



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 13 JUNE 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*

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - Report from the meeting on 19 May 2021

The PPC continues to meet monthly during the lockdown using Zoom technology.

**PPC team:** As a reminder, the following people make up the PPC: Fr Michael, Fr Julian, Deacon Steve, Peter Berners-Lee, Stan Grabecki, Ann Hill (Secretary), Dave Markham (Youth team rep), David Myles (Vice Chair), Melanie O'Neill (Chair), Anne Romain (J&P team rep), Sylvia White (Mission team rep). Sara Nash attends as needed for Liturgy team items. There is a vacancy for a Parish Friends rep.

**Parish Assembly:** Hilary Topp, the external facilitator, joined the meeting to present her summary of feedback received from the parish groups and individuals on Fr Michael's vision statement. Overall, the vision was well received, with some differences of opinion on a couple of points. The summary will be published to the parish, along with Fr Michael's proposed priorities for the parish, based on the feedback, and other materials on 30th May. These will form the basis of the discussion at the Parish Assembly on 12 June (Zoom meeting) and repeated on 3 July (face to face meeting).

**Parish Assembly Planning Team:** a sub team of the PPC is working with Fr Michael to plan the details of the Assembly with the help of the external facilitator. The team members are Ann Hill, Dave Markham, David Myles, Melanie O'Neill and Sylvia White. Please contact any member of the team with any questions you may have.

**Lent and Easter Services:** The PPC agrees that the services held in Lent and during Easter had gone exceptionally well, and Fr Michael, Fr Julian, Deacon Steve, Sara and the Liturgy Team, the musicians, readers and Pat O'B in particular were thanked for their excellent contributions in making Lent and Easter such a success in these challenging times.

**Posters:** We now have some lovely welcoming and encouraging A0 posters on the front wall of the church building and we thank Mike, Sylvia, Peter and Tom for brightening up the outside of the church.

#### **Sacraments:**

**Confirmation:** It is with great joy that Confirmation of our young people has taken place recently.

**First Holy Communion:** The final group of children due to make their FHC in 2020 will receive the sacrament in July 2021. This year's programme is underway.

**Strategy Groups:** reports were received from Liturgy, Mission team, J&P team, CTSA and City Centre Churches. Thanks to each group for the work they continue to do for the parish.

**Sunday Masses:** Following further easing of restrictions on movement from the government, new procedures on holding public services in church have been received from the Diocese. It is hoped to reintroduce the 8am Sunday Mass from 5 June.

**Sunday Parish Virtual Coffee Break:** continues at 10.30am to 11am via Zoom. Details under Parish News on the website.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 14 July 2021 at 7.30pm. This will be the final meeting of the current PPC.

**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 have an abortion, and that they would instead experience overwhelming support from all who surround them. Lord hear us.

**Refugee Week** Let us pray for refugees all over the world. We ask God to comfort & strengthen them. We pray that world leaders work towards meeting their needs & we come together to celebrate the contributions, creativity & resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Parish Group for Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation - (JPIC)

## SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY

**Mass** With the exception of the 9am Sunday Morning Mass at Marshalswick and the Friday evening Exposition, we have returned to the usual pattern of weekday and Sunday Services All Masses are open to the public and no advance booking is required.

**Hand Hygiene and Distancing** We continue to ask people to wear a face mask, to sanitise their hands on entering and leaving the church, to maintain their distance from others and to record their presence by either using the NHS Trace & Trace app, bringing a piece of paper with your name and contact details on it, or using one of our Visitor Cards.

**Seating Capacity** The seating capacity for the church is determined by the need for distancing and is influenced by the number of individuals and households present at any one time. Following a meeting of our Re-opening Planning Group the seating capacity has been fixed at between 120-150, with a maximum of 6 people or 1 household per bench.

**Holy Communion** Going forward the distribution of Holy Communion at our weekday Masses will take place at the usual time. At weekends however it will be distributed after the final blessing and there will be two distribution points at the front. When coming up for Holy Communion please do not crowd into the centre aisle. Please process up a row at a time and in an orderly way, maintaining single file and a distance from the person in front.

**Offertory Collection** We continue to encourage people to give by Standing Order, Virgin Money Giving or by using the contactless point in the porch, however if you wish to make a cash offering as you leave, please use the box next to the font or the baskets/buckets at the church door.

**Music at Mass** We are delighted that we have been able to reintroduce music into the liturgy at most weekend Masses, although the 6pm and 8am Masses will continue to be quiet celebrations. Our regular groups and singers in church will be augmented by musicians from Marshalswick whilst their Mass centre is closed. Unfortunately, the choir are not currently be able to participate, and no congregational singing is allowed.

