



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS - 1 NOVEMBER 2020



VirginMoney Giving

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

Rev. Steve Pickard (Deacon) Mrs Angela Gray (Parish Administrator)

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

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael Writes...

All too soon Christmas will be upon us. As you can see from recent newsletters we are already making some preparations, with those co-ordinating 'You Can be Santa' and Carols by Candlelight setting to work. At the same time the world at large is gearing up, readying itself for a battle over how Christmas is to be celebrated and in particular whether or not the rules around gathering should be relaxed. But before we get to Christmas, even Advent, we come to November and the Month of the Holy Souls which is traditionally dedicated to our praying for the dead.

For Catholics this month of prayer for the departed, which begins with today's celebration of All Saints, commemorating all those now in Heaven, is a powerful reminder that the family or community that we belong to - the Church - is not defined by blood or kinship, or any territorial boundary, but by our membership of the Body of Christ; a body that is, which encompasses the people of every time and place, a Christ whose resurrection put an end to death and breaks down any meaningful distinction between the living and the dead. In Him all are alive.

It is within this context that we pray and request the prayers of the faithful departed. Even though we cannot see and speak with them in the way we have done before, they remain part and parcel of the Church, the community. We in our prayers have something to do for them, they in theirs have something to do for us. That said, the sadness and pain that the death of others brings with it, is not to be glossed over. Yes, we entrust those we have loved into the arms of the Good Shepherd. We believe that death is not the end. We look forward to the resurrection, but it still hurts.

As I listen to the rumblings of the brewing rows over Christmas, about what we will and will not be allowed to do, about who and how many can be in this or that house, it is this sadness that comes to mind. Might it be that however edited, slimmed down or different this Christmas will be, our first thought should be for those who have lost loved ones because of or in the midst of this current pandemic. Their Christmas will be all too different. Their Christmas will be marked by a sense of loss. Yes, Christmas is a celebration. It is the joyful celebration of God with us, who in walking among us, calls us to walk with others.

Finally, just to say that Last Saturday we streamed the evening vigil mass for the first time and that we will continue to do so.

On Friday 6 November at 7 pm we will offer a Mass for all those who have died in the past year. If you would like to add the name of somebody who has died in the last twelve months, please email their name to the parish office. In November the following Masses will also be offered (please see the current list on the back of the newsletter):

Friday 6 November 7.00pm

Those all who have died in the past Year.

Friday 13 November 7.00pm

Deceased Priests and Religious

Wednesday 18 November 7.00 pm

Deceased Children / Sons & Daughters

Sunday 29 November 11.30 am

Deceased Spouses

Sunday 8 November 11.30am

Those who have died in War

Sunday 15 November 11.30am

Deceased Parents and Grandparents

Thursday 26 November 10.00 am

Deceased Victims of Violence

Monday 30 November 10.00 am

Deceased Brothers and Sisters

PARISH LIFE

Baptisms Congratulations to the following children who were baptised recently: Thomas, Erin and Rose. Contact Fr Julian juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk for baptism enquiries.

Stewarding - If you are able to volunteer as a steward at any of the First Holy Communion or Confirmation masses being held on Saturdays up to and including 7 December, please contact the Parish Office on 01727 853585 or stalbans@rcdow.org.uk for more details. Many thanks to those parishioners who have already volunteered their help.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS Campaign - The Bishops' Conference have decided to extend *THE GOD WHO SPEAKS* campaign through to January 2022! The campaign seeks to celebrate, share and live out our faith through deeper engagement with the Scriptures. CaFE's *BIG PICTURE* Bible course is a recommended resource for the campaign and over 60 people in our parish completed the course, recording prayers, revelations and notes inside their journals.

Lots will have studied those writings and discovered a message unique to themselves, perhaps a sense of purpose or calling, or an answer to prayer. For anyone wishing to unpick the golden thread in those journals Fr Michael & Fr Julian are very willing to talk about this. Simply book an appointment at the parish office on 01727 853585 and we will see where it leads, don't forget to bring your *BIG PICTURE* journal.

