



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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YouTube: [youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch](https://youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch)

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 11 OCTOBER 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 / [stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07976 277059

*We are a Fairtrade parish*

### THOSE WHO HAVE DIED - NOVEMBER 2019 to OCTOBER 2020

|                    |                    |                     |                      |                |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Herbert Buckingham | Philomena Lines    | Michael Castiello   | Renee Yvonne Lucas   | Marion Hay     |
| Angela Anzalone    | Mary Jozwiaka      | 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      |                |
| Giovanni Fabrizi   | Mary Malik         | Tim Donoghue        | Kenneth Green        |                |
| Margaret Duncan    | Joao Paulo Martins | Ethelreda Forster   | Jane Grandesso       |                |

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 [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk). 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.

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:

#### 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

**Update on the Financial Impact of Coronavirus Restrictions on Offertory Income** Prior to lockdown, our weekly offertory collection (excluding standing orders) i.e. offertory envelopes & loose plate, averaged around £2,200. From the beginning of lockdown to the end of September we could therefore have expected to receive around £61,600 in Offertory Income. In these twenty-eight weeks we have received:

- £2,847 via Virgin Money Online Giving
- £6,107 from new standing orders
- £12,588 in offertory envelopes and loose donations.
- £735 via the contactless giving point
- £4,755 in 'one-off' donations

So, since lockdown begun, we have received just over £27,000 of the £61,600 we might have ordinarily received. This represents a fall in offertory income approaching £35,000 and will also impact on the amount we can claim in Gift Aid for 2019/20. If you are able to set up a monthly standing order, please consider doing so. [A form can be found here](#). In addition, if you are not yet gift aiding your offertory donations and are eligible to do so, please think about completing [a gift aid form](#).

**Baptisms** Congratulations to the following children who were baptised recently: Reggie and Liam Contact Fr Julian [juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk) for baptism enquiries.

**First Holy Communion** Additional First Communion Masses will take place in small groups on the following Saturdays in October: 2.30pm on 17<sup>th</sup>, 11.30am and 2.30pm on 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. If you would like your child to celebrate First Holy Communion on any of those dates, please email [stalbins@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbins@rcdow.org.uk).

**Confirmation** There will be eight masses for this year's confirmation. The times are 11.30 and 2.30 on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>. An email has been sent asking parents to choose their first three preferences. Please reply to Fr Julian at [juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk).

We would like to thank those candidates who have sent in the requested letter to Fr Michael. If you have not done so, please could you do this within the next few weeks. Details can be found on our website - sacraments, confirmation, then 'write a letter' among the assignments which candidates were asked to embrace during the lockdown.

**Stewarding** - If you are able to volunteer as a steward at any of the above First Holy Communion or Confirmation masses, please contact the Parish Office on 01727 853585 or [stalbins@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbins@rcdow.org.uk) for more details. Many thanks to those parishioners who have already volunteered.

**Rosary Alert!** Given that October is the month when the Rosary is to be particularly encouraged, it would be wonderful if we prayed it across the parish during this month. How much and when of course is left to your convenience, but you may like to join spiritually with others who will be praying it at 12.00. Fr Julian

**Changes to arrangements for booking Weekend and Weekday Masses** - From this weekend we are making a change to our current arrangements. Advance booking will no longer be necessary for weekday masses, other than the mass on Friday evening. Booking in advance will still be needed 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](mailto:stalbins@rcdow.org.uk).

**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](mailto:mjoneill5@btinternet.com).

The weather is getting colder and our heating system is a hot air system. Current advice is not to have the heating on while the church is being used. We will endeavour to pre-heat the church, but we also need to keep it well ventilated. This is a long way of saying please, when coming to church, be prepared for the cold.

**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.

**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.

**Virtual small groups** - during these difficult times, some of the small communities in the parish have been keeping their faith alive by meeting virtually using Zoom. This autumn we will be starting the new faith sharing resource, **According to Thy Word**, specially produced as we journey through this Year of the Word - The God Who Speaks. The booklet, available at the back of the church for £3, can also be used by families or individuals at home. There are six weekly sessions focusing on six ancient titles of Our Lady. The booklet can also be downloaded as a pdf file [using this link](#). Although this resource is not time dependent, it is suggested that we all start the first session in the week commencing Sunday 11 October. If you are interested in joining a virtual small group, please contact Mike on 01727 854596 or [whitemw@talktalk.net](mailto:whitemw@talktalk.net) or Stan at [grabecki@hotmail.com](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com) or on 01727 765549. If you do not have a computer, tablet or smartphone, you can even join the meeting by phone.

