



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – 28 MARCH 2021



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Parish Team: Fr Michael O'Boy (Parish Priest) Fr Julian Davies (Assistant Priest)

Rev. Steve Pickard (Deacon) Mrs Angela Gray (Parish Administrator)

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We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes... Owing to Holy Week and Easter this will be the last newsletter until the weekend of 17/18th April. This will be my and Fr Julian's second Easter with you; both have been under lockdown and both more muted than we would have hoped. Nonetheless Holy Week and Easter remains what it always is, the celebration of Christ's self-giving, Christ's sacrifice, that sin and death, hopelessness, might be put to nought. Please God, as we journey through Holy Week and come to Easter, our daily lives may be coloured more and more by the hope which Christ's triumph affords, than the suffering and frustrations imposed by the continuing pandemic.

The observant will have seen fresh scaffolding next to the Parish Centre. This is to facilitate repairs to the flat roof above the Centre Stairwell. The recent high winds seem to have dislodged some roof tiles on both the lower and upper roofs of the church. We hope to address these issues while the roofers are in.

There was no formal collection of the Christmas or Easter offering last year and the current restrictions on Mass attendance will also impact on this year's Easter offering. This is your offering to the priests of the parish. It supports their monthly allowance or stipend. If you would like to contribute to the Easter offering please use one of the envelopes available in the porch, or a plain envelope marked 'Easter Offering', and post through the presbytery door. If you prefer to make your offering using Virgin Money Giving or by bank transfer then please see the donations section on the parish website and use 'Easter offering' as the reference.

Finally, at Easter, the You Can Be Santa team have usually co-ordinated the distribution of Easter Eggs to the children supported at Christmas. Thanks to your enormous generosity at Christmas and other funding the YCBS team have been able to provide vouchers for an Easter treat to those children helped at Christmas. Many thanks to the YCBS team for organising these Easter gifts and continuing this outreach to the families concerned.

Wishing you and those dear to you a very Happy Easter and every blessing.

Holy Week Services All our Holy Week Services will be streamed. If you wish to attend in person please pre-book a seat by emailing the parish office at stalbans@rcdow.org.uk. 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.

- **Palm Sunday:** Saturday Vigil at 6pm, Sunday Masses at 9.30am, 11.30am & 7pm
- **Maundy Thursday:** Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 8pm
- **Good Friday:** Stations of the Cross 10am, Celebration of the Passion 3.00pm (fully booked), Stations of the Cross 6pm
- **Holy Saturday:** The Easter Vigil 8pm
- **Easter Sunday:** 9.30am (fully booked), 11.30am & 7pm

The Bishops of England and Wales, in line with advice from the Congregation in Rome, have issued guidance on the Holy Week services, which will inevitably be different due to Covid. 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.

Music for Holy Week Services We are delighted that our musicians have volunteered to lead some of the Holy Week services. Following Government and Bishops' Conference guidelines, strict safety measures will be taken to safeguard everyone present. Singing will be kept to a minimum to ensure the brevity of services and no congregational singing is allowed. Musicians and cantors will be situated in the choir loft and screens erected to counter the transmission of aerosols to the congregation below. All surfaces will be sanitised after the service. There will be music at the following services: **Palm Sunday** 11.30am Mass, **Maundy Thursday** 8pm Mass, **Good Friday** 3pm Passion & Stations at 10am and 6pm, **Holy Saturday** 8pm Easter Vigil and **Easter Sunday** 9.30am Mass.

SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY

Public Masses the following Masses are open to all:

- Saturday 6pm Mass
- Sunday 9.30am, 11.30am & 7pm Masses
- Monday 7pm Mass
- Tuesday 10am Mass
- Wednesday 7pm Mass
- Thursday 10am Mass

There is no need to pre-book a seat at weekday Masses, and places are available on a first come, first served basis.

Initially at least we are asking people to pre-book their seat at Sunday Masses. Please note that pre-booking can only be done from Monday morning for the following weekend. In order to pre-book a place for weekend masses, please email the administrator by the Thursday beforehand at stalbans@rcdow.org.uk.

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 as our administrator continues to work mainly from home. All masses continue to be live streamed.

