



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

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 11 JULY 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

Brendan Day writes...

As most will have recently read or heard, my ordination to the Permanent Diaconate has been arranged for Saturday July 24th, to be held in Westminster Cathedral with Mass starting at 12:30. My ordination I believe would not be happening without the prayers and good wishes of so many of you over the past four years, and for some of you even before then. I am so grateful for the encouragement and support you have shown and given to me during this time of preparation.

On the 24th I have been gifted a small seating area in the cathedral for family, but there is open seating for anyone who might like to be there; I realise that only just out of the current lockdown, some might be hesitant about travelling into central London and all that that entails. I'm hopeful that the entire service will be live streamed for those unable to be there on the day.

As ordination approaches, I'm reminded of something my wise Dad said to me the day I passed my driving test 'well done Son, you've learned how to pass the test ... now you learn how to drive'. It feels a bit like that now as formation ends, so please keep me in your prayers. My own prayer is that I might be a support to the parish clergy and of service to the parish as a whole for many years to come. I look forward to getting more involved in parish life now that my official study period comes to an end and life as an ordained servant to you and Christ starts.

God bless you all, Brendan.

Our second 'face to face' Parish Assembly meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 23rd July in the Parish Centre. Please visit our parish website for background reading especially the summary of feedback on the initial vision document and the proposed priorities going forward.

Please note that there will be no mass, exposition or confessions on Saturday 24th July due to the two First Holy Communion masses being celebrated on that day.

Welcoming all new parishioners

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 complete this short online form if you have not already registered as a new parishioner at Ss Alban and Stephen so that we can add you to our parish records and welcome you to our parish community.

Thank you to all those who have registered as new parishioners since the start of the pandemic. As soon as we are able, we look forward to being able to have an event to welcome you and your families properly into our parish community.

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 in church will be augmented by musicians from Marshalswick whilst their Mass centre is closed. Unfortunately, singing by the choir or congregation is not yet permitted.

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. Please put paper containing contact details in the labelled black box in the porch. If you make a visit during the day, we ask that you use the cleaning materials available to sanitise the seat and surfaces you have touched.

Home Communion 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 for volunteer stewards 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. Please [email](#) the parish office if you can 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 to hear confessions 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.

Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation For initial enquiries please phone the parish office or email Fr Julian on juliandavies@rcdow.org.uk.

First Holy Communion - July 2021 Please keep those children celebrating their First Holy Communion in July, and their families, in your prayers.

First Holy Communion - Autumn 2021 Thank you to those who have returned their choice of dates for First Reconciliation in September/October. If you have yet to do so, please email your preferences to the parish office. Any outstanding contributions towards the cost of FHC books can be made in cash or by cheque via the presbytery or by bank transfer through our [website](#).

Confirmation 2021 The entry for this year's delayed confirmation course for 2021 is now closed. The enrolment mass will be on 26 September at 6pm.

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

Sea Sunday 11 July 2021 This week is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a second collection for Stella Maris (the Apostleship of the Sea), the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. For an appeal talk from Bishop Paul Mason, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit the [website](#). To donate and for more information, please click [here](#) Text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank you.

Peter's Pence The retiring collection last weekend was for Peter's Pence and £369.25 was raised from this collection.

Parish Assembly 23 July The face to face meeting, originally planned for 3 July will now be held in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm on Friday 23 July.

Some of those who attended the virtual assembly indicated a willingness to join one of the following: a Social Committee, Communications Group, Adult Faith Formation Group, Parish Friends, Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Group, Youth and Young families Group. Once we have held the face to face meeting in July, and assuming the consensus established at the virtual meeting remains, we will look to recruiting additional members of these parish groups and to establishing three of the four working parties mentioned in the proposed pastoral priorities. One to consider the experience of new parishioners, another to look at the Church Porch and frontage and a third to consider the re-development of the Presbytery. The final working party, looking at the Church itself, will be formed in 2022.

Our current Parish Pastoral Council will have its final meeting in July and it is hoped that the nucleus of the new PPC will be formed in the early autumn. Initially the PPC will be made up of representatives from the interest groups above but going forward will be augmented by a representative from each of the Sunday Masses.

C.W.L. date for your diary Strawberry Tea to be held at 55, Barnfield Road Marshalswick on Thursday 22nd July at 2.30 pm. Members and visitors all welcome. Cost £5.00. For further information, call Sheila at 853100.

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

OUR SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

11th Annual GK Chesterton Walking Pilgrimage - 24 July. The 11th Annual GK Chesterton Walking Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 24 July. You can sponsor Stuart McCullough as he raises funds for Good Counsel on this 27 mile walk [here](#). You can [email](#) prayer intentions to be prayed for along the way. You can join us for Mass or part of the walk on the day or even just join us by saying the GK Chesterton Prayer on the day wherever you are. Find details and the prayer in a number of languages at www.catholicgkchestertonsociety.co.uk. The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel reaches out to help expectant Mothers and new Mothers in difficult circumstances, through a helpline, a free advisory service, practical help, friendship and moral support. It also promotes the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church on the sanctity of human life and love through education.

