



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 6 SEPTEMBER 2020



VirginMoney Giving

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

Fr Michael writes... 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves.' It's a solid piece of advice, much better than going around telling all the world how you have been offended and narrowing down the possibility of things being put right. Indeed some would say that there is nothing better than a row - a confrontation - to clear the air; on that particular philosophy I wouldn't like to comment, but where we allow things to fester, talking to everyone but the person we are annoyed with, things can only get worse; the offender continues to irritate us, and what in actual fact is only a minor matter, assumes greater importance or, failing to tackle things, a bad situation gets even worse through a lack of communication: the mood gets heavy, the drawbridge is wound up, others such as children and friends become go betweens, the offended party becomes embittered and the offender, not always realising that there is a problem, continues in blissful ignorance or, if he or she does realise there is a problem, is left to guess what it may be.

In the second reading from Paul to the Romans Paul reminds us of the command to love and it seems to me that if we are to live in love then we have to deal with the difficulties and the differences that arise in course of our daily living - within the family, at work, at school - without dealing with them there can be no reconciliation, no love. Indeed unless we are reconciled to those who offend us, not only will the offender become more of a stranger, we ourselves will be demeaned - unresolved issues and tensions have a way of niggling at us again and again. Quite simply, seeking reconciliation is not just a matter of forgiving somebody, it is also a crucial part of our being healed, of being at peace.

Of course there are ways and ways of doing things, some helpful, some not so helpful. Christ in that Gospel passage sets out an agenda for peace making - exhausting all the possibilities - and then in the final analysis says that if your brother refuses to listen to you, refuses to address the offending behaviour - then treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. They seem such shocking words. Is Christ really telling us to cut people off, to give up on them, to condemn? The simple answer is no; for that cutting off, that giving up, that condemning is not the way of Christ. Throughout his life Christ made room for the pagan and the tax collector, he angered many by dining with them, calling them, healing them, befriending them, loving them.

Love is the way of Christ, love is what we are called to and love, as Christ demonstrated in his own life and death involves a complete self-giving, a self-giving that left him utterly vulnerable, a self-giving that wasn't closely measured or calculated, a self-giving which was proclaimed loudly and unashamedly from a Cross. a self-giving that we are free to embrace or reject.

There is no guarantee that our efforts to be reconciled, to put things right, will be accepted; but the same was true for Christ. Indeed, be that as it may, Christ lived the call to love and proclaimed the truth, without any reservation, writing it in his own blood. You and I dare to go by his name, dare to call ourselves Christian. We have, as it says in that first reading, a duty to save, a duty to warn and to proclaim Christ - in the language he used - the language of Love.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 6 September – 23rd SUNDAY IN ORD. 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 Algencia da Silva (Ann)
Reading 1, Ezekiel 33:7-9
Responsorial Psalm, 94
Reading 2, Romans 13:8-10
Gospel, Matthew 18:15-20

Monday 7 September

10 am Mass - Masie Shaughnessy (RIP)
7 pm Mass - Requiem for Stefania Estacchini (RIP)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 5:1-8
Responsorial Psalm, 5
Gospel, Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday 8 September – the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10 am Mass - Bernadette Witchard (Ints)
Reading 1, Micah 5:1-4
Responsorial Psalm, 12
Gospel, Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

Wednesday 9 September – St Peter Claver

10 am Mass this week is cancelled
7 pm Mass – Michael McDonagh (Ints)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 7:25-31
Responsorial Psalm, 44
Gospel, Luke 6:20-26

Thursday 10 September

10 am Mass – O'Malley Family (Ints)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13
Responsorial Psalm, 138
Gospel, Luke 6:27-38

Friday 11 September

10 am Mass – Fintan Bergin (Ints)
7 pm Mass – John Taylor (Ints)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27
Responsorial Psalm, 83
Gospel, Luke 6:39-42

Saturday 12 September – The Most Holy Name of Mary

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 10:14-22
Responsorial Psalm, 115
Gospel, Luke 6:43-49
6pm Sunday Vigil Mass – John Paton (Ann)

For confession please call at the Presbytery

Sunday 13 September – 24th SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

9.30am Mass – Margery Davies (Ints)
11.30am Mass - Genaro Capparelli & Giuseppe Capparelli (Ann)
7pm Mass - Louis Fernandes and other deceased members of Fernandes family

PLEASE PRAY

This week we pray for the leaders, ministers and members of all the Churches Together in St Albans.

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

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

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Algencia da Silva, John Paton & Giuseppe Capparelli

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) in advance for the link to enable you to join online.

Virgin Money Giving Total donations for August 2020 came to £1,470. Gift Aiding these donations has added a further £294 to this amount. Thank you to all those who have contributed using Virgin Money Giving. If you would like to donate using Virgin Money Giving please visit [the website](#) or use the QR code at the top of the newsletter.

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 stalbins@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.