**Private Prayer** The church is open from 8am until 7pm or after evening Mass. People are welcome to visit at any time, but will need to sign in either by using the NHS Track and Trace app, bringing a piece of paper with your name and contact details on it, or completing a Visitor's Card. If you make a visit during the day, we ask that you use the leaning materials available to sanitise the seat and surfaces you have touched.

**Home Communions** We are now permitted to make home visits for the distribution of Holy Communion. The bishops' guidelines have been shared with the Extra Ordinary Ministers who take Holy Communion to the housebound.

**Stewards** We are immensely grateful to all our stewards for all they have done. Despite the changes there is still a need to sanitise the church on a daily basis, to ensure that people observe distancing and best practice, and that we do not exceed our capacity. So, we continue to need volunteer stewards, and it's not too late to volunteer your assistance. Please [email](#) the parish office if you would like to help.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** Fr Michael or Fr Julian will continue to be available for confession on request. In addition, a priest will be available during the Saturday Holy Hour when confessions will be heard in the downstairs meeting rooms in the Parish Centre between 10.30am and 11.30am.

**Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Marriage** Please contact Fr Michael for any enquiries by emailing [michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk).

**Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation** For initial enquiries please phone the parish office or email Fr Julian on [juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:juliandavies@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). 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

**New Parishioners Website Page** Please see the new [page](#) on our website which we hope will welcome and provide useful information for those who are new to our parish. We also have a new online New Parishioner Registration Form which can be found on that webpage. Please feel free to complete this if you have not already registered as a new parishioner.

**Parish Assembly** The Parish Assembly will be held via Zoom on Saturday 12 June from 11am. Full details of the event, including Zoom details, the timetable for the day, details of the proposed priorities for the parish from Fr Michael and other background reading material can be found on the Parish Assembly [page](#) of our website.

We hope to have a physical Parish Assembly on Saturday 3 July from 11am in the Parish Centre. If you were unable to join the virtual Assembly, please keep the 3 July in your diary until a final decision can be made on this.

In preparation for our Parish Assembly we are praying our Assembly Prayer as part of the intercessions at each Mass. Copies of the prayer are available in the Church porch and on our parish [website](#).

**Day for Life** The retiring collection next weekend will be in support of 'Day for Life,' presenting an opportunity to pray for the gift of life and support the work of protecting life in its most vulnerable stages through the annual collection.

**Virtual Coffee Mornings are back.** Until we are able to meet up in person after mass, join us on-line on Sundays 10.30 - 11.00am for an informal chat. Please just [click](#) on this link or open your Zoom App using Meeting ID 930 9372 9386 / Passcode 998690. Don't forget to bring a mug of your favourite brew! Hope to see you on Sunday!

**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 will be sharing on scripture/other faith topics, typically every two weeks. Details of groups currently meeting:

- Monday 8pm (2 x per month) - Richard Exact 07976 252309
- Alternate Tuesdays 2-3.30pm - Mike and Sylvia White (01727 854596; whitew@talktalk.net)
- Alternate Tuesdays from 7.30pm - Stan Grabecki (grabecki@hotmail.com; 01727 765549)
- Wednesday 7.30pm Brendan Roche - A new group set up at the start of the pandemic - [email](#) parish office
- Saturday 9am Parish Men's Group - Richard Exact 07976 252309; D4dstalbins@gmail.com)

## OUR SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

**Churches Together Summer Forum Justice & Prisons . 23 June 8:00-9:30pm** By popular request, the Churches Together Summer Forum will be on Justice and Prisons. This is a topic very much in the media at present. A panel will fill us in on the state of Justice and Prisons and help to answer questions in a general discussion. See [here](#) for details.

**English Archbishop appointed Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship** On 25 May Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Arthur Roche as the new Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, expressed his joy on hearing the news: "I am delighted at the news. Archbishop Roche has brought great gifts to his present role in guiding the Church's Liturgy and will now bring those same gifts to his role as Prefect of the Congregation. The Church in England and Wales is proud of him and we assure him of our constant prayers and support."

**St Albans Sustainability Festival 2021** We would like to thank the pupils of St John Fisher School for providing our beautiful thought-provoking posters on the theme of Live Simply for our self-guided walk for this year's St Albans Sustainability Festival. We would also like to thank all those who viewed the posters or walked all or part of the walk which was organised by the Parish Justice & Peace Group.