If you would like to attend a THE BIG PICTURE course via Zoom in the New Year please register your interest with our parishioner, Tim Stevens, by emailing tim@faithcafe.org It is okay to attend the course for a second time, everyone is welcome. Let us see what more God has to say to you.

St Albans Sleep Out at Home 2020 St Albans sleep out is the annual event that gives people a taste of what it is like to sleep out in the cold and raise funds for 5 local charities: Centre 33, Emmaus, Herts Young Homeless, Open Door and The Living Room. Current circumstances mean that this year we will be holding a 'Sleep Out at Home'. So, pitch a tent in the garden, make a bed out of cardboard, take to the sofa or sleep on the floor of your home for the evening of Friday 20th November, and ask some friends and family to sponsor you. You'll be helping to support homeless and disadvantaged people in our community. Alternatively, you may prefer simply to make a donation. All details can be found at the website at www.stalbanssleepout.org.uk or by contacting Melanie on 07900 051956.

Praying the Rosary in a Zoom Group A number of parishioners have mentioned that they have missed praying the Rosary as a group. If you would be interested in joining a group to meet via Zoom to pray the Rosary together after 10am Mass on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, please email Melanie O'Neill at mjoneill5@btinternet.com.

You Can Be Santa Scheme You Can Be Santa 'voucher scheme' The YCBS team has identified over 150 children this year and we would really like to be able to help all of them enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. With the current coronavirus situation many families have had a very difficult time and need our help more than usual. **We are appealing for voucher donations (in £20 & £10 denominations please) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos, Amazon & One4All.**

Thank you very much to everyone who has donated vouchers so far. If you would like to contribute to the YCBS, please post your voucher/s through the Presbytery door in a clearly marked envelope (YCBS Vouchers). If you are unable to obtain vouchers but would still like to contribute, any monetary donation would be gratefully received and vouchers can be purchased by the YCBS team on your behalf. Vouchers can be donated until 20 November at which point they will be distributed to the families identified by the YCBS team. For more information, please email stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk

Join a virtual on-line prayer group

Several parish groups have continued to meet on-line using Zoom, since the start of the pandemic. All would welcome new members. These include several of the 'Small Groups' which are currently following the six weekly sessions of the 'According to Thy word' booklet, but afterwards will resume sharing on scripture/other faith topics, typically every two weeks. Details of those groups currently meeting are as follows:

- Mondays 8pm (two per month) Richard Exact on 07976 252309
- Tuesdays 2-3.30pm Mike and Sylvia White on 01727 854596 and whitemw@talktalk.net
- Alternate Tuesdays 7.30pm Stan Grabecki on 765549 and grabecki@hotmail.com
- Wednesdays 7.30pm Brendan Roche - A new group set up at the start of the pandemic (contact the parish office on stalbans@rcdow.org.uk).
- Saturday 9am Parish Men's Group currently sharing on the lives of the Saints. Richard Exact on 07976 252309 and at D4dstalbans@gmail.com

Fleetville Cemetery tidy up - Sunday 15 November St Albans (Hatfield Road) cemetery is looking for volunteers to help with clearing overgrowth across its graves between 10am and 2pm. Please just turn up with gloves, secateurs and trowel, and a face mask. More details can be found [here](#).

Fr Tom's Bench Thanks to the generosity of the parish, the bench dedicated to the memory of Fr Tom Hewitt is now in place overlooking the cricket pitch in Clarence Park. The inscription reads "Fr Tom Hewitt MSC (1946-2018) Much loved Catholic priest and friend to many. He enjoyed watching cricket in this park". Please see the website for some photos of Fr Tom's bench - www.albanstephen.org

Changes to arrangements for booking weekend and weekday Masses - Advance booking is not necessary for weekday masses, other than the mass on Friday evening. Booking in advance will still be needed for Friday evening and for weekend masses as there are high numbers of attendees and a limited number of spaces in church. Stewards will still need to take the names and contact details of those attending weekday masses for contact tracing purposes. To reserve a place for Friday evening or weekend masses, please contact the parish office during office hours, 9am-1pm on weekdays, on 01727 853585 or at stalbins@rcdow.org.uk.

