



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 18 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

Fr Michael writes... As many will be aware one of our parishioners, Brendan Day is to be ordained as a Permanent deacon next Saturday at Westminster Cathedral. It is a long awaited day for Brendan, for his family, and for us as a parish. It comes after four years of training and formation. At his ordination Brendan will be incardinated into the Diocese of Westminster and will make a promise of obedience to Cardinal Vincent and to his successors. The Cardinal has asked that Brendan serve in his home parish - here among us. I know that Brendan has been involved in parish life in different ways for a number of years but I look forward to welcoming Brendan onto the Parish Team in his new capacity.

We intend to celebrate Brendan's ordination to the diaconate next Sunday after the 11.30am Mass with refreshments and cake, 'Cake and Cava'. Mindful of the need to do things sensibly, I am praying for good weather, hoping that we can have the refreshments outside as people leave the church, **but we need volunteers willing to distribute the cake and pour the refreshments.** If you are happy to help please email the parish office at stalbans@rcdow.org.uk or ring the presbytery on 01727 853585. More hands will make lighter work.

With Fr Julian's impending departure and Fr Jonathan's arrival in September the Parish Team will look a little different. Alongside the changes to the Parish Team we will also be looking to recruit members for five parish groups: Communications Group, Social Committee, Adult Faith Formation, Youth & Young Families Group and the Parish Friends Group, as well as to augment our existing Justice and Peace Group. Out of these various groups the intention is to form the nucleus of the new Parish Pastoral Council. So, these are exciting times, and I hope that people will be generous enough to get involved. The welcoming and vibrant parish we all hope for will only be realised if we all play our part. Please use the summer to consider the contribution you want to make.

Post Lock Down Restrictions As I write, the guidance we have just received on the opening of churches and public worship from Monday 19 July stresses the need for local decision making. We will be much clearer this time next week once the 'Re-Opening Planning Group' has had an opportunity to reflect on this guidance. There is still a requirement to register your attendance by using the QR code or by completing one of the visitor slips. At this stage I would ask you to continue to wear face masks for public acts of worship, to maintain the social distancing we have become accustomed, and to sanitise your hands on entering and leaving the church. In addition, we will continue to limit congregational singing and will ventilate the church by keeping the windows and emergency doors open.

Parish Assembly 23 July Don't forget, the face to face meeting, originally planned for 3 July, will be held in the Sacred Heart Centre adjoining the Church at 7.30pm on Friday 23 July.

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. 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 the date, your name and contact details on it, or using one of our Visitor Cards.

Seating Capacity The seating capacity for the church is currently been fixed at between 120-150, with a maximum of 6 people or 1 household per bench.

Holy Communion 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

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 Communions We are now permitted to make home visits for the distribution of Holy Communion.

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. 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 - 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.

Confirmation 2022 Parents and guardians of those young people due to celebrate their Confirmation next May / June (Year 10 and above) are invited to register online. Please go to the 'Sacraments' tab of the parish website and click on 'Confirmation' where you will find the relevant registration point.

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 Weekly Bulletin - Summer 2021 Due to annual leave being taken by Fr Michael, Fr Julian and the parish administrator over the summer period, next week's bulletin will be the last until September and will contain details of all mass intentions for August. Please see our parish website for mass times, recent bulletins and latest news. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the parish office on 01727 853585 or by emailing stalbans@rcdow.org.uk.

Sea Sunday The retiring collection last weekend was for Sea Sunday and £333.68 was raised from this collection.

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.

News update from the MSCs The MSC communities in Ireland are doing well despite the COVID pandemic. However, Fr Jimmy is quite poorly having fallen and broken his leg but is also suffering memory loss and is undergoing tests. He has settled into a nursing home near his family who, together with some MSCs, are visiting regularly.

Fr Charles says Mass regularly at Salthill Parish, with occasional guest appearances from Fr TJ! Fr Nick is living in Portlaoise to be near his family following the death of his sister. Fr Jerry is delighted to be back on the golf course. Fr Mark van Beeuman is returning to Belgium where he hopes to continue his work on spreading the ethos of Fr Jules Chevalier throughout the European community.

Fr Alan describes in his latest News report [here](#) how the students and teachers of Loreto Rumbek Secondary School, where he is based, are helping to fight the COVID-19 crisis in South Sudan. They thoroughly cleaned wards of Rumbek Hospital, returning a week later to be vaccinated in one of the large tents that they had just cleaned. Please to keep all our MSC friends and their continuing missions in your prayers.

OUR SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

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

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.