**Christian Bookshop** The 'Way Inn' bookshop in Berkhamsted is keeping the presence of a specialist independent Christian shop in our High Street. We are pleased to welcome you at our shop behind the Post Office, where we offer gifts and cards for every occasion.

**Missio** Pauline Marie Jaricot, the founder of APF, of which the Red Box is part, is to be officially recognised as 'Blessed' next year. It is the first step towards her being recognised as a saint. The celebration will take place in May 2022 in Lyon, France but celebrations will take place in England and Wales also. Please click [here](#) to see a copy of the latest Missio Impact Report, showing what has been achieved thanks to Red Box holders. The present local secretary of Missio (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. Please contact the parish office if you are able to help with this ministry. Full training and support are available through Missio.

**National Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life** On Wednesday 23 June, the Vigil of St John the Baptist, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. On this month's Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life, we are especially asking you to fast and pray for the end of DIY abortions at home. Please join in [here](#) and invite others to join as well.

## SUPPORTING OUR PARISH

**Donating to our Parish** Please consider making your offertory contribution by standing order and gift aiding your donations, if you do not already do 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** Our parish administrator is working from home on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is contactable on 07869 680223 on these days. The best way to contact the parish office at the moment is by emailing [stalbins@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbins@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. We will contact you with a suggested date. We are currently booking mass intentions for masses from mid-October 2021 and the Diocesan suggested donation is £10.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Sunday 13 June - 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6pm Vigil Mass Christina and Richard Sumner (Ints)

8am Mass Eric Harber (RIP)

9.30am Mass Deceased members of the Bergin and Cawley families (RIP)

11.30am Mass Eric Hopkins (RIP)

7pm Mass People of the parish

Reading 1, Ezekiel 17:22-24, Responsorial Psalm, 92

Reading 2, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, Gospel, Mark 4:26-34

### Monday 14 June - feria

10am Mass John Rowland (RIP)

7pm Mass Timothy Donoghue (First Anniversary)

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Responsorial Psalm, 98, Gospel, Matthew 5:38-42

### Tuesday 15 June - feria

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Eric Harber

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Responsorial Psalm, 146, Gospel, Matthew 5:43-48

### Wednesday 16 June - St Richard of Chichester

10am Mass Alban and Peggy Brampton (RIP)

7pm Mass Sheila Doohan (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Responsorial Psalm, 112, Gospel, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

### Thursday 17 June - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Vito Lamonaca

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 11:1-11

Responsorial Psalm, 111, Gospel, Matthew 6:7-15

### Friday 18 June - feria

10am Mass Maureen Lerwill (RIP)

7pm Mass Dolores Walsh (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 11:18,21-30

Responsorial Psalm, 34, Gospel, Matthew 6:19-23

### Saturday 19 June - feria

10am Mass John Rowland (RIP)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Responsorial Psalm, 34, Gospel, Matthew 6:24-34

### Sunday 20 June - ST ALBAN

6pm Vigil Mass People of the parish

8am Mass Michael Barrett (RIP)

9.30am Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

11.30am Mass Giuseppe and Linda Marchese (Ints)

7pm Mass Ita O'Mahoney (Ann)

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the ministers and members of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick including

For those who have died recently including Lorna Ashan, Debra Cooper, Leslie Fielding, Eric Harber, Margaret Kitching and Vito Lamonaca.

(Please note that attendance at funerals is determined by the capacity of the Church.)

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Timothy Donoghue and Ita O'Mahoney

*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 Romuald (c.951 - 1027) - 19 June** Romuald joined a Benedictine monastery but, unpopular due to efforts to get lax monks to mend their ways, became a wandering hermit. He founded hermitages and monasteries where a life of prayerful solitude could be truly lived. Romuald died in a monastery he had founded at Val di Castro alone in his cell.

**St Richard of Chichester (1197 - 1253) - 16 June** Richard Wych was born in Worcestershire around 1197, studied law in Oxford at the school of Edmund Rich and also studied in Paris and Bologna. In 1235, he returned to Oxford and was elected Chancellor. When Edmund Rich became Archbishop of Canterbury, Richard became his Chancellor. After Edmund's death, Richard went to Orleans to study theology and was ordained priest. He was consecrated as bishop of Chichester in March 1245. instituted diocesan synods and produced various statutes some which still apply today: sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass was to be celebrated in a dignified manner, clergy must be celibate and wear clerical dress. The laity were obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, and all must know by heart the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary and the Creed. In 1252, the Pope appointed him to preach the Crusade in a tour which took him to Dover where he died on 3rd April 1253. His body was brought back to Chichester Cathedral. He is patron of Sussex.