



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - 18 APRIL 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 / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes... By time you read this front piece my post Easter break will be drawing to its close. My hope is to have spent it at home caring for my Dad. He is nearly 90, and contracted covid around Christmas, but after some prolonged stays in hospital is now much stronger and at home. For us covid has certainly reshaped the pattern of family life, but I am all too conscious that we have been more fortunate than many to have Dad back home.

As I write I am conscious of how covid has reshaped so many lives as well as our own parish life as well. I find myself asking what the permanent or long-term impact will be. Only time will tell. Let us pray. Let us trust in the power of the risen Lord. More immediately I would like to see if the reintroduction of the full weekday schedule of public Masses is possible.

Of course to do this we need volunteers willing to steward people's movement around the church and to sanitise the church afterwards. If you can offer an hour or so once or twice a week your generosity may make it possible to expand our weekday timetable. Before making that move however, we need to make sure we have the stewards to staff it. If you would be willing to join or re-join the band of volunteers, please email the parish office at stalbans@rcdow.org.uk Knowing how many stewards we have to call on will be a great help to the re-opening planning group that has advised me throughout the current pandemic.

What would you like to see in place in our parish in three years' time?

Fr Michael has proposed a Vision for our parish under the theme 'Welcome, Worship and Witness' which highlights some aspects that we might pay particular attention to over the next few years, and which will be a focus for our Parish Assembly in June. In order to give everyone an opportunity to provide feedback, in addition to requesting feedback from individual parishioners, we are arranging a series of discussions for the various parish groups. The meetings will be via Zoom and the times and details for joining are below. Some parishioners are in several parish groups and they need join just one meeting. Any parishioner who is available to join a discussion at a time below is welcome to do so. The Vision document is available on the parish website home page and hard copies are available in the porch.

Meeting for Eucharistic Ministers: 7.30pm Thursday 15 April. Meeting ID: 990 8080 3286; Passcode: 473714

<https://zoom.us/j/99080803286?pwd=S1p0Yi85WkxOWHRONFUwaFZvZDQ3Zz09>

Meeting for Ministers of the Word 7.30pm Monday 19 April. Meeting ID: 947 4797 6763; Passcode: 750220

<https://zoom.us/j/94747976763?pwd=WGNpZ0ZPZHVKUwzZm5mOVBVcXp2dz09>

Meeting for Stewards: 7.30pm Monday 26 April. Meeting ID: 974 7409 2158; Passcode: 809050

<https://zoom.us/j/97474092158?pwd=REILSUs2UWZ6YXd5ZWVkZnkyem1nZz09>

Meeting for Marshalswick Centre Parishioners: 7pm Thursday 29 April. Meeting ID: 849 3267 8288; Passcode: 354158

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84932678288?pwd=b2VaOlplZUVFSbUtYQVVMNkZNRmxSZz09>

Meeting for Fire Wardens: 7.30pm Thursday 29 April. Meeting ID: 952 6314 0702; Passcode: 389696

<https://zoom.us/j/95263140702?pwd=N2V0eWdKbEE5ZTIQTjErRG91cmFjQT09>

Meeting for Parish Friends: 8.00pm Wednesday 5 May. Meeting ID: 927 1602 6314; Passcode: 797686

<https://zoom.us/j/92716026314?pwd=VCsyUIRYZDZ6MzRxTkpQSS9Cb09Kdz09>

Right to Life We pray for all unborn children diagnosed with disabilities. We pray for protection for them and their mothers from the pressures of society to consider abortion, and that they and their mothers would instead experience overwhelming support from all who surround them. Lord hear us.

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

For the last couple of weekends, the number of mass attendees has been within the capacity of the Church seating plan and therefore, from this week, we are no longer asking people to book places at weekday or weekend masses.

All public masses will now be available on a first come, first served basis but please note that this may mean that capacity is reached at the busier masses, such as the Saturday evening mass and the 9.30am mass on Sunday morning. The situation will be kept under review and all masses will continue to be live streamed. Please use the NHS Track and Trace App to record your presence in church. If this is not possible, please write your name and contact email address or phone number on a piece of paper and bring it with you.

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 shortly and an email has been sent out to the parents of all candidates with further details on the programme. If you have not received or collected your FHC books, please do so from the presbytery as soon as possible. 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 shortly. If you have not yet received the sacrament of confirmation as an adult, and would like to, please contact Fr Julian at juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk, or via the parish office.

