



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 25 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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - Report from the meeting on 14th October 2020

The PPC has continued to meet monthly during the lockdown using Zoom technology.

Advent talks: Fr Michael and Fr Julian have been asked by the Mission team to give the Advent talks this year. These will take place on Wednesdays 25th November and 2nd December and Mondays 7th and 14th December and will be streamed from church.

Christmas: Plans are underway to hold a virtual carol service. The main crib will be under the altar where it can be seen during streamed services. There will also be a crib on the ground floor of the parish centre, which will be viewable from the car park. It is hoped to have a Christmas tree on the sanctuary and also one in the rose garden. Christmas masses will be held at 5pm, 7pm and 10pm on Christmas Eve and at 8am, 9.30am and 11.30am on Christmas Day. The 11.30am mass will be streamed. A penitential service will be held on Saturday 12th December at 10am and will be streamed. The service will involve Liturgy of the Word, a homily and examination of conscience, and will finish with adoration. It will not include the sacrament of reconciliation, but this can be arranged by individual appointment.

Stewarding: additional stewards will be needed to support the additional services over the Advent and Christmas periods.

Parish lockdown survey feedback: The dates and times of the current prayer groups will be advertised in the bulletin. The possibility of arranging for parishioners to join a group to pray the rosary together on line will be explored. An additional snap frame will be purchased to enable times of services and other events to be advertised outside the church. The desire to increase use of social media as a route to reach additional younger members of the parish was agreed. Ian and Sara were thanked for analysing the survey responses.

Sacraments: Baptisms and First Holy Communion masses are ongoing. Four dates in November and December have been set for Confirmation. The sacrament of reconciliation is available by appointment.

Virtual Parish Assembly: Options to hold a virtual parish assembly after Easter in 2021 are being explored. Technology enables talks, break out discussions, group feedback, and Q&A sessions, and a series of shorter sessions- say for 1-2 hours- on particular topics, could be held over several weeks.

Fr Tom's memorial bench is now in place in Clarence Park opposite the cricket pavilion.

Cycle rack: purchase of a cycle rack for the car park will be investigated.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 11th November 2020 at 7.45pm.

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 (current list overleaf):

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 Contact Fr Julian juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk for baptism enquiries.

Confirmation We would like to thank those candidates who have sent in the requested letter to Fr Michael. If you have not done this yet, please could you do so, this week. 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 stalbinsycbs@rcdow.org.uk. All contact details will be kept in confidence and in accordance with data protection requirements. For more information please email stalbinsycbs@rcdow.org.uk.

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 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 cbcstalbins@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!

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.

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.

Fratelli Tutti: A Prayer to the Creator The following prayer is from Pope Francis' new encyclical, **Fratelli Tutti - All Brothers and Sisters**, published on 4 October 2020. The full text of the encyclical and other prayer resources are on the CAFOD website: www.cafod.org.uk (Parish JPIC)

Lord, Father of our human family, you created all human beings equal in dignity:

Pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace. Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war. May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth.

May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams. Amen

Collection for Sick and Retired Priests Next weekend we will be holding the retiring collection for sick and retired priests.

Peter's Pence Last week's collection totalled £20,324.

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 4pm and 6pm on Monday 26th October and on Wednesday 4th and 11th November. Please call at the Presbytery. No appointment needed.

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

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.

Vacancy: Anna Chaplain (chaplain to the elderly) in St. Albans under the auspices of Hatfield Rd and Marlborough Rd Methodist Churches. Full time for 5 years. Work ecumenically in partnership with ministers and lay volunteers to help meet the spiritual needs of older people in the city of St. Albans using the model of the Gift of Years /Anna Chaplain initiative of the Bible Reading Fellowship. Lay or ordained can apply. Closing date 8 November and interviews 13 November. For job advert see www.mrmc.org.uk/index.php/future-projects/

Mary's Meals In this year of so many challenges for us all, it is with great joy that Mary's Meals can share some incredible news with you. From 1st November until 31 January 2021, donations made to its **Double the Love Appeal** will be matched by a funder, up to a total donation value of £2 million. Feel free to fundraise for Mary's Meals, getting others involved e.g. a virtual quiz, sponsored walk/run, fast from something during Advent in preparation for Christmas and so on. This funding will bring new hope to families in Liberia who struggle daily to feed their children. The Covid-19 pandemic has only added to their challenges but, in a country that has also survived the terrible impact of the Ebola virus in 2014, the resilience of Liberians is clear to see. Together, through this **Double the Love** campaign, we can transform the lives of more than 43,000 desperately hungry children across 167 primary schools in Bong County, Liberia.

Changes to arrangements for booking weekend and weekday Masses - 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 stalbans@rcdow.org.uk.

Ss Simon & Jude - 28 October Simon is eleventh of the twelve Apostles. He is known as Simon the Zealot, but nothing else is known about him. His other name of "Simon Cananaeus" simply adapts another Hebrew word for "zeal" and has nothing to do with the town of Cana.

Jude, also called Thaddaeus, is the Apostle who at the Last Supper asked the Lord why he showed himself only to the disciples and not to the world. For many centuries he was scarcely venerated because people confused him with Judas Iscariot. He is patron saint of lost & desperate causes.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 25 October - 30th SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

6pm Vigil Mass Eddie Mansfield (RIP)
9.30am Mass Jean Bergin (Ann)
11.30am Mass Sheila Kennedy (Ann)
7pm Mass People of the parish
Reading 1, Exodus 22: 20-26, Responsorial Psalm, 17
Reading 2, Thessalonians 1:5-10,
Gospel, Matthew 22:34-40

Monday 26 October - Ss Chad and Cedd

10 am Mass David Keiley (RIP)
7 pm Mass Margaret Moloney (Ints)
Reading 1, Ephesians 4:32-5:8
Responsorial Psalm, 1, Gospel, Luke 13:10-17

Tuesday 27 October

10 am Mass Fintin Bergin (Ints)
Reading 1, Ephesians 5:21-33
Responsorial Psalm, 127, Gospel, Luke 13:18-21

Wednesday 28 October - Ss Simon and Jude

10 am Mass William Cloherty (Ann)
7 pm Mass Michael Roche (RIP)
Reading 1, Ephesians 2:19-22
Responsorial Psalm, 18, Gospel, Luke 6:12-19

Thursday 29 October

10 am Mass Seamus Neary (Ints)
Reading 1, Ephesians 6:10-20
Responsorial Psalm, 143, Gospel, Luke 6:13:31-35

Friday 29 October - Blessed Martyrs of Douai College

10 am Mass Terry Hudson (Ann)
7 pm Mass Holy Souls
Reading 1, Ephesians 6:10-20
Responsorial Psalm, 143, Gospel, Luke 13:31-35

Saturday 30 October

Reading 1, Philippians 1:1-11
Responsorial Psalm, 110, Gospel, Luke 14:1-6

Sunday 1 November - All Saints

6pm Vigil Mass People of the parish
9.30am Mass Peter Okoro (RIP)
11.30am Mass Laurence John Crimes (Ann)
7pm Mass Robin Matthews (RIP)

For confession please call at the Presbytery

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the members of the Living Waters International Christian Fellowship.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick:

For those who have died recently: Robin Matthews, Stan Penstone and Paddy Moffitt.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Jean Bergin, Sheila Kennedy, William Cloherty, Terry Hudson, Laurence John Crimes, Brian Freeney, Martin & Bridget Mongan, Loni Vengler and Reginald Salisbury.

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 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 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				