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 - stalbins@rcdow.org.uk

LiveSimply Environmental issues have slipped under the radar recently, because of our concentration on coronavirus, so, as part of the 'Season of Creation' celebration this year, Our Lady of Lourdes, Harpenden, parish LiveSimply group are organising a Zoom meeting on "Ecological Conversion: The Journey to 2030". It will be Zoomed at 11.00 am on Saturday 26 Sept. in four weeks time. You can enjoy it from the comfort of your own homes. But it would help us greatly if you would let us know, if you would like to join us, so that we can see the numbers involved. It will be presented by John Paul de Quay of the Arundel & Brighton Diocese and a founder member of the 'Ecological Conversion Group'. Please contact: graham-ryan@sky.com. Laudato Si

"SEASON OF CREATION" - September 1st - October 4th

Many parishioners were consoled during the "lockdown" period by becoming more aware of the natural beauty all around. Now responding to the urgent message of Pope Francis to care for the earth in "Laudato Si", we can do our little bit during this month by: using locally grown produce, reducing our use of plastics, especially cling film, and by PRAYING. The CAFOD resources are particularly useful: www.cafod.org.uk/pray/Season-of-Creation (Inserted by the parish Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation group)

RCIA This weekend at Sunday's 11.30am Mass the members of this year's RCIA group will be baptised, received and confirmed. Those being baptised and received will also receive Holy Communion for the first time. For those concerned it is the culmination of many months of preparation which commenced in the autumn of last year. We would usually have welcomed them into the Church at the Easter Vigil, so it has been a long patient wait, but finally we are there. Please pray for the members of the group as they complete their initiation into the life and mission of the church.

Parish Administrator At the end of the week just gone Michael Roche stepped back from his role as Parish Administrator which he has filled since December last year. We are very grateful to Michael for filling this role for an interim period and for all that he has done, not least in these last months. We wish him well as he returns to his studies. I am happy to say that Mrs Angela Gray will be joining us on Monday 14 September as the new parish administrator.

Streaming The work to install the new camera and streaming system will begin on Tuesday of this week. We hope that it will be operational by the weekend. I mentioned in a previous newsletter that the cost of this new system and associated works, which will maintain the more intimate picture people have said they liked, will approach £8,000. Although we have made no direct appeal, some very generous donations, have covered just over half of the cost. Many thanks!

Wednesday Morning Mass

The 10am Mass this coming Wednesday 9 September has had to be cancelled. This is to facilitate the work being undertaken to install the new camera and streaming system. The Mass intention for Brian Huckle (Ann) will be offered at 9.30am on Sunday 27 September. There will be an evening Mass on Wednesday at 7 pm.

Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 8 September

We celebrate the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on its traditional fixed date of September 8, nine months after the December 8 celebration of her Immaculate Conception as the child of Saints Joachim and Anne. The circumstances of the Virgin Mary's infancy and early life are not directly recorded in the Bible, but other accounts describe her father, Joachim, as a wealthy member of one of the 12 Tribes of Israel. Deeply grieved by their childlessness, he and Anne devoted themselves to prayer and fasting, initially wondering whether their inability to conceive a child might signify God's displeasure with them. However, an angel revealed to Anne that all generations would honour their future child. In the days before this Feast, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart invite us to participate in a Novena to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart: a time of reflection and thanksgiving, when we bring our prayers and petitions before Our Lady by saying this memorare:

Remember, Our lady of the Sacred Heart, the great things the Lord has done for you.

He chose you for His Mother; He wanted you close to His Cross. He gives you a share in His Glory; He listens to Your Prayer. Offer Him our prayers of praise and thanksgiving; present our petitions to Him. (Share your petitions silently with Our Lady)

Let us live like you in the love of your Son so that His Kingdom may come.

Lead all people to the source of living water that flows from His Heart, spreading over the world hope and salvation, justice and peace. See our trust in you; answer our prayer. Show yourself always our Mother. Amen

St Peter Claver (1581 - 1654) -Feast 9 September

Born in Catalonia, Peter studied at the University of Barcelona. He became a Jesuit; and while studying philosophy in Mallorca was encouraged in his vocation to evangelize the New World. He arrived in what is now Colombia, in 1610, and after his ordination in 1616, he became 'the slave of the Negroes forever', labouring on their behalf for 33 years, attending to both their spiritual and material needs. The slave trade was repeatedly condemned by the Popes; but it was too profitable to be stopped and, on the whole, the local church hierarchy kept quiet about it. He brought fresh food to the slave-ships as they arrived, instructed the slaves and baptized them in the faith, following their progress defending them as well as he could from oppressive slave-owners. He worked in hospitals also, looking after lepers among others, and in prisons. Naturally he made himself unpopular by his work and opposition came from both within the Church and outside it. At the end of his life he fell ill with a degenerative disease and for four years he was treated neglectfully by those who looked after him. He did not complain but accepted his sufferings as a penance for his sins.