



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 8 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... As I write a Second National Lockdown prohibiting public acts of worship looms. In these last months since the ending of the last lockdown our volunteer stewards have worked hard to keep the church open for Mass. Our weekday Masses have been fuller than they were before lockdown and our total Sunday Mass attendance has averaged just over 200; just under a fifth of our usual Sunday attendance. Wherever we stand on the lockdown debate, whether we are for or against it, the fact that we are having to enter into another one is a disappointment. Way back in the spring who would have imagined that we would be where we are now? Certainly, I had hoped that come the autumn we would be through the worst of it all.

Understandably, at times such as this it is easy for fatigue to set in, and to become despondent, to ask somewhat desperately, where and when it will end. Here, the challenge for us, is to hear and live in hope, to remember time and time again that in Christ's life, death and resurrection, God has proved his faithfulness, setting before us an ending beyond our greatest expectations. 'Hope', as the Catechism reminds us, is the 'sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...that enters...where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf'.

Although the proposed lockdown forbids public acts of worship it does allow people to come into church for private prayer. This means that the church can be open, but in order to open, the church will need to be staffed and stewarded when it does. This requires volunteers. Since re-opening after the last lockdown we have made a constant appeal for volunteers and we have been much blessed by those who have come forward, but if we are to open the church, and not to take for granted the volunteer stewards who have already come forward, we need more volunteer stewards. If you are willing to steward the church during its opening hours please email Melanie O'Neil at mjoneill5@btinternet.com.

Going forward all our weekday Masses will be streamed as will all our Sunday Masses. In addition, there will be three periods of **private prayer** when the church will be open for people to come in and pray. **These will be from 11am to 12 Noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.** These periods of private prayer, during which the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed, will also be live streamed. If there is sufficient demand and we have enough volunteer stewards, further opportunities may be offered in due course.

Conscious of the feedback offered on the previous Lockdown please could I ask:

- That if you or anyone you know might appreciate a telephone call or conversation, perhaps because you or they feel unsupported, lonely, isolated or simply want to talk, please contact the parish office by phone or by email (details above)
- That you make a determined effort to read the weekly newsletter which can be found on the parish website or, if you have not already done so, contact the parish office to say you would like to be included on the newsletter distribution list.
- That you visit the parish website regularly where we will post general updates and upload references to useful resources

Certificates of Catholic Practice for Primary and Secondary School Admissions Unfortunately, recent Government restrictions mean that Fr Michael will be unable to sign Certificates of Catholic Practice on 11th November as planned. Instead 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.

PARISH LIFE

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

2020 Confirmation During November and the first week of December forty-seven of our young people had intended to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation which they were unable to receive in May. Unfortunately, due to the impending second lockdown, we shall have to postpone the confirmation masses once again. Please hold these all these young people in your prayers, as well as those who decided to defer their confirmation, or not to be confirmed. Further information will be advertised as forthcoming. 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.

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

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.

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 stalbandsycbs@rcdow.org.uk

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.

William Powell's Charity - Almshouse Vacancy The William Powell's Charity, which has two one bedroom alms-houses in Dickens Close, St Albans, currently have a vacancy in one of their houses. 'Persons in need, hardship or distress and of good character' who are resident in the City and District of St Albans are eligible to apply. Please apply by 14 November to Mr J R Clark, William Powell's Charity, 56 Carlisle Avenue, St Albans AL3 5LX. Applicants should state name, address, age and occupation and be prepared to attend an interview which could be in person or online. Evidence of an applicant's qualification for appointment may be required. In special cases the Charity Commissioners may approve the appointment of someone who lives outside the area if otherwise qualified. Residents are required to contribute a monthly sum.

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. Families are warmly invited to our Virtual Sixth Form Preview Evening on Tuesday 10 November at 6pm. 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 on the school website [here](https://www.stcolumbascollege.org) or by contacting the Admissions Registrar, Mrs Hilary Causer, at admissions@stcolumbascollege.org or on 01727 892040.

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

Second collection - Sick & Retired Priests' Fund Please give generously and help ensure our sick and older priests are financially supported, having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. They have baptised us, welcomed us into the church, and offered comfort and prayer at times of sorrow. Now we have a chance to give back and ensure they have peace of mind during their senior years, when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility. Please give generously using the envelopes in the church. You can also donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations - the envelopes and posters have a 'QR Code' you can scan with a phone camera to give online, reducing the risks to all of handling cash. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

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 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.

Offertory Collection In October £1,233.55 was given via Virgin Money Giving. This attracted a further £229.25 in Gift Aid. In October a further £945 was donated using the contactless giving point in the Church porch. The loose plate and offertory envelopes in October came to £2,391.96.

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. You can also email your Holy Souls list to stalbans@rcdow.org.uk. The Holy Souls leaflet and the Novena Prayer are also available on the [parish website](#). 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.

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 Durie	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 McGoochan	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	Adrian McFadden	Anna Igboanugo	Uba Osigwe	Peter Celestine Okoro

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 8 November – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

6pm Vigil Mass Novena

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am Mass Novena

7pm Mass Novena

Reading 1, Wisdom 6:12-16, Responsorial Psalm, 63

Reading 2, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18,

Gospel, Matthew 25:1-13

Monday 9 November – Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

10 am Mass Novena

7 pm Mass Novena

Reading 1, Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

Responsorial Psalm, 46, Gospel, John 2:13-22

Tuesday 10 November – St Leo the Great

10 am Mass Novena

Reading 1, Titus 2:1-8, 11-14, Responsorial Psalm, 37,

Gospel, Luke 17:7-10

Wednesday 11 November – St Martin of Tours

10 am Funeral Mass for Jane Curtis

7 pm Mass Herbert Buckingham (RIP)

Reading 1, Titus 3:1-7, Responsorial Psalm, 23,

Gospel, Luke 17:11-19

Thursday 12 November – St Josaphat

10 am Mass Ivan Potiuk (Ann)

Reading 1, Philemon 7-20, Responsorial Psalm, 146,

Gospel, Luke 17:20-25

Friday 13 November

10 am Mass Alexander & Loni Vengler (RIP)

7 pm Mass Holy Souls - Deceased Priests & Religious

Reading 1, 2 John 4-9

Responsorial Psalm, 119, Gospel, Luke 17:26-37

Saturday 14 November

Reading 1, 3 John 5-8, Responsorial Psalm, 112

Gospel, Luke 18:1-8

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)

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 Christ Church.

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 Adrian McFadden, Danny Crowley and Ivan Potiuk.

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

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (c.324) 9 November

The Lateran Basilica was built by the Emperor Constantine on the Lateran Hill in Rome in about 324. The feast of its dedication has been celebrated in Rome on this date since the twelfth century. In honour of the basilica, "the mother and head of all the churches of the City and the World," the feast has been extended to the whole Roman Rite as a sign of unity and love towards the See of Peter, which, as St Ignatius of Antioch said in the second century, "presides over the whole assembly of charity."

Pope St Leo the Great (- 461) Leo was born into a Roman aristocratic family in Etruria and became Pope in 440. He constantly strove to keep the unity of the Church. He helped repel the invasions of the barbarians, famously persuading Attila the Hun not to march on Rome in 452, and preventing the invading Vandals from massacring the population in 455. Leo left many doctrinal and spiritual writings a number of which are included in the Office of Readings to this day. Leo died on 10 November 461 and, as he wished to be buried as close as possible to the tomb of St Peter, his body was placed in a tomb in the portico of Saint Peter's basilica. In 688, his remains were moved inside the basilica itself.

In November the following live streamed Masses will be offered for those who have died:

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