**You Can Be Santa 'voucher scheme'** As always the aim of YCBS is to help children/families who may not otherwise enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. With the current pandemic in mind we will be asking for donations of gift vouchers only this year. If you are aware of families within the Parish who may appreciate being a part of the scheme please ask them to contact YCBS at [stalbinsycbs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbinsycbs@rcdow.org.uk) with their full contact details. All contact details will be kept in confidence and in accordance with data protection requirements. We will be appealing for voucher donations in October and will be asking for vouchers (in £10 denominations) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos, Amazon & One4All. For information please email [stalbinsycbs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbinsycbs@rcdow.org.uk).

**Secondary School Transfer** - For those parents and guardians who need to obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice to accompany their child's secondary school application Fr Michael will be available between 4 pm and 6 pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October and again at the same time on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Please call at the Presbytery (Priests' House) beside the Church.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

**ECO-CHURCH** The St Albans Diocese and A. Roche UK have put together a great online conference called: **ECO CHURCH: WORKING TOGETHER TO NET ZERO** this Saturday 10 October, 10am to 4pm, helping us reduce our carbon footprint & care for creation. [Click here to download the pdf.](#) As the feast of St. Francis of Assisi on 4 October marks the end of the ecumenical Season of Creation, we give thanks to God for all that He has made, we repent for the damage that we have caused and commit ourselves to take action to protect the Earth, our common home.

**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](mailto: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.

**Sustainable St. Albans**, a charity based in the district, have two thermal cameras which can be borrowed by residents of the district to help identify areas of heat loss or missing insulation in their homes. This simple but effective tool can save residents money and increase comfort if the identified issues are resolved. We run short, online introductory courses to familiarise residents before they borrow one of the two cameras based in St Albans and Harpenden. All COVID measures are in place to avoid the small chance of infection, between users. [Please click here](#) for more information. (Parish Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Group -JPIC.)

**On this HOMELESS SUNDAY**, we pray for all the people who are on the streets and hungry. May Our Lord guide our leaders, and particularly our local community through Open Door and the Council, to provide shelter, security, comfort and hope to those in need. (Parish Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Group -JPIC.)

**Peter's Pence** At the request of the Holy Father we will be holding the retiring collection for Peter's Pence next weekend. This collection would usually have been held in June.

**Help protect babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot** Sadly abortion is currently available in the UK, right up to birth, for babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot. All of these conditions can be corrected. A cross-party group of MPs from the three largest parties in the UK Parliament have come together to bring forward the Abortion (Cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot) Bill. The Bill will change the law to clarify that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK. Can you help with getting your MP to support the Bill? Visit [www.standupandsmile.org.uk](http://www.standupandsmile.org.uk) to email your MP asking them to support the Bill. It only takes thirty seconds.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day** This week our parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease - let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) or by using one of the envelopes after Mass. You can also give easily by texting CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10.

**Parish Men's Group meeting in October.** The challenges of Covid mean that the parish men's group is moving online. Physically meeting is not practical so we are going to be holding calls over Zoom. Our next call will be on Saturday 24 October at 9am when we will discuss St Benedict and his teachings. There is a video on St Benedict available to watch before the meeting and also some suggested reading. If you would like to join us or just find out more about the group then please contact Richard on 07976 252309 or [D4dstalbins@gmail.com](mailto:D4dstalbins@gmail.com) for more details.

Last week's collection for the Holy Places totalled £368.55.

