



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Tel: 01727 853 585

E-mail: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org

YouTube: youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

(CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI) – 6 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 ASSEMBLY - SATURDAY 12 JUNE - 11am

Please copy and paste the link below into your browser to access meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94963374158?pwd=Tzd2VDdnQ3U1dzVkZmlhODNtK2tHZz09>

The ID and Passcode are as follows:

ID: 949 6337 4158

Passcode: 754047

Above are all the details you will need to participate in this coming Saturday's Parish Assembly to be held on Zoom. If you would like to know more about the proposed pastoral priorities and to shape how we do things now is the opportunity to join in that discussion. Your voice, no matter how young or old, no matter how new or long established, is important.

Please call **07869 680223** if you experience any difficulties with joining the meeting.

Outline timetable:

- 10.45 Meeting Room to be opened
- 11.00 Open the Assembly - welcome and opening prayer
- 11.10 Talk to proposed priorities
- 11.25 Breakout groups discussion
- 11.35 Share feedback and questions from breakouts
- 12.00 Break (10 mins)
- 12.10 Breakouts 2 - by priority areas
- 12.35 Feedback
- 12.50 Explain next steps
- 12.55 Closing Prayer and Close

Please join the Zoom at 10.45am so that any technical difficulties can be addressed before the Assembly begins.

Further information:

Please see our dedicated website [page](#) for further information and background reading, including our Parish Assembly prayer, feedback from the parish on the proposed Vision statement and a summary of proposals for the parish.

You can download our Parish Assembly Booklet [here](#). Copies are also available in the Church porch.

Right to Life This week we marked the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression. Let us remember especially the most vulnerable of all children, the unborn. We pray that as a society we would take on the duty to protect all children from harm, and ensure that they arrive into a world where they are loved and supported by all. Lord hear us.

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 will be open to the public and no advance booking will be 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.

Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Marriage Please contact Fr Michael for any enquiries by emailing 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.

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

Ministers of the Eucharist On the feast of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ, we thank God for Christ's abiding presence with us in the Eucharist and honour Him there. On this special day, we also give thanks for those in our community who have been called to serve as Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. At all Masses this weekend we invite them to renew their promise of commitment (see [link](#) to service) or, if they are unable to attend, to make their own personal commitment at home.

Parish Assembly Our Parish Assembly will be held via Zoom on Saturday 12 June from 11am. Depending on pandemic restrictions, it may also be possible to hold the Assembly as a physical meeting on Saturday 3 July from 11am in the Parish Centre. Please keep both dates in your diary at present. 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.

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 copy the link below into your browser 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!

<https://zoom.us/j/93093729386?pwd=RzNkNm5vY1p6SDlBUUN3UkxEbnZ5QT09>

Susfest21 The parish is participating in the annual St Albans Sustainability festival again this year. For 2021 we have arranged a walk from the Church to St John Fisher RC School. Our theme is "Live Simply". The walk is a 2.5-mile linear walk and will have "Live Simply" posters tied to trees and lamp posts along the way: each poster will have a message encouraging us to think about living more simply - for the benefit of ourselves, our community and the earth - and to engage children in helping to spot them. Our walk can be completed in either direction any time between 1 and 6 June, in full or in part. You are encouraged to stop for a picnic in Clarence Park, the Wick or the Sherwood Avenue recreation ground. Please follow the link [here](#) or pick up a copy of the map from the church porch. This walk has been arranged by the parish Justice & Peace group.

Bethlehem to Nazareth Virtual Pilgrimage We did it! All 8 parishioners who walked the pilgrimage have reached Nazareth before Pentecost Sunday. You have helped us to raise £2,613.75 for the Friends of the Holy Land's campaign to raise funds to enable vulnerable children in the Holy Land to receive an education, enough to cover the costs of educating two children for one year at the School of Joy in Bethlehem. To donate: just click [here](#) or post a donation in an envelope through the presbytery door, marked 'FHL Virtual Pilgrimage'. Thank you so much! Anne, David, Helen, Melanie, Mike, Richard, Sheila, Sylvia.

