



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 14 MARCH 2021**



VirginMoneyGiving

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](mailto:stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07976 277059

*We are a Fairtrade parish*

During the week there was an opportunity to convene the Re-opening Planning Group which has worked with me through the course of the current pandemic. Currently there are four public Masses in the week and no public Masses at the weekends. With the drop in infection levels and the beginning of the pathway out of the current lockdown it is proposed to continue the current pattern of weekday Masses, but from Saturday 20 March to re-open our Sunday Masses to public attendance. Our maximum capacity remains at 78 people for each public Mass. We will continue to stream all our Masses, including those without a congregation, but from Saturday 20 March therefore, the following Masses will be open to the public:

- Saturday 6pm Mass (Please pre-book)
- Sunday 9.30am, 11.30am & 7pm Masses (Please pre-book)
- Monday 7pm Mass (No booking needed)
- Tuesday 10am Mass (No booking needed)
- Wednesday 7pm Mass (No booking needed)
- Thursday 10am Mass (No booking needed)

### Registering for Sunday Masses

There is no need to pre-book a seat at weekday Masses, but initially at least we are asking people to pre-book their seat at Sunday Masses. In order to pre-book a seat please email the administrator at [stalbans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk) by the Thursday beforehand. Our administrator continues to work, but from home. **Please only phone to book a place if you have no access to the internet and please ring during office hours Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm.**

### Holy Week

All our Holy Week Services will be streamed but if you wish to attend in person you will need to pre-book a seat. Bookings for Holy Week will be taken from Tuesday 16 March. Again, please email your booking request to the parish office at [stalbans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk) and only phone if you have no access to the internet.

To enable as many people to attend as possible we would ask that people limit themselves to one of the services held during the Triduum itself i.e. on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday.

- **27/28 March Palm Sunday:** Saturday Vigil at 6pm, Sunday Masses at 9.30am, 11.30am & 7pm
- **1 April Maundy Thursday:** Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 8pm
- **2 April Good Friday:** Stations of the Cross 10am, Celebration of the Passion 3.00pm, Stations of the Cross 6pm
- **3 April Holy Saturday:** The Easter Vigil 8 pm
- **4 April Easter Sunday:** 9.30 am, 11.30 am & 7 pm

The Bishops of England and Wales, in line with what has been received from the Congregation in Rome have issued guidance on the Holy Week services. Inevitably these will be different due to Covid restrictions. For example, we are unable to have our normal processions, the washing of the feet, individual veneration of the cross, votive candles or communal singing. *Fr Michael*

**Have you read and responded to Fr Michael's 'Vision' Statement? Please click [here](#).**

**Right to Life** On Mother's Day, we pray for all mothers who are expecting. We pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support from family, friends and local communities, as they journey through this life-changing experience. Lord hear us.

## SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY

**Stations of the Cross for Lent** Stations of the Cross will be live-streamed from our Church on Saturday mornings at 10am throughout Lent. The text of the service will be available on the website to enable people to pray and reflect on a different theme each week. The Stations for the fourth Saturday in Lent (the day before Mothering Sunday) will feature Mary's Way of the Cross. The Lent Penitential Service will take place on Saturday 20 March at 10am and will incorporate Stations of the Cross.

**Easter Garden** Conscious that so many of us have lost loved ones to coronavirus and other causes this year, we would like to commemorate them in a special way in our Easter Garden. We will be planting bamboo flower shapes with the names of our deceased loved ones written on them around the rose garden in front of the presbytery. These will be close to the three crosses and will be a symbol of the new life with Christ promised by the resurrection. If you would like to remember your loved ones in this way, please send their names into the office clearly marked 'Easter Garden' either by emailing the parish office or by posting the details through the presbytery door.

**Baptisms** Please contact Fr Julian for baptism enquiries by emailing him at [juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk).

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** If you are in need of confession, please contact the Presbytery. Confessions will be held in the open air and observe social distancing.

**First Holy Communion** The 2020/21 programme will begin after Easter and an email has been sent out this week to the parents of all candidates with further details on the programme. Those 2019/20 candidates who are yet to make their First Holy Communion were emailed last week. Please contact the parish office on [stalbins@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbins@rcdow.org.uk) if you feel you should have received either email but have not done so.

**Confirmation** We hope to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation for last year's confirmands (postponed due to the lockdown) on 8 and 15 May, at 11.30am and 2.30pm on both. A digital form has been sent out inviting date preferences.

**Marriages** Please contact Fr Michael for marriage enquiries by emailing him at [michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk).

**Anointing of the Sick** Current restrictions allow for end of life care, so those who are dangerously ill can be anointed at home or while in residential care (should the care or nursing home permit). Currently we are not allowed into Watford General Hospital (01923 244366.) If somebody is admitted to hospital and wishes to be visited or anointed please contact the hospital chaplaincy. Where the person is incapacitated, the request must come from the next of kin.

## PARISH NEWS

**Vision Statement** Looking towards the forthcoming Parish Assembly Fr Michael has set out a vision statement for our pastoral priorities going ahead. The full version of this can be found on our website, under '[Parish News](#)'. For the summary version please click [here](#). Fr Michael would welcome your comments and feedback. Please email him directly, using the subject header 'Vision', at [michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk).

