



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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YouTube: youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 15 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

Advent Talks: Towards Christmas and Beyond

This year's Advent talks, given by Fr Michael and Fr Julian, will be streamed at 8pm as follows:

Wednesday 25th November - Witness by Faith

Wednesday 2nd December - Walking in Hope

Monday 7th December - Worship and Charity

Monday 14th December - Windows: Within and Without

One of the blessings of streaming is that the talks will continue to be available on YouTube for some time afterwards. We hope to have a question and answer session after each talk. Also, on the Friday and Sunday following each of the talks, we hope to host a series of Zoom discussion groups where there will be an opportunity for people to share their responses to what they have heard.

The immediate aim of the series is to reflect on our current situation, through the lens of the Christmas story, but it is also hoped that they will stimulate our preparation for next year's Parish Assembly and the formation of our pastoral priorities.

For now, please put the dates in your diary, pray for the success of the series, and keep an eye out for further information on the zoom sessions.

From this weekend the church will be open for **Private Prayer**, during which the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed, as follows:

Mornings	Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 11 am - 12 Noon
Evening	Thursday 7 - 8 pm

Please Note

- All our Masses and the times of Private Prayer are streamed. Please see the parish website or [click here](#) for a link.
- If you or anyone you know might appreciate a call or conversation, please contact the Parish Office by phone or by email and let us know.
- Make a determined effort to visit the parish website - where we will publish a list of useful resources and where you will find the latest bulletin to read. If you would like to be added to the newsletter distribution list please contact the Parish Office with your email details. If you do not have access to the website or email it may well be possible to deliver a paper copy. Again, please contact the Parish Office.
- If you are in need of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please contact the Presbytery. Confessions will be held in the open air and will observe social distancing.
- The current restrictions allow for end of life care, so it is possible for those who are dangerously ill to be anointed at home or while in residential care (should the care or nursing home permit this). Currently we are not allowed into Watford General Hospital. If somebody is admitted into Watford General, or any hospital, and they wish to be visited or anointed please contact the hospital chaplaincy. Where the person is incapacitated, the request will need to come from their next of kin. The hospital number for Watford General is 01923 244 366.

PARISH LIFE

Baptisms Please contact Fr Julian for baptism enquiries at juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk.

First Holy Communion 2021 & Confirmation 2021 Parents and guardians for those due to celebrate their First Holy Communion (Year 3 and above) and Confirmation (Year 10 and above) next year are invited to register. This year we are asking people to register online. Please go to the parish website at www.albanstephen.org, click on the 'Sacraments' tab on the home page and then, once into the Sacraments section, on either 'First Communion' or 'Confirmation' where you will find the relevant registration point. *Please note that if your son or daughter was a part of last year's programme, but has yet to receive Holy Communion or be Confirmed, there is no need to register again.*

Praying the Rosary in a Zoom Group If you are 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.

November Masses for the Holy Souls

Sunday 15 November 11.30am

Deceased Parents and Grandparents

Wednesday 18 November 7.00 pm

Deceased Children / Sons & Daughters

Thursday 26 November 10.00 am

Deceased Victims of Violence

Sunday 29 November 11.30 am

Deceased Spouses

Monday 30 November 10.00 am

Deceased Brothers and Sisters

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 stalbands@rcdow.org.uk).
- Saturday 9am Parish Men's Group currently sharing on the lives of the Saints. Richard Exact on 07976 252309 and at D4dstalbands@gmail.com

Parish Men's Group, meeting up in November 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 28 November at 9am when we will discuss St Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits, and his teachings. If you would like to join us or just find out more about the group then please contact Richard on 07976 252309 or D4dstalbands@gmail.com for more details.

The Mark 10 Mission is a brand-new project created by a team of young lay people to share the Gospel with children. The episodes are completely free and have been used in many primary schools across the country each week since September. Please [click on this link](#) to see the latest episode (Series 2 Ep2) which delivers this weekend's Gospel, gives a short reflection, leads children in prayer and then concludes with worship. A new episode is added each Friday.

Children's Liturgy online There are lots of resources that offer our children the opportunity to listen and respond to the Sunday Gospel. Please see, for example, the Diocese of Westminster [website](#) or visit the CAFOD [website](#) which provides a virtual Children's Liturgy, a children's liturgy resource and an accompanying illustration to colour. You can also download this week's 'Liturgy of the Word with Children' [here](#) or from our website, under [Groups - Liturgy](#).

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.

Hatfield Road Cemetery Clean Up Unfortunately the clean-up planned for 15 November is now cancelled due to lockdown.

You Can Be Santa - needs your help! There are many families in St Albans who are suffering severe hardship, particularly in this time of pandemic. The You Can Be Santa team have identified 167 children, many of whom could miss out on the true meaning and joy of Christmas this year. Please can you help by sending in a gift voucher or donation to the Presbytery by 20th November? Vouchers in £10 or £20 denominations would be welcome from Amazon, Sainsbury's, Argos, or One4All. Vouchers from Amazon can be downloaded and sent to the YCBS team at stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk. Thanks to everyone for helping to spread the good news of Christmas.

Traidcraft. If you would like to order Traidcraft Christmas cards or The Real Meaning of Christmas Advent Calendars [£3.95 each], please contact Maureen on 01727 765549 or grabecki@hotmail.com or visit the Traidcraft website to see the full range. Unfortunately, there are no Christmas catalogues available at the moment but you can order from Traidcraft (free delivery on orders over £50) or via Maureen who may be able to obtain some items at a lower price than available via the web. Our usual range of fairly traded goods - tea, coffee, chocolate, jam, honey, cereals, etc - is always available. Last orders for Christmas by the end of November. Our policy has always been to buy from Traidcraft and add 10%, which we give to CAFOD.