Annual Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers - 2021 The Archconfraternity of St Stephen invites all Servers to the annual Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 2nd October 2021 at 2:30pm The principal celebrant will be the Rt. Rev. Nicholas Hudson Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster. Pandemic circumstances permitting, further details and confirmation to follow. Follow us on social media and guildofststephen.org for updates.

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 will 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.

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

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. Please note that mass intentions may need to be rearranged if a funeral is subsequently confirmed for that date.

St Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373) - 23 July Bridget was married to a nobleman and had eight children. At the age of 30 she served as lady-in-waiting to the Queen of Sweden and tried to moderate the immoral life of the royal court. After a pilgrimage to the shrine of St James at Compostela in Spain, Bridget and her husband Ulf decided to spend the rest of their lives in monasteries. Ulf died in 1344, but Bridget went on to found a double monastery (for men and women in separate but adjacent institutions). In 1350 she travelled to Rome for the Holy Year, and spent the rest of her life there caring for the poor and the sick, denouncing the excesses of the aristocracy, and robustly telling the Pope to return to Rome from Avignon. She had many mystical visions which were partially devotional and partly prophetic. She is the patron saint of Europe, Sweden and widows.

St Laurence of Brindisi (1559-1619) - 21 July Laurence was born in Brindisi, joined the Capuchin Friars, and studied at the University of Padua. His principal vocation was preaching all over Europe, not just to Catholics but to Jews and Protestants. He wrote many sermons, commentaries, and works of controversy. He was entrusted with many important diplomatic missions. On one of these, he not only persuaded the German princes to help defend Hungary from the invading Turks, but also led their troops into battle, armed only with a crucifix. For Laurence preaching was the most important task of his life; but he ensured that this was backed by sound learning, so that he could preach *to* and not *at* his audiences.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

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 Joanna and Marian Hoscilowicz (RIP)
7pm Mass Michael Aylward (Ann)
Reading 1, Jeremiah 23:1-6, Responsorial Psalm, 23
Reading 2, Ephesians 2:13-18, Gospel, Mark 6:30-34

Monday 19 July - feria

10am Mass Hermie Haniff (RIP)
7pm Mass Deceased relatives and friends of Marion Miller
Reading 1, Exodus 14:5-18,
Responsorial Psalm, Exodus 15, Gospel, Matthew 12:38-42

Tuesday 20 July - feria

10am Mass Micallef family (Ints)
Reading 1, Exodus 14:21-15:1
Responsorial Psalm, Exodus 15, Gospel, Matthew 12:46-50

Wednesday 21 July - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Winifred Sudell
7pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)
Reading 1, Exodus 16:1-5,9-15
Responsorial Psalm, 78, Gospel, Matthew 13:1-9

Thursday 22 July - ST MARY MAGDALENE

10am Mass Peter Cawdery (RIP)
Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
Responsorial Psalm, 63, Gospel, John 20:1-2,11-18

Friday 23 July - ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

10am Mass Daphne Snaith (RIP)
7pm Mass Robert Zelasko (RIP)
Reading 1, Galatians 2:19-20
Responsorial Psalm, 34, Gospel, John 15:1-8

Saturday 24 July - Memoria of Blessed Virgin Mary

10am Mass Margaret Sweeney (RIP)
10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession
Reading 1, Exodus 24:3-8
Responsorial Psalm, 50, Gospel, Matthew 13:24-30

Sunday 25 July - 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6pm Vigil Mass Pat and Joe Collins (Ints)
8am Mass Eric Harber (RIP)
9.30am Mass Irmina Zembrzuska (RIP)
11.30am Mass Barrie Witchard (RIP)
7pm Mass Marion Hay (Ann)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the priests and members of our own parish St Alban & St Stephen.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick including

For those who have died recently, including Andrew Burke, Jim Moss and Winifred Sudell, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Michael Aylward, Marion Hay and Elsie Rigg.

(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 expectant mothers. We pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be given by their family, friends, and local communities, as they journey through this life-changing experience. Lord hear us.

St Mary Magdalene - 22 July Mary of Magdala was healed of "seven devils" by Jesus. She ministered to him in Galilee and was present at his crucifixion. She was in the group of women who were the first to discover the empty tomb, and it was to her that the risen Jesus first appeared. The Western tradition is that Mary Magdalene is also "the woman who was a sinner" and the sister of Martha and Lazarus of Bethany. There is no evidence either way and such authorities as St Ambrose held, with the East, that they are three different people. Thus the Western tradition, although a real inspiration, may not necessarily be historical. Indeed, in 2021 Mary of Bethany was formally recognised as separate, being included in the same feast as Martha and Lazarus, a week after Mary of Magdala. Christianity accepts, however, that Mary Magdalene is a unique and important character in the story of the resurrection, chosen by Christ as one of the first witnesses of the event that changed the world.