**Communications** Do you have an interest in how we as a parish community communicate, not only among ourselves, but with the world at large? Do you have skills and experience that may help? Would you like to be part of a Parish Communications Group? Would you be willing to join a communication strategy group? If so, please email Fr Michael at [michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk).

**Parish Virtual Coffee Morning Sundays 10.30 - 11.00am** Click [here](#) to join a parish coffee morning for a Zoom chat each Sunday. Just copy the link below into your browser, using Meeting ID 930 9372 9386 / Passcode 998690: <https://zoom.us/j/93093729386?pwd=RzNkWm5vYlp6SDlBUUN3UkxEbnZ5QT09>

**Lenten Study Programmes** Please see the 'Parish News' page of our website for details of some opportunities for parishioners to take part in study programmes and faith sharing groups during Lent.

**CAFOD "Big Walk for Water"** Hopefully, by Saturday Maureen and Stan will have reached the half-way stage in their 40-day walking challenge to raise money to supply clean water for isolated communities in some of the most inhospitable places in the world. Donations so far are up to £1500, an amazing total. Thank you so much for helping those in such desperate need. We have had such fantastic support from so many people, including many other parishioners who are also walking in support of this initiative.

If you would like to donate to support this challenge, please go to [www.justgiving.com/maureen-stan-grabecki](http://www.justgiving.com/maureen-stan-grabecki) or drop an envelope marked "CAFOD challenge" into the presbytery. Please see the [Parish News](#) section of our website for an article on Stan and Maureen's walk.

**TRAIIDCRAFT:** all of our regular items are still on sale in a Covid-secure way. A range of Easter cards and eggs are also available for special order as we cannot afford to buy these in advance. Please look at the [Traidcraft](#) website for more details. We can buy packs of 6 religious Easter cards for £4.50, a discount of about 10% - perhaps an alternative to giving an Easter egg this year? Also, if enough Easter eggs [about £5 each] were needed, then they might be a little cheaper, too. To allow for delivery from Traidcraft, we will place an order on Saturday 20 March. More details from Maureen, [grabecki@hotmail.com](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com). 765549.

## OUR SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

**Churches Together in Marshalswick Lent Lectures and Discussion** Weekly meetings will take place via Zoom at 6.45pm on Sundays during Lent. Click [here](#) to join using Meeting ID: 846 7123 1405 and password: 060730. Alternatively you can watch on [YouTube](#). More information can be obtained from [www.ssaviours.org](http://www.ssaviours.org).

**A Day in the Life...Daily Practices in Different Faiths** This Zoom meeting at 8pm on 15 March has been organised by the Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group and will include speakers from seven different traditions. To join, please use the Zoom link below, with meeting ID: 981 2513 5849 and passcode: 748520:

<https://zoom.us/j/98125135849?pwd=bFRoRC9DYlNqR0xyY2R6c21EYUxuUT09>

**Safeguarding DBS Administrator (part time position) – Diocese of Westminster** An opportunity has arisen for a suitably experienced and qualified individual to join the diocesan Safeguarding team. The post holder will assist the DBS Officer and the Safeguarding Co-ordinator. Please click [here](#) for a job specification and to apply online. The closing date for applications is 26 March.

## SUPPORTING OUR PARISH

**Donating to our Parish** In view of the current lockdown please consider making your offertory contribution by standing order if you do not already do so. If you would like to gift aid your donations, but have not yet completed a gift aid form, please think about doing so. Between January and March 2020, the average total received by standing order was £6,724.25 a month. By December 2020 this had increased to £9,221.10 a month.

Please see our [website](#) or click [here](#) for a standing order and gift aid form. In light of the current restrictions, your donations matter more than ever. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**Contactless and Virgin Money Giving** A contactless giving point is now located in the Church porch. To make an offering, select the amount you wish to donate and tap the top of the machine with your phone or card. If you would like to donate using Virgin Money Giving, please click [here](#) or use the QR code at the top of the newsletter.

## LOCKDOWN ARRANGEMENTS

**Contacting the parish office** In line with current government advice, our parish administrator is working mainly from home. This means that the phone may not always be manned during parish office hours (9am–1pm, weekday mornings) and you may not get a response to a voicemail immediately. The best way to contact the parish office at the moment is by emailing [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk).

**Mass Intentions** To limit the spread of infection, parishioners will not be able to book mass intentions in person at the presbytery until further notice. If you would like to book a Mass intention please contact the parish office via [email](#) or post an envelope through the presbytery door with the details of the Mass intention (who it is for and why), your name, a contact phone number or email address and your donation. If you would prefer a weekend or a morning/ evening weekday mass, please note that also. We will contact you with a suggested mass date.

Please note that we are currently booking mass intentions for masses taking place from August 2021. The diocesan suggested Mass offering is £10.

**Prayers for the Sick** If you would like to include someone in the prayers for the sick please contact the presbytery.

**Weekly bulletin** During this lockdown period, the bulletin will only be available electronically. Parishioners on the newsletter distribution list or parish database will continue to receive an electronic copy of the bulletin each week. It is also available on our website and can be accessed [here](#). If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the weekly bulletin by email, please email the parish office.

