



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 18 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 / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Father Julian writes... Religion and politics don't mix? We don't do God, as one political adviser famously said. Such an opinion draws upon the post-Enlightenment world view that religion belongs to the home, to be kept in a box, and relegated to matters of the soul. Sometimes this has worked itself out into a total separation of Church and State, although we find that even in those countries where that is the case, the separation is not total. Certainly a separation is not a bad thing, if it means that the Church is free to express itself without restriction. However even when there is a formal separation, as in America, often politics dresses itself up in the cause of religion and religious views can have a profound influence upon the political sphere. You don't need an established Church to hold politicians to account, and certainly the history of this country has shown that a confessional state has persecuted as much as protected the people of God. At first glance, today's gospel seems to affirm a clear separation between politics and religion...render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and unto God the things that are God's. However, looking more closely, we find that actually Jesus doesn't give Caesar much leg to stand on. Commentaries fail to explain why the Pharisees were so amazed by Jesus' response.....asking them for a coin and asking them whose image and inscription it was. There's nothing amazing about that, and Jesus' words were self-evidently true. The key to their amazement has to rest elsewhere. Had they not wanted to implicate him in rebellion against Rome? Jesus turns the tables on them and shows that they were the rebellious ones. And so was Caesar...rebellious against God! They answer that the image and inscription was Caesar's. They were wrong on both accounts. Caesar was using an inscription that in reality belonged only to God, and they had forgotten that Caesar was made in God's image not his own. God has the copyright. God wins on both accounts, and so the political sphere is always answerable to God.

Many will know that the Bishops' Conference have decided that **THE GOD WHO SPEAKS** campaign will be extended right 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 853585 and we will see where it leads, don't forget to bring your **BIG PICTURE** journal. If you would like to attend 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."

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

Baptisms Congratulations to the following children who were baptised recently: Maia and Nathaniel. Contact Fr Julian 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 17th, 11.30am and 2.30pm on 24th and 31st. If you would like your child to celebrate First Holy Communion on any of those dates, please email 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 7th, 14th, 28th and December 5th. An email has been sent asking parents to choose their first three preferences. Please reply to Fr Julian at 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 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 last weekend we have made 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 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.

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.

Heating 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.

Traidcraft Ours is a Fairtrade parish. Since March our support for vulnerable developing world farmers and their families has dropped dramatically. Last year parishioners bought some £7,000 of fairly traded goods, the parish spent £2,100 on refreshments and we sent £1,000 to CAFOD. Between March and September 2020 it was £1,250 in sales and £130 for CAFOD.

You can buy Fairtrade goods by ordering with a catalogue which we can supply; orders can be collected safely at a time to suit. You can have home delivery via the Traidcraft website traidcraftshop.co.uk but this might be more expensive than ordering through the parish. Details from Maureen at grabecki@hotmail.com or 765549.

Foodbanks People in St Albans are losing their jobs. Foodbanks are busier than ever. If you feel able, please buy an extra item or two when you are shopping and place it in the "feed" box in your local supermarket. This will then be collected and taken to our busy foodbanks for distribution to those in need. If you can't find the feed box, consider asking a member of staff where it is. If you are unable to visit supermarkets yourself, you can donate to stalbinsdistrict.foodbank.org.uk. Parish J&P group.

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. We are now appealing for voucher donations (in £10 denominations please) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos, Amazon & One4All. If you would like to contribute to the YCBS scheme this year, please post your voucher/s through the Presbytery door in a clearly marked envelope (YCBS Voucher). If you are unable to obtain a voucher 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.

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 stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk. All contact details will be kept in confidence and in accordance with data protection requirements. For more information please email stalbansycbs@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 available between 4 pm and 6 pm on Wednesday 4th and 11th November. Please call at the Presbytery (Priests' House.) No appointment needed.

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.)

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 D4dstalbans@gmail.com for more details.

Carols by Candlelight This year's 'CbC' will be different as we follow government guidance to keep everyone safe. We'd love any musicians and singers who feel able to perform to get in touch. Each musician/singer will need to attend just one session and will be asked to agree to a number of safe practice rules in advance. The session will be videoed for later playback on the parish YouTube channel. That means it will be publically viewable, world-wide.

Singer sessions are 1 November 2-4pm OR 8 November 1-3pm. Musicians session is 15 November 2-5pm. There's limited space, so please register your interest by emailing cbcstalbans@rcdow.org.uk or text/call 07840 367555 (Jacquie's mobile) by 12 noon on Monday 26 October. You'll receive a list of safe practice rules and if these are acceptable, we can allocate your place. Yes, it is all strange - although we're looking forward to bringing Carols by Candlelight to everyone's home this year!