### **St Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647 - 1690) - 16 October**

Margaret was born in Burgundy, France. From early childhood, she was described as showing intense love for the Blessed Sacrament, preferring silence and prayer to childhood play. After her First Holy Communion aged 9, she practiced corporal mortification, until rheumatic fever confined her to bed for 4 years. After this, having made a vow to the Blessed Virgin to consecrate herself to religious life, it is said she was instantly restored to perfect health. In recognition, she added the name Mary to her baptismal name. At 24, she joined the Visitation Sisters at Paray-le-Monial where she received several private revelations of the Sacred Heart. These visions revealed to her the form of the devotion, the chief features being reception of Holy Communion on the first Friday of each month, Eucharistic adoration during a "Holy hour" on Thursdays, and the celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart. She was a source of inspiration for Fr Jules Chevalier, Founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. She is the patron saint of those suffering with polio, devotees of the Sacred Heart, and those whose parents have died.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### **Sunday 11 October - 28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORD TIME**

6pm Vigil Mass Karen Doran (Ann)  
9.30am Mass Graham Smith (Ann)  
11.30am Mass Annie Coakley  
7pm Mass People of the parish  
Reading 1, Isaiah 25:6-10  
Responsorial Psalm, 22  
Reading 2, Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20  
Gospel, Matthew 22:1-14

### **Monday 12 October - St Wilfred**

10am Funeral Mass for Jane Grandesso  
7pm Mass Antoinette Igoe (RIP)  
Reading 1, Galatians 4:22-27, 31-5:1  
Responsorial Psalm, 112  
Gospel, Luke 1:29-32

### **Tuesday 13 October- St Edward the Confessor**

10am Mass Bernadette Ruan (RIP)  
Reading 1, Galatians 5:1-6  
Responsorial Psalm, 118  
Gospel, Luke 11:37-41

### **Wednesday 14 October**

10am Mass Tom Bagge (RIP)  
7pm Mass John Stephens  
Reading 1, Galatians 5:18-25  
Responsorial Psalm, 1  
Gospel, Luke 11:42-46

### **Thursday 15 October -St Teresa of Avila**

10am Mass Maisie Shaugnessy (RIP)  
Reading 1, Ephesians 1:1-10  
Responsorial Psalm, 97  
Gospel, Luke 11:47-54

### **Friday 16 October - St Margaret Mary Alacoque**

10am Mass Peter Okoro (RIP)  
7pm Mass William Tunney (RIP)  
Reading 1, Ephesians 1:11-14  
Responsorial Psalm, 32  
Gospel, Luke 12:1-7

### **Saturday 10 October - St Ignatius of Antioch**

6pm Mass Jean Druce (RIP)  
Reading 1, Ephesians 1:15-23  
Responsorial Psalm, 8  
Gospel, Luke 12:8-12

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the leaders and members of the Network Church.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick:

For those who have died recently: Dennis Bozier

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time:  
Karen Doran, and Graham Smith

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

**St Teresa of Ávia (1515 - 1582) - 15 October** Teresa was born in Ávila in Spain and entered the Carmelite convent there aged 20, not because of any great attraction to the religious life but because she thought it was a better option than marriage. There, despite ill-health, she developed her contemplative prayer life and had several mystical experiences, which she treated with suspicion since she felt that she was not holy enough to be accorded them by God. Her prayer life led her in 1562 to found a contemplative order of Discalced Carmelites who would live a simple life of poverty devoted to prayer. However, she faced intense opposition from unreformed Carmelites. In 1566, she received approval for her work from the General of the Carmelite Order but, in 1575 this approval was overturned.

For the next 5 years every effort was made to discredit Teresa's reforms and many of her followers (including St John of the Cross) were imprisoned. In 1580, with the support of King Philip II, the Discalced Carmelites were made independent and St Teresa was able to found new convents. She died, worn out by her efforts, on 15 October 1582. St Teresa is an outstanding example of how the contemplative life can overflow into action. In addition, she wrote much on the subject of contemplative prayer and her writings remain standard works. She was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970. She is the patron saint of headache sufferers, Spanish Catholic writers.

**Edward the Confessor (1003 - 1066) - 13 October** Edward the Confessor became King of England in 1042. He was regarded as a saint during his lifetime, renowned for his generosity to the Church and to the poor and for his readiness to listen to his subjects' grievances. He died on 5 January 1066, the last of the Anglo-Saxon line, and his death precipitated the dynastic quarrels that led to the conquest of England by William of Normandy later the same year. On 13 October 1163 his relics were translated to a new shrine in Westminster Abbey.