School Admissions - For those parents and guardians who need to obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice to accompany their child's school application, Fr Michael will be signing forms from 4 - 6pm on Wednesday 4th and 11th November at the Presbytery. No appointment is needed.

St Columba's College Virtual Sixth Form Preview Evening - 6pm Tuesday 10 November. St Columba's College is an independent Catholic day school for pupils aged 4-18 years in St Albans. We welcome students of all faiths and none. We will be welcoming girls into the Sixth Form from September 2021, followed by a phased transition to co-education. There will be a live welcome from the Headmaster and Head of Sixth Form, and a virtual tour of the school. There will also be live Q&A sessions with staff, and videos from subject leaders about the A Level curriculum. Parents can register for this event at <https://www.stcolumbascollege.org/calendar/2020-11-10/Sixth-Form-Preview-Evening/>. You can also contact the Admissions Registrar, Mrs Hilary Causer, on 01727 892040 or at admissions@stcolumbascollege.org.

Collection for Sick and Retired Priests The second collection next week will be for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential costs and give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met. This is our chance to say thank you to our sick and retired priests who have given so much. You will find a donation envelope at the back of the church today. Please take one home, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill. You can donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations - envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online.

Virgin Money Giving If you would like to donate to the parish using Virgin Money Giving please visit [the website](#) or use the QR code at the top of the newsletter.

Parish Finances - The Parish Accounts and Report for the year ended 31 December 2019 can be found [by clicking here](#).

Contactless Giving Point A new contactless giving point is located in the church porch. To make your weekly offering using contactless giving all you need to do is select the amount you wish to donate and tap across the top of the machine with your mobile phone or card.

All Souls CAFOD Memorial Mass - online Monday 2 November, 6pm-7pm This year's CAFOD Memorial Mass for deceased supporters can be joined online on Monday 2nd November at 6pm. Mass will be celebrated by CAFOD's Chair of Trustees, Bishop John Arnold, with music, readings and prayers from CAFOD staff and supporters from around the world. Please register at <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks>.

The Bible Timeline Course This is a seven session course starting at 7pm on Wednesday 4th November. It divides the Bible into twelve periods, allowing participants to see how the many characters and events in Scripture are related to each other in one unified narrative. The course is delivered by Catholic speaker, Mauro Iannicelli, and is free of charge for parishes and parishioners for the Year of the Word. Register at <https://comeandsee.org/registration.html>

Steward Appeal. The opening of the church for masses requires stewarding. If you are under 70, please consider giving up an hour a week to volunteer. For further information, please contact Melanie O'Neill at mjoneill5@btinternet.com.

St Charles Borromeo (1538 - 1584) - 4 November Charles Borromeo was a leading figure of the Catholic Reformation. When his uncle was elected Pope Pius IV in 1559 he was summoned to Rome and made a cardinal. He was made administrator of the Diocese of Milan and protector of the Catholic cantons of Switzerland and of the Franciscans and Carmelites. In 1563, he was ordained priest and consecrated as Archbishop of Milan, but the Pope would not let him leave Rome where he worked on the catechism, the Missal and the Breviary, and reformed his own diocese from a distance. Eventually Charles took up residence in Milan and began his reformation, giving much of his property to the poor. He set up the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine to teach children the faith. When famine struck, he fed 3,000 people at his own expense. When plague came, he ministered to the hospital where the worst cases were. Charles encountered opposition to his reforms and there were several attempts on his life from corrupt orders of nuns and monks. Charles's final visitation was to the cantons of Switzerland in 1583, where he dealt with priests who were practising witchcraft, and enemies who claimed that his fight against heresy was a plot to extend Spanish domination into the region. He died on 3 November 1584 aged of 46. He is the patron saint of bishops, catechists and seminarians.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 1 November - ALL SAINTS