If you know someone who is unable to access the electronic version of the bulletin, you share relevant parish news with them on a regular basis or print them a copy if you can do so in a COVID-19 secure way.

**Keeping in touch** The parish website will continue to be updated with latest news and information. If you would like something added to the bulletin or the news section of the website, please contact the parish office.

You can also find support and useful resources on the Liturgy Group section of our [website](#).

All of our masses are livestreamed via our YouTube channel which can be accessed via our website or by clicking [here](#).

The parish also has a Facebook group providing support and updates and which now has 392 members. You can join this group by clicking [here](#) or by searching Facebook for SS Alban and Stephen Catholic Church.

### St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Friday 19 March

Nothing is known of St Joseph except what is said of him in the Gospels. He was a carpenter; he accepted the will of God; and he supported Mary and brought up Jesus. From the human character of Jesus we can see that he was a good and responsible father. He is widely venerated as a patron of artisans who do good work with the gifts God has given them, and of workers, in general; also to those who exercise the role of an adoptive parent, whether formally or informally, whether over one child or as the support of a whole family, he is a source of inspiration. St Joseph is also known as the patron saint house sellers and buyers.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### **Sunday 14 March - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

6pm Vigil Mass Gerard Dunne (RIP) \*  
9.30am Mass People of the Parish \*  
11.30am Mass Sarah Duggan (Ints) \*  
7pm Mass Tom Bagge (RIP) \*  
Reading 1, 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23,  
Responsorial Psalm, 137  
Reading 2, Ephesians 2:4-10, Gospel, John 3:14-21

### **Monday 15 March - Lent feria**

10am Funeral Mass for Daphne Snaith \*  
7pm Mass Sr Mary Aelred (Ints)  
Reading 1, Isaiah 65:17-21  
Responsorial Psalm, 30, Gospel, John 4:43-54

### **Tuesday 16 March - Lent feria**

10am Mass for Kathleen Quinn (RIP)  
Reading 1, Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12  
Responsorial Psalm, 46, Gospel, John 5:1-16

### **Wednesday 17 March - ST PATRICK**

10am Mass Sr Mary Dominic (Ints) \*  
7pm Mass Sinead McNally (RIP)  
Reading 1, Isaiah 49:8-15  
Responsorial Psalm, 145, Gospel, John 5:17-30

### **Thursday 18 March - Lent feria**

10am Mass Sue Colquhoun (RIP)  
Reading 1, Exodus 32:7-14  
Responsorial Psalm, 106, Gospel, John 5:31-47

### **Friday 19 March- ST JOSEPH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese**

10am Mass Fr Tom Hewitt (RIP) \*  
7pm Mass Brendan Byrne (RIP) \*  
Reading 1, 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16  
Responsorial Psalm, 89, Reading 2, Romans 4:13,16-18,22,  
Gospel, Matthew 1:16,18-21,24

### **Saturday 20 March - Lent feria**

10am Penitential Service including Stations of the Cross -  
Week 5 \*  
Reading 1, Jeremiah 11:18-20  
Responsorial Psalm, 7, Gospel, John 7:40-52

### **Sunday 21 March - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

6pm Vigil Mass People of the Parish  
9.30am Mass Joseph Finch (RIP)  
11.30am Mass Mary Curran (RIP)  
7pm Mass Ann Lynch (First Ann)

\* Live streamed only, no public attendance.

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the minister and members of Greenwood United Reform Church.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick including

For those who have died recently including Harry Brinkworth, Susan Lannon, Mary McHugh, Lourdes Pons, Daphne Snaith and Dora Thomas.

(Attendance at funeral masses is currently limited to 30 invited mourners.)

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Baxter, Peter Cawdery, Ann Lynch, Canon Digby Samuels and Milly Yarwood.

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

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Please click [here](#) for this week's 'Liturgy of the Word' for Children leaflet and worksheet from the Diocese of Westminster.

**Virtual Children's Liturgy from CAFOD** in addition to their downloadable weekly children's liturgy resources, CAFOD are currently also offering a virtual Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10am on Sunday as a webinar. Parents and children are encouraged to join online for prayers and reflection on Sunday's Gospel. The liturgy is led by catechists who usually lead children's liturgy in their parish and will be based on CAFOD children's liturgy resources. Click [here](#) for the link to register. After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**Children's Stations of the Cross** EWTN publish a service for primary age children entitled [The Way of the Cross for Kids](#) in a cartoon format. CAFOD have also produced [Resources and Prayers for Lent for Catholic schools](#) and include a simple [service](#) featuring photographs and information from some of the projects that CAFOD has supported.

**St Patrick (385-461) - 17 March** Patrick was born in Roman Britain and died in Ireland about the middle of the 5th century. As a missionary bishop, he endured many hardships and faced opposition even from his friends and fellow Christians. Nevertheless, he worked hard to conciliate, to evangelise, and to educate local chieftains and their families. He is remembered for his simplicity and pastoral care, for his humble trust in God, and for his fearless preaching of the gospel to the very people who had enslaved him in his youth.