CAFOD family fast day Many thanks to everyone who participated in this autumn's family fast day.

At the church we raised £260.95 towards the "survive, rebuild, heal" Coronavirus appeal. Many parishioners will have given directly to CAFOD via their website (cafod.org.uk/give) or by text (CAFOD to 70085). It is not too late to donate; millions in the developing world are losing their livelihoods and are in desperate need of help due to the virus. More information from Stan on 765549 or grabecki@hotmail.com. Parish J&P group.

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

World Mission Sunday - Today is World Mission Sunday This supports missionaries who work with communities that are poor or in need, regardless of background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries like Sr Nilcéia share the love of Christ with those most in need. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can to this very important collection which will sustain the future of our Church. Please call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit missio.org.uk to give a single gift, set up a direct debit and gift aid your donation, if possible. Thank you.

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

Parish Caretaker Our Lady of Lourdes parish, Harpenden, are looking to appoint a part-time Parish Caretaker. Responsibilities will include maintenance of the Parish hall, and other parish property. An ability to work alone is essential. For further information please visit: <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/parish-caretaker-harpenden-our-lady-of-lourdes-parish/>

St John Paul II (1920 - 2005) - 22 October Karol Józef Wojtyła was born in 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. After his ordination to the priesthood and theological studies in Rome, he returned to his homeland and resumed various pastoral and academic tasks. He became first auxiliary bishop and, in 1964, Archbishop of Kraków and took part in the Second Vatican Council. On 16 October 1978 he was elected pope and took the name John Paul II. His exceptional apostolic zeal, particularly for families, young people and the sick, led him to numerous pastoral visits throughout the world. Among the many fruits which he has left as a heritage to the Church are above all his rich Magisterium and the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church as well as the Code of Canon Law for the Latin Church and for the Eastern Churches. He died in Rome on 2 April 2005, the eve of the Second Sunday of Easter (or of Divine Mercy). He was canonised by Pope Francis on 27 April, the Second Sunday of Easter 2014. He is the patron saint of World Youth Day.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 18 October - 29th SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

World Mission Day

6pm Vigil Mass Jean Druce (RIP)

9.30am Mass Angela Lynn (RIP)

11.30am Mass People of the parish

7pm Mass Mario D'Andrea (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 45:1,4-6, Responsorial Psalm, 95

Reading 2, Thessalonians 1:1-5

Gospel, Matthew 22:15-21

Monday 19 October

10 am Mass Billy O'Driscoll (RIP)

7 pm Mass Kath Holland (RIP)

Reading 1, Ephesians 2:1-10

Responsorial Psalm, 99, Gospel, Luke 12:13-21

Tuesday 20 October

10 am Mass Masie Shaughnessy (RIP)

Reading 1, Ephesians 2:12-22

Responsorial Psalm, 84, Gospel, Luke 12:35-38

Wednesday 21 October

10 am Mass Geraldine Paul (RIP)

7 pm Mass Thomas Kiely (Ann)

Reading 1, Ephesians 3:2-12

Responsorial Psalm, Isaiah 12, Gospel, Luke 12:39-48

Thursday 22 October -Pope St John Paul II

10 am Mass Olive Guerin (RIP)

Reading 1, Ephesians 3:14-21

Responsorial Psalm, 32, Gospel, Luke 12:49-53

Friday 23 October

10 am Mass Nancy and Timmy Donoghue (RIP)

7 pm Mass Berna Ryan (RIP)

Reading 1, Ephesians 4:1-6

Responsorial Psalm, 23, Gospel, Luke 12:54-59

Saturday 24 October

6pm Mass Eddie Mansfield (RIP)

Reading 1, Ephesians 4:7-16

Responsorial Psalm, 121

Gospel, Luke 13:1-9

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the Minister and members of the St Julian's Church.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick:

For those who have died recently: Geraldine Paul and John Bernard Freed

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Thomas Kiely

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

Saint Luke, Evangelist - 18 October 2020 Luke was a Greek doctor who converted to Christianity. He was a companion of the Apostle Paul, and wrote his Gospel in accordance with Paul's teaching. He also wrote the Acts of the Apostles, which narrates the early history of the Church up to Paul's first stay in Rome. As a Greek, he takes care to explain to Gentile readers the Jewish customs and the meaning of Hebrew words.

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 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 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	Thomas Williamson
Giovanni Fabrizi	Mary Malik	Tim Donoghue	Kenneth Green	
Margaret Duncan	Joao Paulo Martins	Ethelreda Forster	Jane Grandesso	