6pm Vigil Mass People of the parish

9.30am Mass Peter Okoro (RIP)

11.30am Mass Laurence John Chrimes (Ann)

7pm Mass Robin Matthews (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14, Responsorial Psalm 24

Reading 2, 1 John: 3:1-3, Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12

Monday 2 November - All Souls

10 am Mass Holy Souls

7 pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Isaiah 25:6-9, Responsorial Psalm, 26

Reading 2, Romans 5:5-11, Gospel, Matthew 11:25-30

Tuesday 3 November - St Winifride

10 am Mass Novena

Reading 1, Philippians 2:5-11, Responsorial Psalm, 22

Gospel, Luke 14:15-24

Wednesday 4 November - St Charles Borromeo

10 am Mass Novena

7 pm Mass Novena

Reading 1, Philippians 2:12-18, Responsorial Psalm, 27

Gospel, Luke 14:25-33

Thursday 5 November

10 am Mass Jerry Snaith (RIP)

Reading 1, Philippians 3:3-8, Responsorial Psalm, 105

Gospel, Luke 15: 1-10

Friday 6 November

10 am Mass Novena

7 pm Mass Novena - All who have died in the past year

Reading 1, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Responsorial Psalm, 122

Gospel, Luke 16:1-8

Saturday 7 November - St Willibrord

10-11am Exposition with the opportunity for confession

Reading 1, Philippians 4:10-19, Responsorial Psalm, 112

Gospel, Luke 16:9-15

Sunday 8 November - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

6pm Vigil Mass Novena

9.30am Mass Novena

11.30am Mass Novena

7pm Mass Novena

For confession please call at the Presbytery

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the officers and members of the Salvation Army.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick including

For those who have died recently including Fr John Miller

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Laurence Chrimes.

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

Holy Souls - As usual we will hold our annual Novena of Masses for the Holy Souls at the beginning of November (2-9 November) at which we will offer a Novena Prayer for the Holy Souls. If you would like to add names to the Holy Souls List, which will be placed near the altar, please use one of the leaflets and envelopes available in the porch and return it to the Presbytery. We hope to make the Holy Souls leaflet available on the parish website, but you could also email your Holy Souls list to stalban@rcdow.org.uk or [click here](#) for a copy of the leaflet. Offerings for these Masses can be included in one of the envelopes provided or in a plain envelope marked 'Holy Souls' and posted through the Presbytery door. The Novena Prayer will be posted on the parish website.

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED - NOVEMBER 2019 to OCTOBER 2020

Herbert Buckingham	Philomena Lines	Michael Castiello	Renee Yvonne Lucas	Marion Hay
Angela Anzalone	Mary Jozwiak	Anna Isabel Paz	Jean Yves Theanne	Elaine Gatta
Sean 'John' Mckay	Eileen Drurie	Karen Brennan	Michael Theanne	John Taylor
Kathleen Horan	Margaret Sweeney	Nancy Donoghue	Anne Lynch	Dennis Bozier
Barbara McSweeney	Mary Harper	Brian Albert Moore	Janet Ryan	John Brayne
Jose Ezcurra Ancin	Mariano Casotti	Annie Coakley	Anthony Moran	Carmel Johnson
Ann O'Toole	Edward Turner	Claudio Frascchetti	Maria Cristina Blake	Susan Lewis
Roy McGoohan	Catherine Mannion	Stefania Estacchini	Eddie Mansfield	Thomas Williamson
Giovanni Fabrizi	Mary Malik	Tim Donoghue	Kenneth Green	Margaret Markham
Margaret Duncan	Joao Paulo Martins	Ethelreda Forster	Jane Grandesso	Tony Harding
Patrick Cahill	Clare Neukom	Eric Hopkins	Derek Belmont	Fr Bernard Bardouillet
Margaret Williams	Nigel Appleyard	Bernard Corbally	Ron Davies	Fr John Miller
Paddy Mackin	Anthony Sumner	Kazimiera Kurzak	Stanislawa Fiut	Teresa Fryc
Zdzislaw Fiut				