Catholic. It's here that we hear Christ's command in the scriptures and are nourished with his body and blood; in the Mass we are called to and equipped for the lives that we are to live in the world at large. At this time the Bishops have released us from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Those shielding and vulnerable should be assured that they are under no obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Please consider participating via the streamed Masses. Given that there are a limited number of spaces in Church, please would parishioners who are not at work in the week and who are free to do so, think about coming to Mass during the week instead of at the weekend. In this way there will be more spaces available for those who can only attend at weekends.

VirginMoney Giving As you may be aware, due to the Coronavirus, the Church has had a drop in collection money of almost £2000 a week. This money goes a long way towards the upkeep of the church, as well as helping us to modernise (for example you will see elsewhere in this bulletin about the cost of installing a dedicated livestreaming service). Therefore, we have set up a simple way of donating to the Parish, via the platform VirginMoney Giving. At the top of the Bulletin, there are two QR Codes which, when scanned, will take you either to the church website homepage or the VirginMoney Giving page. The QR codes are both labelled for you to differentiate. You can go directly to the VirginMoney Giving page by using this [link](#). Of course, we recognise that this is a tough time for everyone, so please don't feel pressured, only give if you are able and willing. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Lockdown Survey

Many thanks to those who have completed the parish survey on the effects of the Lockdown on your views of the Church and Faith. It was extremely pleasing to receive 151 replies (100 online and 51 paper copies). There many helpful and informative comments and, once they have been fully collated, further feedback on the analyses will be given in due course.

Knit and Natter Members and friends of Parish Friends knit and natter group have been knitting squares throughout lockdown to make blankets to take into Care Homes. At a recent garden tea party three knitters got together with Marion Burgess and Helen Bassill to celebrate their achievements. Between them the ladies had made 300 squares which were croqueted together by Marion to make 10

blankets. If anyone is interested in knitting squares or baby hats while sitting at home please contact Helen via the Parish - 01727 853585 or email - stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

St Aidan (- 651) - Feast 31 August Aidan, a native of Ireland, was a monk on Iona who established a monastery on Lindisfarne which became the centre of a major missionary effort and seat of learning in the North of England. From here Aidan journeyed throughout Northumberland, usually on foot, and working closely with King Oswald. According to Bede, Aidan was a man of great gentleness and moderation. His wise promotion of Christian education among the native English laid the solid foundation for the spread of the Gospel in the centuries which followed his death.

Pope St Gregory the Great (540 - 604) - Feast 3 September Gregory was born in Rome and following a career of public service became Prefect of the City of Rome, a post he held for some years. He founded a monastery in Rome and others in Sicily before becoming a monk himself. He was ordained deacon and sent as an envoy to Constantinople, on a mission that lasted five years. He was elected Pope on 3 September 590, the first monk to be elected to this office. He reformed the administration of the Church's estates and devoted the resulting surplus to helping the poor and the ransoming of prisoners. He negotiated treaties with the Lombard tribes who were ravaging northern Italy, and was thus able to keep the Church's position secure in areas where Roman rule had broken down. His works for the propagation of the faith include the sending of Augustine and his monks as missionaries to England in 596. He wrote extensively on pastoral care, spirituality, and morals, and designated himself "servant of the servants of God." Gregory died on 12 March 604, but as this date falls within Lent, his feast is celebrated on the date of his election as Pope.

St Cuthbert (634? - 687) - Feast 4 September According to tradition, Cuthbert was a shepherd boy. He was certainly a monk, and later prior, at Melrose. After the Synod of Whitby in 664 he became prior of Lindisfarne where he won over the community to Roman ecclesiastical customs. He was zealous in preaching the Gospel but most attracted to living the life of a hermit, and in 676 he left the monastery and lived in solitude on the island of Inner Farne. For the last two years of his life he served as bishop of Lindisfarne, but returned to his island to die on 20 March 687. His remains were removed from Lindisfarne to escape Viking raiders and were enshrined at Durham Cathedral. As the anniversary of his death always falls within Lent, his feast is celebrated on the anniversary of the enshrinement of his remains at Durham.

Congratulations to Ava Elodi Pereira, Christine Connors and Finlay James Owen, who were Baptised into the Church last weekend.

Beirut, Lebanon

On the afternoon of August 4th, the skyline of our beloved city, Beirut, was tainted. Our people's bodies were dismantled, limb from limb after a most devastating explosion. Bodies on the pavements, bodies on hospital floors, bodies decapitated in crushed and blown cars, bodies humiliatingly lying in the middle of the streets, violated by tragedy. Every single body was accompanied by a phone, being rung ruthlessly by loved ones praying it wasn't their daughter, their son, their sibling, their parent, their relative, repulsively torn apart on the gravel of their homeland. Victims of the explosion were walking around, filming the catastrophe, and whispers of excruciatingly agonizing weeps could be heard by the survivors.

Our people are crying. A mother's scream is a distinct one. Our 10,452km² bellowed with shrieks and wails of women whose children have been ripped from their embrace. Children screeched at the sound of smashing glass and fallen roofs. The streets were filled with shards of glass. People's homes surrendered to ruin. Several hospitals were shattered. Warehouses stocked with medical supplies, demolished. The port, our main means of importing supplies food, product, burned to ashes. Grain, a nutrient so basic yet so necessary, has been wiped from a six-month reserve storage. Our economy will crash even further. Over one hundred of our citizens are marked deceased. Over five-thousand persons are wounded in hospitals that are that are immensely struggling with capacity and medical supplies. The medical system is in turmoil because of the overriding pressure and lack of medical supply. Civilians are racing to hospitals to donate blood in the midst of a pandemic. A good number of local people are still missing, with hopeless alerts being sent around. If a mask was not being worn for the purpose of the pandemic, they are now being worn for the fright of getting poisoned through the soiled air. Despite all the distress being lived, our people still have the will to press the palms of their hands together and call for God.

Our country is bleeding. We are encountering a disturbance greater than all of us, and we cannot do it alone. The Lebanese Maronite Order has opened the doors to its monasteries and schools to house many nationals who have lost their homes and has medicated and cared for as many as seven hundred in its hospitals. It is our duty to help our people, and we very much hope that it is yours too. The donations will go to the LMO for the Solidarity Initiative in order to raise a sufficient amount of donations to aid the vulnerable residents in restoring the homes they have lost to this disaster, as well as providing medical supplies, and food distribution.

They say Beirut represents a Phoenix, its glory shines exceptionally beyond the rest. It is a city that never sleeps. It is a city that is alive with energy, love, and laughter. Its seas never show fear and its streets never submit to the ordinary. And while it is in grief and sorrow, Beirut will rise from the ashes again, just like the resilient Phoenix it always has been.

While we are actively attempting to secure aids to our devastated nation, we need your help to make our efforts go even further. Your support is crucial to our efforts in reinforcing hope to our nation.

We thank you for taking the time to read our message and for any potential contributions you may present.

Yours Sincerely,

Fr Fadi Kmeid

Superior of Our Lady of Lebanon - UK

Deceased	135+
Wounded	5000+
Missing	100+
Homeless	300,000+

You can donate to the Lebanese Maronite Order Charitable trust using the following details:

Account Name: The Lebanese Maronite order charitable trust

Bank of Beirut UK Ltd.: 66 Cannon Street, London, EC4N 6AE

Sort Code: 60-83-75

Account No.: 12023802

Purpose: Aid to Beirut