



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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THE MOST HOLY TRINITY - 30 MAY 2021



VirginMoneyGiving

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

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We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes...

Parish Clergy Earlier this week it was announced that Fr Julian has been appointed as Parish Priest of Hoddesdon and that he will be taking up his new appointment in September. (Fr Julian will be replacing Fr Phillip Miller who himself comes from St Albans and who has been appointed the Diocese's Senior University Chaplain.) The Cardinal has appointed Fr Jonathan Stogdon, currently assistant priest in Wood Green, as our new assistant priest. Fr Jonathan will take up his appointment here in September.

In due course there will be an opportunity to congratulate Fr Julian on his appointment and to thank him for his ministry here in St Albans. In the meantime, please keep Fr Julian and Fr Jonathan in your prayers as they continue to serve in their current parishes and prepare for the new chapter ahead.

Parish Assembly Saturday 12 June and the virtual Parish Assembly are nearly upon us. It is possible that it will draw the same cohort of willing participants, that the faces on the screens will be the same faces as always. Please don't get me wrong. I will rejoice in every face and not least the familiar faces. However, for our decision making to be robust, and for the parish to address the needs of all its parishioners, it is vital people get involved. It's all too tempting to stand back and harbour thoughts of what we should be doing, of what we lack and how much better it would be if things were done differently, but it may well be that your involvement in the Parish Assembly and beyond could be the difference that moves things on.

As we come out of lockdown and begin to rebuild our parish life and networks, your presence and involvement is more vital than ever, its especially vital if you want to be part of a parish that serves you. You may never have attended a Parish Assembly before or been involved in anything beyond the Sunday Mass itself, but this Parish Assembly may be your opportunity to help shape this parish community in its welcome, worship and witness. I would make a special plea to three groups in particular:

- To our young families and parents. I know life is busy and there is much to do, but we need your presence and commitment if we are to do anything for our young people.
- To those who are newly retired or considering a change in their work life balance. Please consider what part the parish might play in your plans for the future.
- And finally, if you are young, and the Parish Assembly doesn't seem quite the place for you to be, please consider joining in. The most consistent concern voiced in the feedback I have seen is a concern for our young people. We want to get it right, but we will not get it right alone, and we will never get it right without you.

Please visit the Parish Assembly [page](#) on our website for more information about the Assembly, including an outline timetable, a summary of my proposed priorities for the parish and reports from our Parish Groups which you may find helpful to read in preparation for the event.

Marian Month of May Pope Francis has invited Catholics and Marian Shrines around the world to dedicate the month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. Let us join in prayer with Pope Francis and with people across the globe to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic.

Right to Life We pray for our Government, that their ability to support pregnant women would increase and that they would anchor themselves on the desire to protect all human life. Lord hear us.

SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY

Mass With the exception of the 9am Sunday Morning Mass at Marshalswick and the Friday evening Exposition, we will return to the usual pattern of weekday and Sunday Services from Monday 31 May. 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 the 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 people, 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, due to current restrictions, the choir will not currently be able to participate, and no congregational singing is allowed.

Private Prayer The church will be open from 8am in the morning until 7pm or after the 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 would ask that you use the cleaning materials available to sanitise the seat and surfaces you have touched.

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.

Baptisms Please contact Fr Julian for baptism enquiries by emailing him at juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk.

Sacrament of Reconciliation As is currently the case, Fr Michael or Fr Julian will 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.

Home Communion We are now permitted to make home visits for the distribution of Holy Communion. The Bishops have issued guidelines and Fr Julian will be writing out to all the Extra Ordinary Ministers who take Holy Communion to the housebound to share these guidelines with them.

First Holy Communion Please contact Fr Michael by emailing michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk for any enquiries about First Holy Communion.

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, 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). 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

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. We would be grateful if you could keep both dates in your diary at present.

In preparation for the forthcoming Parish Assembly we are praying our Assembly Prayer as part of the intercessions at each Mass. Copies of the prayer will be distributed at Masses this weekend and it is also available on our parish website on the Parish Assembly page.

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

Virtual Coffee Mornings are back. It will not be long before we can meet again for a coffee and a chat after Mass, but if you can't wait, join us on-line on Sundays 10.30 - 11.00am for an informal chat. Just copy the link below into your browser or open your Zoom App using Meeting ID 930 9372 9386 / Passcode 998690 and don't forget to bring a mug of your favourite brew! Hope to see you on Sunday!