Marriages Please contact Fr Michael for marriage enquiries by emailing him at 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 (care or nursing home permitting). Currently we are not allowed into Watford General Hospital (01923 244366.) If someone 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.

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

PARISH NEWS

Priests' Training Fund Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 42 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 18 of whom are for our Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also for our Diocese. Last year two men who studied at Allen Hall and one who studied in Rome ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing formation of our ordained priests. Donation leaflets are available in the back of the church. Please take one home and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can donate online anytime [here](#).

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

Knit and Natter Group The group received a lovely email before Easter from Sr Sally and the staff, children and volunteers at the Holy Family Care Centre in Limpopo Province, South Africa.

"A big thank you again to the 'St Albans and Stephen Knit and Natter Group' for your generous work and donation of more knitted jumpers. We are very appreciative of the love and support you show to our beautiful children at Holy Family Care Centre. So, with heartfelt gratitude we thank you for your ongoing support. The weather will begin to get cold next month so the timing is perfect. The children will be all snuggle and warm in their new soft jumpers. Last year due to the Covid pandemic we home-schooled all the children and this year we have continued. In the last 6 weeks we have admitted 9 children. We now have 52 children being home schooled here, 14 toddlers in creche and 8 babies in the nursery. We have 10 local tutors teaching our children from grade R to 10. The tutors and children have been amazing once again adapting to the home-schooling program. We are calling ourselves for fun 'Holy Family Care Centre Academy!' We continue to practice all health safety protocols and remain in lockdown here at our little home in South Africa to protect our children and staff. We hope and pray that you and your families are safe and remain well during this global pandemic. May God bless you all."

This parcel was one of three sent in March 2020 so it has taken a whole year to arrive but Sr Sally was delighted to receive it and hoped that most of the children will now be able to have a new jumper at Easter. The Parish Friends Group would appreciate donations of new double knit wool in any colour to make blankets for the Catholic Workers Farm. Offers to knit squares to make the blankets would also be appreciated. Please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340 if you can help.

APF (Missio) local secretary for the parish The present local secretary (Tony Hughes) is stepping down after eight years because of mobility problems and we would like to hear from anyone who is interested in taking over from him. The role of the local secretary is to distribute the Mission Today magazine to promoters and to receive and bank the money collected by promoters from the red boxes. There are three issues of the magazine each year and we currently have nine promoters and around 65 red box holders. Before the pandemic the amount collected in a year from the red boxes was just over £2,000. If you are interested in helping the missions by becoming local secretary for the parish, please contact the parish office.

Bethlehem to Nazareth Virtual Pilgrimage - Supporting vulnerable children in the Holy Land A huge number of Christian families across the Holy Land who relied on tourism have been plunged into unemployment and poverty during the last year, with no government support. If their children are to continue attending Christian schools, they need help to pay the (small) school fees. A group of parishioners will walk 84-miles following a virtual pilgrimage route from Bethlehem to Nazareth before Pentecost Sunday, to raise funds for the Friends of the Holy Land appeal to keep vulnerable children at the school. Please support us by donating to our Parish Team [fundraising site](#) at or by posting a donation in an envelope through the presbytery door, marked 'FHL Virtual Pilgrimage'. If you would like to join the pilgrimage team and help raise funds, please click on the link above and follow the guide. You will be able to walk at your own pace and you will be most welcome. Thank you. Anne Myles, David Myles, Helen Bassill, Melanie O'Neill, Mike White, Richard O'Neill, Sylvia White.

CAFOD Walk for Water Maureen and Stan have completed their 40-day Lenten walking challenge. So far, an amazing £3200 has been donated and money is still coming in! We had a card from CAFOD today with a message from Abdella in Ethiopia; it reads "if someone is thinking of me, thank you. God bless you. Thank you for thinking of me and thank you for thinking of my community." It is still possible to make a donation to help bring fresh water to remote communities. If you would like to, please donate [online](#) or drop an envelope marked "CAFOD walk" with your donation into the presbytery.

OUR SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

Charity Cycle Ride for Centre 33 Caitriona, Jacqui, Juliet, Andy, Chris, David and Giles are doing a charity cycle of collectively 500 miles around St Albans on Sunday 25 April to raise money for Centre 33, our local St Albans homeless charity. We are grateful for any sponsorship to raise money for this worthy cause. Please click this [link](#) for further details of the charity and our challenge and to donate.

