



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 25 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)

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*We are a Fairtrade parish*

*Fr Julian writes...*

I grew up on a hill farm in Mid-Wales. When I was about ten my father gave me some orphaned lambs to take care of. I named them after Anglo-Saxon kings and queens, or the occasional Old Testament tyrant if they seemed to deserve it. One was called Tiglath Pileser (after the Assyrian king who invaded Israel in 2 Kings) because he was always butting the others! I don't know if I was a good shepherd for them, but at least they all graduated from milk to grass, and kept together as a flock, even if they broke through the hedges. Today is Good Shepherd Sunday when the Church invites us to ponder something inconceivable for our ovine friends.....that some of the flock might actually become shepherds. Let's be clear that all Christians are called to share the shepherd instinct through evangelism, by drawing others into the flock of God, and through compassion, by mutually supporting one another so that dangers are averted and wants are met. Yet Jesus calls some of the flock to configure themselves so closely to the Good Shepherd, that they end up in the front line of leadership to protect the flock from the 'beasts' that would ravage it, to see that they are nurtured with good 'food' and to seek out new missionary 'pastures'. True it's a servant vocation like the vocation for each and every member of the flock, so what's the difference? It's in the nature of the servanthood-to be servant of the servants, releasing and enabling the laity to fulfil their vocation of sanctifying themselves, life and work in the circumstances of their family, profession and society. It's also in the nature of the configuration. To be free from ordinary social constraints so as to operate more freely. Do you love me more than...? Jesus asked Peter. Are you prepared to make an extraordinary sacrifice of love because nothing else satisfies? Do you have such a calling? Are you prepared to have it tested?

### **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 for those meetings still to take place 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 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=b2VaQlpZUVFSbUtYQVVMNkZNRmxSZz09>

**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** This Tuesday marks 53 years since the 1967 Abortion Act came into effect. As we hope and pray for an end to abortion, we pray especially for our Government, that their commitment to support pregnant women and their families would increase, and that they would anchor themselves in the desire to protect all human life. 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

We are no longer asking people to book places at weekday or weekend masses and seats at all public masses will now be available on a first come, first served basis.

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](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 has now begun and registration has finally closed. If you have registered and have not received the recent video links to the Introduction and Chapter 1 by email please contact the parish office on [stalbans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk)

**Adult Confirmation** 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](mailto: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](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 (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.

## PARISH NEWS

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

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

**Priests' Training Fund** This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. 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 own 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. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests.

Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation leaflet, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can donate online anytime [here](#).

**Knit and Natter Group** 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.

**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! 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.

**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 are walking 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 they love. Please support us by donating to our Parish Team [fundraising site](#) 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. £450 raised so far! Thank you. Anne Myles, David Myles, Helen Bassill, Melanie O'Neill, Mike White, Richard O'Neill, Sheila Clegg, Sylvia White.

## 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 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.

**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. The closing date for applications is Friday 7 May 2021.

**School Crossing Patrol** We are looking for someone 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.

**St Columba's Prep School Open Afternoon and 'Stay and Play' Sessions** Families are warmly invited to our virtual Prep School Open Afternoon on 18 May from 4.30 - 5.30pm.

Mr. Richard McCann, the Headteacher, will give a short welcome, followed by videos from our students and parents. There will then be the opportunity to ask our teachers questions about life in the Prep School in a Q&A session. We also hold 'Stay and Play' sessions on Friday mornings from 9 to 10am for children aged 3+, where they join our Reception class for activities whilst their parents have a private tour of the school, which we would be delighted to welcome you to.

St Columba's College is an independent Catholic day school for ages 4 to 18 in St Albans. We currently have girls in Reception, and will also welcome girls into Reception, Years 1, 2 and 12 from September 2021 as we begin a phased transition to co-education. Families can register online [here](#) or can [email](#) Bella Frost or call 01727 892060 for information.

**Diocese of Westminster Justice and Peace Commission - Annual Mass for Migrants 1 May** This year's Migrants Mass will be hosted by the Archdiocese of Southwark at St William of York Catholic Church, Lewisham. Owing to coronavirus restrictions, only a small number of invited guests will be able to attend in person but the Mass will be live-streamed online so that all can participate from their homes. The Mass is an annual celebration of the contribution made in the UK by all our migrant communities, held jointly by the Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, with support from London Citizens. The link to the service can be found [here](#). There will be short video greetings screened from 11.20am before the start of the Mass at 11.30am.

## 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, gift aid form and our bank details. 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](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk).

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### 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  
Reading 1, Acts 4:8-12, Responsorial Psalm, 118  
Reading 2, 1 John 3:1-2, Gospel, John 10:11-18

### Monday 26 April - Easter feria

10am Funeral Mass for Maxine Zambardi \*  
7pm Mass Michael Castiello (first anniversary)  
Reading 1, Acts 11:1-18, Responsorial Psalm, 42  
Gospel, John 10:1-10

### Tuesday 27 April - Easter feria

10am Funeral Mass for Maude Reeves \*  
Reading 1, Acts 11:19-26 Responsorial Psalm, 87  
Gospel, John 10:22-30

### Wednesday 28 April - Easter feria

10am Funeral Mass for Raymond Curry \*  
7pm Mass Ana Paz (first anniversary)  
Reading 1, Acts 12:24-13:5, Responsorial Psalm, 67  
Gospel, John 12:44-50

### Thursday 29 April - ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

10am Mass O'Malley family (Ints)  
Reading 1, 1 John 1:5-2:2, Responsorial Psalm, 103  
Gospel, Matthew 11:25-30

### Friday 30 April - Easter feria

10am Funeral Mass for Kathleen Moran \*  
7pm Mass Ann Fanning (RIP) \*  
Reading 1, Acts 13:26-33, Responsorial Psalm, 2  
Gospel, John 14:1-6

### Saturday 1 May - St Joseph the Worker

Reading 1, Acts 13:44-52 Responsorial Psalm, 98  
Gospel, John 14:7-14

### Sunday 2 May - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

6pm Vigil Mass John Brennan (Ann)  
9.30am Mass People of the Parish  
11.30am Mass John Stevens (RIP)  
7pm Mass Terry Mahabir (RIP)

Live streamed only, no public attendance. \*

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the Priest and members of St Bartholomew's Church.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick including

For those who have died recently including Raymond Curry, Dorothy Markham, John McDaid, Kathleen Moran, Maud Reeves, Michael Riches, Maxine Zambardi and Derite Whyte

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

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Betty Allen, Cristina Blake, John Brennan, Michael Castiello, Mary Gallagher, Tony Harding, Margaret Markham, Clare Moss, Ita O'Mahoney, Ana Paz, 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.

**St Joseph the Worker - 1 May** To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the "May Day" celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955. This feast extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in both Catholic faith and devotion. Pope John Paul II stated: "the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society." Saint Joseph is held up as a model of such work.

**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.