<https://zoom.us/j/93093729386?pwd=RzNkWm5vYlp6SDlBUUN3UkxEbnZ5QT09>

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 and at any time between 1 and 6 June. It is, of course, possible to complete parts of the walk. You are also encouraged to stop for a picnic in Clarence Park, the Wick or in the Sherwood Avenue recreation ground. If you would like to walk it, 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. Some of the team have even walked back to Bethlehem! You have helped us to raise £2,300 for the Friends of the Holy Land's campaign to raise funds to enable vulnerable children in the Holy Land to receive and education. So far, we have raised 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 to everyone who has supported this great cause. Anne, David, Helen, Melanie, Mike, Richard, Sheila, Sylvia.

OUR SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

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. If you enjoy working with children and would like to join our team, please email admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk. We are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is conditional on references and pre-employment checks being received and deemed satisfactory to the school.

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).

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.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Donating to our Parish 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.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH

Contacting the parish office In line with current government advice, our parish administrator is partly working 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 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.

On 29 May, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart a title which Fr [Jules Chevalier](#) used to honour Our Lady in gratitude for donations that enabled him to establish the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Please join members of the Chevalier Family throughout the world in praying the [Memorare](#) to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Between 3 & 11 June (Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus) you are invited to pray the [Novena](#) to the Sacred Heart.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 30 May - THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

6pm Vigil Mass People of the Parish

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

11.30am Mass John Darby (RIP)

7pm Mass Encarnacion Gonzales (RIP)

Reading 1, Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40, Psalm, 33

Reading 2, Romans 8:14-17, Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20

Monday 31 May - THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10am Mass Bernadette Witchard (RIP)

7pm no evening Mass

Reading 1, Zephaniah 3:14-18,

Responsorial Psalm, Isaiah 12, Gospel, Luke 1:39-56

Tuesday 1 June - St Justin

10am Mass Sumner family (Ints)

Reading 1, Tobit 2:9-14

Responsorial Psalm, 112, Gospel, Mark 12:13-17

Wednesday 2 June - feria

10am Mass Fergus Kernan (Ann)

7pm Mass Stella Cowley (RIP)

Reading 1, Tobit 3:1-11, 16-17

Responsorial Psalm, 25, Gospel, Mark 12:18-27

Thursday 3 June - St Charles Lwanga and Companions

10am Mass John Stevens (RIP)

Reading 1, Tobit 6:10-11, 7:1,9-14,8:4-9

Responsorial Psalm, 128, Gospel, Mark 12:28-34

Friday 4 June - feria

10am Mass Christopher Hinton (RIP)

7pm Mass John Rowland (RIP)

Reading 1, Tobit 11:5-17

Responsorial Psalm, 146, Gospel, Mark 12:35-37

Saturday 5 June - St Boniface

10am Mass Eric Harber (RIP)

Reading 1, Tobit 12:1,5-15,20

Responsorial Psalm, Tobit 13:2,6-8, Gospel, Mark 12:38-44

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)

St Boniface (675?-754) Born in Devon as Wynfrith, he joined the Benedictine abbey near Southampton. In 718, Pope Gregory II commissioned him to take the gospel to the heathen tribes of Germany, changing his name to Boniface. He worked with King Pepin the Short to reform the Frankish church and set out to evangelise Friesland (part of modern Holland) where he was murdered, in 754. He is honoured as the apostle of Germany.

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for everyone taking part in Thy Kingdom Come and Twenty-four Hours of Prayer.

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, Fergus Kernan, Sean 'John' Mckay and Dorothy Salisbury.

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.

Saint Charles Lwanga and his companions (- 1885/7) - 3 June Many Christians were killed by the Ugandan king Mwanga, some of whom were his own servants. Charles Lwanga and his 21 companions (the youngest, Kizito, was only 13) were executed for being Christians, for rebuking the king for his debauchery and for murdering an Anglican missionary, for "praying from a book". They died between 1885 and 1887. Most were burned alive in a group after being tortured. Within a year of their deaths, the number of catechumens in the country quadrupled.

St Charles Lwanga is the patron of Catholic Action and of black African youth, and the Ugandan martyrs' feast day is a public holiday in Uganda.