Fr Alan Neville MSC - new mission Fr Alan's vocation as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart has changed direction, literally. He has stepped down from his work as Vocations Director of the MSCs and is moving to South Sudan to be a teacher/chaplain/development worker in a Loreto girls' school in Rumbek, South Sudan. The journey itself will take four days and Fr Alan has asked for our prayers for his new challenge and the people he will meet. The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart have long supported the work done by the Loreto sisters in their school which is just starting to welcome back the students and the teachers, after six months' absence, from their different places of quarantine.

Bicycle rack needed please It has been agreed that we should install a bike rack in the church car park. We'd love to find a second hand one if possible, so if any of you know of one that is no longer needed, please let me know. Failing that, any recommendations for where to buy one would be appreciated. Please contact David on 07543 400650 or by emailing Dave_markham@yahoo.co.uk.

Sick & Retired Priests' Fund If you would like to contribute you can do so online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Alternatively, you can post a donation through the presbytery door in an envelope marked 'Sick & Retired Priests' Fund'. Please keep our sick and retired priests in your prayers.

Contactless Giving Point A contactless giving point is now located in the Church porch. To make an offering using contactless giving, select the amount you wish to donate and tap across the top of the machine with your mobile phone or card.

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.

Standing Orders In view of the current lockdown we would ask you to consider making your contribution to the parish offertory by standing order if you do not already do so. This reduces the handling of cash and overcomes the challenge of people not being physically in church. Details of how to set up a standing order can be obtained from the Parish Office. If you would like to gift aid your donations, but have not yet completed a gift aid form, please email the Parish Office.

In 2019 we received on average £6,788.05 a month in standing orders. Between January and March 2020 the average total was £6,724.25 a month. By June 2020 this had increased to £7,765.14 a month and, in October, it stood at £9,044.80. Thank you to those who have traditionally given via Standing Order and to those who have set them up in more recent months.

SCHOOLS

Certificates of Catholic Practice for Primary and Secondary School Admissions Fr Michael will be available at the Presbytery on Wednesday 9th December 4-6pm. No appointment is required and forms will be provided by Fr Michael. It is not necessary for your child to be present.

'St John Fisher Catholic Primary School - for children starting school in September 2021. Families with children born from 01/09/2016 - 31/08/2017 will be able to apply for a place in Reception. The online application process is now open and closes on the 15th January 2021. Please see the school [Admissions page](#) for further details. You can also see a virtual tour of the school, as well as a message from Mrs O'Donnell, the Headteacher.

'Stay and Play' events at St Columba's College Prep Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, the 'Stay and Play' sessions due to take place on Friday mornings in November have had to be cancelled. For more information about admissions, including assessment dates for September 2021 entry, please see the school [website](#).

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 15 November – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

6pm Vigil Mass Karen Brennan (RIP)

9.30am Mass Holy Souls

11.30am Mass People of the Parish

7pm Mass Deceased family and friends of Sieglinde Wilson (Ints)

Reading 1, Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Responsorial Psalm 128,

Reading 2, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, Gospel, Matthew 5:14-30

Monday 16 November – St Edmund of Abingdon

10 am Mass Fr Louis (Ints)

7 pm Mass Herbert Buckingham (Ann)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 1:1-4, 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm, 1, Gospel, Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday 17 November – St Hilda

10 am Mass Pauline Kelly (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 3:1-6, 14-22

Responsorial Psalm, 15

Gospel, Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday 18 November

10 am Mass David Keiley (RIP)

7 pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Apocalypse 4:1-11

Responsorial Psalm, 150, Gospel, Luke 19:11-28

Thursday 19 November

10 am Mass Gary Caufield (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 5:1-10

Responsorial Psalm, 149, Gospel, Luke 19:41-44

Friday 20 November

10 am Mass Sean McDonagh (Ints)

7 pm Mass Berna Ryan (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 10:8-11

Responsorial Psalm, 119, Gospel, Luke 19:45-48

Saturday 21 November -The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reading 1, Apocalypse 11:4-12

Responsorial Psalm, 144, Gospel, Luke 20:27-40

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 22 November – Christ the King

6pm Vigil Mass Holy Souls

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am Mass Antonio Visconti & Giuseppe D'Auria

7pm Mass Holy Souls

For confession please call at the Presbytery

PLEASE PRAY

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

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick including

For those who have died recently including Zofia Stepien, Mark Brett and Bogdan Moller.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Herbert Buckingham, Bolivia De Lasso, Pedro Lasso, Joseph Chunga and Michael Clarke.

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

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 21 November In unity with Eastern Christianity, and commemorating the dedication in 543 of the New Basilica of Saint Mary, built next to the Temple at Jerusalem, this feast celebrates Mary's "dedication" of herself to God from her infancy, inspired by the Holy Spirit, whose grace had filled her ever since her immaculate conception.

Christ the King – 22 November The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925, the sixteenth centenary of the Council of Nicaea at which the doctrine of the consubstantiality of Christ with the Father was defined. The Pope asserted that the most effective defence against the destructive forces of the age is the recognition of the kingship of Christ; and, furthermore, a feast which is celebrated every year by everyone is a far better way of deploying that defence than any number of books written by learned people. First, we do; then we come to understand what it is that we are doing. Each of us has been anointed with holy oil at baptism, as priest, prophet and king. The feast of Christ the King is thus a good moment to reflect on our kingship and on what "king" means and how to be one. Understanding the feast makes us understand our own call better. The responsibility of a king is to care for his subjects, which is why we are obliged to act as custodians of creation. How far that responsibility takes one can then be seen in the King of the Universe, who is simultaneously the ruler of all and the servant of all. He rules in triumph; and he rules from the Cross.