Parish Pastoral Council Please click [here](#) for a summary report from the meeting of the PPC on 19 May.

OUR SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

Catholic Communications Network A total £236.69 was received in response to this special collection in May.

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. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic Primary School - vacancy for a Midday Supervisory Assistant This role is for five lunchtimes per week from 11.45 am until 1.15 pm. Duties include supervising pupils and ensuring their safety and well-being during the lunchtime period. Please email admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk for terms and to apply.

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.

Invitation from CAFOD to send a message to the G7 Leaders As the G7 leaders meet in Cornwall in June to plan for the global recovery from the pandemic, CAFOD invites us to join in an online act of witness when leaders from different faiths and from communities overseas reflect on the impact of the pandemic on our sisters and brothers worldwide. Click [here](#) for more detail and to join the online event at 7pm on 10 June. A digital message will be sent to the G7 leaders ahead of their meeting the following day (Parish Justice and Peace Group).

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 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. 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.

The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 12 June Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary began as early as the twelfth century. During the seventeenth century in France, St John Eudes popularised this devotion along with that to the Sacred Heart. St Luke's Gospel twice mentions that Mary 'kept all these things in her heart', pondering the word of God. Mary shows us how to listen to the words the Holy Spirit speaks to us in the depths of our hearts, and how to respond in faith.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 6 June - THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI)

6pm Vigil Mass Sean 'John' Mckay (First anniversary)

8am Mass Holy Souls

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am Mass Paddy O'Neill (RIP)

7pm Mass Ciara McMahon (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 24:3-8, Responsorial Psalm, 116

Reading 2, Hebrews 9:11-15, Gospel, Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Monday 7 June - feria

10am Mass Azcona-Lacalle family (Ints)

7pm Mass Yvonne Buckingham (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 1:1-7

Responsorial Psalm, 34, Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12

Tuesday 8 June - feria

10am Mass Dorothy Snaith (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

Responsorial Psalm, 119, Gospel, Matthew 5:13-16

Wednesday 9 June - St Columba

10am Mass Simon de Winter (RIP)

7pm Mass Nora and John King (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Responsorial Psalm, 99, Gospel, Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday 10 June - feria

10am Mass Doreen Butler (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 3:15-4:1,3-6

Responsorial Psalm, 85, Gospel, Matthew 5:20-26

Friday 11 June - THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS (Diocese consecrated to the Sacred Heart, 17 June 1873)

10am Mass Eileen Durie (RIP)

7pm Mass People of the Parish

Reading 1, Hosea 11, 1,3-4,8-9, Psalm, Isaiah 12:2-6

Reading 2, Ephesians 3:8-12,14-19, Gospel, John 19:31-37

Saturday 12 June - The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10am Mass Chevalier family (Ints)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Isaiah 61:9-11, Psalm, 1 Samuel 2:1,4-8,

Gospel, Luke 2:41-51

Sunday 13 June - 11TH 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

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - 11 June Devotion to the Sacred Heart, promoted by St Gertrude, St Margaret Mary Alacoque, St John Eudes, Fr Jules Chevalier (Founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart), represents a devotion to Jesus in his human nature, in particular referring to the heart as the seat of love.

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the ministers and members of St Luke's church.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick including

For those who have died recently including Paul Curran, Richard Diffenthal, Leslie Fielding and Eric Harber.

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

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Teresa Cahill, Timothy Donoghue and Sean 'John' Mckay.

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 Columba (521? - 597) Columba was born in Gartan, County Donegal, and was of royal lineage. He founded monasteries at Derry, Durrow, and possibly Kells, before leaving Ireland as a missionary, "an exile for Christ." His greatest foundation was Iona, from where he converted much of western Scotland, and his followers took the Gospel as far as northern England. He died at Iona in 597. He was renowned as a poet and scribe as well as a spiritual guide. In Gaelic literature he appears as Ireland's most popular saint, noted for his great personal love of all creatures, human and animal. St Columba has a special significance for many in St Albans, who have been involved in the school named after him. Opened in 1939 by Phillip O'Neil, a Catholic layman, it was taken over by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, New England Province, in 1955.