Hospital Chaplaincy Volunteer Visitors Course The Chaplaincy at Watford General Hospital is preparing to run a six-session chaplaincy volunteer taster training course for people who might consider becoming a local Hospital Chaplaincy volunteer Visitor. The first session of the six-week taster training course is to commence from 7.30 to 8.30pm on 11 May via ZOOM. Numbers are limited so if interested please [email](#) the Head of Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care asap.

Catholic Ethos Advocate, St Elizabeth's Centre, Much Hadham The Catholic Ethos Advocate will further develop, celebrate and promote the distinctive Catholic identity and ethos of this long established charity, (which now has a school for 5-19 year olds; a College for 18-25 year olds and a Registered Children's Home and Care Home with Nursing for Adults), providing education, care and medical support on a 52-week basis for up to 200 people of all ages with learning disabilities and other complex medical needs, often caused or complicated by severe epilepsy and/or autism. Informal discussions are encouraged prior to interview, for further information please call the Recruitment Team on 01279 844348 or 01279 843451 or email us at recruitment@stelizabeths.org.uk. The closing date for applications is Friday 7 May 2021.

School Crossing Patrol We are looking for someone who would be interested in becoming the school crossing patrol for Ss Alban and Stephen Infant and Junior Schools. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Active and Safer Travel team on 01992 556816 / 556803. The pay is £9 per hour and a job share would be considered.

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 stalbands@rcdow.org.uk.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 18 April - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

6pm Vigil Mass Jimmy Ryan (RIP)

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am Mass John Derby (RIP)

7pm Mass Ken and Mary Neal (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 3:13-19, Responsorial Psalm, 4

Reading 2, 1 John 2:1-5, Gospel, Luke 24:35-48

Monday 19 April - St Alphege

10am Funeral Mass for Pasquale Viscogliosi*

7pm Mass Maria and Franciszek Frosztega (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 6:8-15, Responsorial Psalm, 119

Gospel, John 6:22-29

Tuesday 20 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Michael Leahy (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 7:51-8:1 Responsorial Psalm, 31

Gospel, John 6:30-35

Wednesday 21 April - St Anselm

10am Mass Janet Ryan (First anniversary) *

7pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Acts 8:1-8, Responsorial Psalm, 66

Gospel, John 6:35-40

Thursday 22 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Tony Moran (First anniversary) and Kathleen Moran (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 8:26-40, Responsorial Psalm, 66

Gospel, John 6:44-51

Friday 23 April - ST GEORGE, Martyr, Patron of England

10am Funeral Mass for John Lavelle *

7pm Mass Betty O'Sullivan (RIP) *

Reading 1, Apocalypse 12:10-12, Responsorial Psalm, 126,

Reading 2, Romans 5:1-5, Gospel, John 15:18-21

Saturday 24 April - Ss Erkenwald and Mellitus

Reading 1, Acts 9:31-42 Responsorial Psalm, 116

Gospel, John 6:60-69

Sunday 25 April - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

6pm Vigil Mass Sr Mary Aelred (Ints)

9.30am Mass Lewis and Frances Lumber (RIP)

11.30am Mass Eileen and Harry Vasey (Ann)

7pm Mass People of the Parish

Live streamed only, no public attendance. *

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

PLEASE PRAY

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

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick including

For those who have died recently including June Borg, Raymond Curry, John Lavelle, Ken Liversidge, Dorothy Markham, Kathleen Moran, Maude Reeves, Pasquale Viscogliosi and Maxine Zambardi.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Maria Blake, Maria and Franciszek Frosztega, Tony Harding, Margaret Markham, Tony Moran, Clare Moss, Kathleen O'Brien, Janet Ryan, Eileen and Harry Vasey.

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 the latest 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.

As the Nation mourns with the Royal family, Cardinal Vincent Nichols celebrated a requiem Mass at Westminster Cathedral on 10 April for Prince Phillip recalling his tireless, generous sense of duty and service. He goes on to say that "as we mourn his death, we pray for him, and for every member of that family, but especially for Her Majesty the Queen ...may our prayers contribute to her comfort and support." For the full text of the homily click [here](#).

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. We will contact you with a suggested date. Please note that we are currently booking mass intentions for masses taking place from mid-September 2021. The diocesan suggested Mass offering is £10.