Ss Alban and Stephen School vacancies The school has part-time vacancies for a Midday Supervisory Assistant

and an After-School Club Manager. If you would like further information, please [email](#) the school directly.

Churches Together in St Albans Autumn Prayer Walk - 19 September 2 - 6pm. Please add the date to your diaries and join Christians for a relaxed but prayerful walk around St Albans. For more information about the walk, please see the parish news page of our website or click this [link](#) for an event poster. You can join for the whole walk or for any part of it.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH

Gift Aid We will shortly be submitting our gift aid claim for the year to 5 April 2021. If you have previously gift aided your standing order or envelope donations but are not longer able to gift aid your contributions, please contact the parish office so that we can amend our records.

Envelope Offertory Donors Those parishioners who currently make their offertory donations via planned giving envelopes should have received a letter asking them to confirm that they still wish to donate in this way. If you have not had a letter, please contact the parish office. We have sent out this letter in order to establish how many people wish to continue to receive envelopes and how many would be happy to change to standing order. We would ask people to reply by the end of July to confirm that you wish to be a part of the planned giving scheme.

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 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 October 2021 and the Diocesan suggested donation is £10.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 11 July - 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6pm Vigil Mass Angela Mary Kent (RIP)

8am Mass Daphne Snaith (RIP)

9.30am Mass Cliff Staniforth (RIP)

11.30am Mass Mary Gear (England) (RIP)

7pm Mass People of the parish

Reading 1, Amos 7:12-15, Responsorial Psalm, 85

Reading 2, Ephesians 1:3-14, Gospel, Mark 6:7-13

Monday 12 July - feria

10am Mass Pamela Coggins (RIP)

7pm Mass Betty Allen (Ann)

Reading 1, Exodus 1:8-14,22

Responsorial Psalm, 124, Gospel, Matthew 10:34-11:1

Tuesday 13 July - feria

10am Mass Lourdes Pons (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 2:1-15

Responsorial Psalm, 69, Gospel, Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday 14 July - feria

10am Mass Victor William Francis Marks (RIP)

7pm Mass Teresa St John (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 3:1-6,9-12

Responsorial Psalm, 103, Gospel, Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday 15 July - St Bonaventure

10am Mass John Stevens (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 3:13-20

Responsorial Psalm, 105, Gospel, Matthew 11:28-30

Friday 16 July - feria

10am Mass Lillie and Chris Butler (RIP)

7pm Mass Patrick Keegan (Ann)

Reading 1, Exodus 11:10-12:14

Responsorial Psalm, 116, Gospel, Matthew 12:1-8

Saturday 17 July - Memoria of Blessed Virgin Mary

10am No Morning Mass, Exposition or Confessions

Reading 1, Exodus 12:37-42

Responsorial Psalm, 136, Gospel, Matthew 12:14-21

Sunday 18 July - 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6pm Vigil Mass People of the Parish

8am Mass Enid and Gabriel Dobson (Ints)

9.30am Mass Bernadette Witchard (RIP)

11.30am Mass Irmina Zembrzuska (RIP)

7pm Mass Michael Aylward (Ann)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the pastors and members of the Kings Community Church.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick including

For those who have died recently, including Andrew Burke and Winifred Sudell, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Betty Allen, Michael Aylward, Patricia Dorman, Michael Feeney and Patrick Keegan.

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

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.

Right to Life We pray for all considering abortion. We pray that the love and support of those around them would encourage the mother to continue with her pregnancy and find peace in what the future holds. Lord hear us.

St Bonaventure (1218 - 1274) - 15 July Bonaventure was born at Bagnoregio in Etruria in about 1218. He became a Franciscan in 1243 and studied philosophy and theology at the University of Paris. He became a famous teacher and philosopher, and a friend of St Thomas Aquinas. At this time the friars were a new and revolutionary force in the Church, and their radical embracing of poverty and rejection of institutional structures raised suspicion and opposition from many quarters. Bonaventure defended the Franciscan Order and, after he was elected general of the order in 1255, he ruled it with wisdom and prudence. He declined the archbishopric of York in 1265 but was made cardinal bishop of Albano in 1273, dying in 1274 at the Council of Lyons, at which the Greek and Latin churches were (briefly) reconciled. Bonaventure wrote extensively on philosophy and theology but insisted that the simple and uneducated could have a clearer knowledge of God than the wise. He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1588 by Pope Sixtus V.