Stations of the Cross for Lent Stations of the Cross for week 6 will be live-streamed from our Church on Saturday 27 March at 10am. They have been prepared by the Justice and Peace Group and feature CAFOD's Way of the Cross. The text of the service is available on the website to enable people to pray and reflect upon. On Good Friday Stations of the Cross will open to all (although booking in advance is required). They will also be live-streamed and the text will be available on the website.

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.

Holy Week Posters These are available in the Porch. Please take one to put in a window.

Baptisms Please contact Fr Julian for baptism enquiries by emailing him at 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 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 have also been emailed. Please contact the parish office on stalbans@rcdow.org.uk if you feel you should have received either email but have not done so.

Adult Confirmation A course will be starting after Easter. If you have not yet received the sacrament of confirmation as an adult, and would like to, please get in touch with Fr Julian juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk, or ring the parish office.

Marriages Please contact Fr Michael for marriage enquiries by emailing him at michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk.

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

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 Pastoral Council Please click [here](#) for a summary report from the latest meeting of the PPC on 10th March.

PARISH NEWS

Holy Places There will be a retiring collection on Good Friday for the Holy Places.

Parish Virtual Coffee Morning Sundays 10.30 - 11.00am Click [here](#) to join a parish coffee morning for a Zoom chat each Sunday. Alternatively copy the link below into your browser (Meeting ID 930 9372 9386 / Passcode 998690): <https://zoom.us/j/93093729386?pwd=RzNkWm5vY1p6SDlBUUN3UkxEbnZ5QT09>

The Bible Timeline Course Have you tried to read the whole Bible and given up? Do you feel it's too big and complicated? Then come and join us on the Bible Timeline Course, a FREE world-famous course delivered online LIVE by Mauro Iannicelli from the "Come and See" evangelisation ministry. Mauro will walk us through the books of the Bible which tell the story of salvation history from Adam and Eve to Jesus Christ. Starts 7 April, 7 to 8:40pm (Eight Wednesday evening sessions). To register and for further details, click this [link](#).

Wool needed! The Parish Friends Group would appreciate donations of new double knit wool to make blankets for the Catholic Workers Farm. All colours accepted. Offers to knit squares to make the blankets would also be appreciated. Please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340 if you can help.

CAFOD "Big Walk for Water" 22 March was World Water Day. Here are a couple of things to pray about: 1 in 10 people do not have basic water access; in sub-Saharan Africa women and girls spend about 40 billion hours a year collecting water. Maureen and Stan Grabecki are completing CAFOD's Lenten walking challenge - over 160 miles each so far - to raise funds to try to alleviate some of this injustice. If you would like to sponsor them, please go to their just giving [page](#) or drop money/a cheque in an envelope marked "CAFOD challenge" into the presbytery. Many thanks to all those who have donated so far.

OUR SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

Maundy Thursday Watching Until Midnight From 8pm until midnight on Maundy Thursday, 1 April, everyone in our diocese is invited to join in prayer, paying a virtual visit to the Diocesan Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament at Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane, using this [link](#).

'Waiting' - Reflections for Good Friday. This Service of Unity at the Cross has been prepared by Churches Together in Marshalswick at the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban. Due to the limitations generated by CV19 the service will be available on YouTube on 2nd April at 8pm on St Saviour's YouTube channel.

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. Please see our [website](#) or click [here](#) for a standing order and gift aid form. 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.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Contacting the parish office In line with current government advice, our parish administrator is working mainly from home. This means that office phone may not always be manned and you may not get a reply to a voicemail immediately. The best way to contact the parish office at the moment is by emailing stalbans@rcdow.org.uk.

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

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the Easter week ecumenical events.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick including

For those who have died recently including Gavin Grainger Rousseau, John Lavelle, Ken Liversidge, Mary McHugh, Maude Reeves, Pasquale Viscogliosi and Maxine Zambardi.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mario Casotti, Floryse Chan-Fat, Eileen Donachie, Elizabeth Foley, Elaine Gatta, Mary Harper, Carmel Johnson, Mary Jozwiak, Susan Lewis, Elizabeth Lines, Mary Malik, Catherine Mannion, Fr Sandy Murray MSC, Margaret Sweeney and Edward Turner.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 28 March - PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

6pm Vigil Mass Elizabeth Lines (First Ann)
9.30am Mass Floryse Chan-Fat (Ann)
11.30am Mass People of the Parish
7pm Mass Mary Jozwiak (First Ann)
Reading 1, Isaiah 50: 4-7, Responsorial Psalm, 22
Reading 2, Philippians 2:6-11, Gospel, Mark 15: 1-39

Monday 29 March - MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

10am Mass Peggy Scanlan (RIP) *
7pm Mass Holy Souls
Reading 1, Isaiah 42:1-7
Responsorial Psalm, 27, Gospel, John 12:1-11

Tuesday 30 March - TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

10am Mass Annie Cawley (RIP)
Reading 1, Reading 1, Isaiah 49: 1-6
Responsorial Psalm, 71, Gospel, John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday 31 March - WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

10am Mass Holy Souls *
7pm Mass Mary Harper (First Ann)
Reading 1, Isaiah 5:4-9
Responsorial Psalm, 69, Gospel, Matthew 26:14-25

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM:

Thursday 1 April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

8pm **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**
Reading 1, Exodus 12:1-8,11-14, Psalm, 116
Reading 2, Corinthians 11:23-26, Gospel, John 13:1-15

Friday 2 April - GOOD FRIDAY

10am Stations of the Cross: Courage to walk with Christ
3pm **Celebration of the Passion of the Lord**
Reading 1, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm, 31
Reading 2, Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9, Gospel, John 18:1-19:42
6pm Stations of the Cross: Way of the Cross for our Time

Saturday 3 April - HOLY SATURDAY

8pm Easter Vigil People of the Parish
Reading 1, Genesis 1:26-31, Canticle, 104
Reading 2, Exodus 14:15-15:1, Canticle, Exodus 15
Reading 3, Ezekiel 36: 16-17a, 18-28, Psalm, 41
Reading 4, Romans 6:3-11, Psalm, 118
Gospel, Mark: 16:1-8

Live streamed only, no public attendance. *

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

Right to Life We pray for all considering abortion. We pray that the love and support of those around them would encourage mothers to continue with their pregnancy and find peace and joy in what the future holds. Lord hear us.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 4 April EASTER SUNDAY

9.30am Mass Stella Cowley (RIP)
11.30am Mass Rosa Venetico (RIP)
7pm Mass Margaret Sweeney (RIP)
Reading 1, Acts 10:34, 37-43, Responsorial Psalm, 118
Reading 2, Colossians 3:1-4, Gospel, John 20:1-9

Monday 5 April - WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am Mass Mario Casotti (First Ann) *
No evening Mass
Reading 1, Acts 2:14, 22-33
Responsorial Psalm, 16, Gospel, Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday 6 April - WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am Mass Margaret Sweeney (First Ann)
Reading 1, Acts 2:36-41 Responsorial Psalm, 33
Gospel, John 20:11-18

Wed 7 April - WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

No morning Mass
7pm Mass Edward Turner (First Ann)
Reading 1, Acts 3:1-10
Responsorial Psalm, 105, Gospel, Luke 24:13-35

Thurs 8 April - WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am Mass Mary Malik (First Ann)
Reading 1, Acts 3:11-26
Responsorial Psalm, 8, Gospel, Luke 24:35-48

Friday 9 April - WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am Mass Catherine Mannion (First Ann) *
No evening Mass
Reading 1, Acts 4:1-12
Responsorial Psalm, 118, Gospel, John 21:1-14

Sat 10 April - WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

6pm Mass Susan Lewis (First Ann)

Sunday 11 April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.30am People of the Parish
11.30am Mass Ellen Donachie (Ann)
7pm Mass Willie Hardy (RIP)

Monday 12 April - Easter feria

10am Funeral Mass for Mary McHugh *
7pm Mass Holy Souls

Tuesday 13 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Sumner family (Ints)

Wednesday 14 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Willie Joe Cawley (RIP) *
7pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Thursday 15 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Carmel Johnson (First Ann)

Friday 16 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Bernadette Witchard (RIP) *
7pm Mass Elaine Gatta (First Ann) *