



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 4 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)
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We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes...

Ordinarily July and August would be relatively quiet months with the round of sacramental celebrations complete, but for this July at least it looks as if we have a fairly full calendar ahead. Over the next two weekends (10 & 17 July) we will complete the First Holy Communion celebrations for the children in last year's First Holy Communion Programme. My hope is to distribute their First Communion Certificates at Sunday Masses in the autumn.

On Sunday 25 July Brendan Day will deacon the 11.30 Mass having been ordained to the permanent diaconate at Westminster Cathedral the day before. In these times arranging any social event is thwart with challenges and even though we should be out of lockdown by 19 July I suspect that a social gathering in the Parish Centre may not be the most advisable option just a few days later. This being so it is proposed that we pray hard for good weather and that we celebrate Brendan's ordination by having drinks and cake as people leave the 11.30 Mass on Sunday 25 July. With the exception of the disabled, we will encourage people to use the Car Park at Loreto, giving us space to gather around the church. If you would like to get involved and help - either with stewarding the car park or with the distribution of refreshments - please let us know by emailing the parish office at stalbans@rcdow.org.uk.

Looking further forward I will be away for a couple of weeks towards the very end of July / beginning of August and then Fr Julian will take a couple of weeks' holiday before taking up his new appointment as Parish Priest of Hoddesdon. Effectively therefore the weekend of 7/8 August will be Fr Julian's last weekend with us. However, there will be a chance for us to say farewell to Fr Julian on Sunday 29 August at 7pm when there will also be an opportunity to thank him for his ministry here in St Albans.

Regarding the 9am Marshalswick Mass on a Sunday morning at St John Fisher School, and the Sunday morning Children's Liturgy here in the main church at 9.30 am, I need to consult with those who have co-ordinated these, but am hoping that they will start up again in September.

Finally, one of the proposals made at the recent Parish Assembly was to move the Sunday evening Mass forward an hour from 7pm to 6pm. I do not wish to pre-judge the discussion at the face to face version of the Parish Assembly due on Friday 23 July at 7.30pm, but it is likely that the Sunday evening Mass will move to this earlier time. If so, it would seem sensible to bring this change into effect from September.

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 If your child is part of the group celebrating First Holy Communion on 10 or 17 July, please ensure you return your guest list to the parish office as soon as possible. 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

Peter's Pence The retiring collection this weekend is for Peter's Pence. This is a worldwide special collection to support the international ministry of the Holy See, in particular its charitable and philanthropic work. Special aid is given in the Holy Father's name to dioceses and religious communities in poor and needy parts of the world.

Sea Sunday 11 July 2021 Next 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.

Parish Assembly 23 July We have unfortunately had to re-schedule the face to face meeting, originally planned for 3 July. It will now be held in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm on Friday 23 July. Of course this still depends on the relaxation of current restrictions, but it is very much hoped that we can hold this meeting before the summer break.

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.

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

OUR SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

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.

Staff required at the London Jesuit Centre The London Jesuit Centre in central London is looking to appoint a Housekeeper responsible for leading a team of cleaners and housekeeping staff (permanent, 35hrs pw, £525 pw) and a receptionist (permanent, 6hrs per day, 2-8pm, £390 pw). For details please see [here](#).

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.

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

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.

St Augustine Zhao Rong and his Companions, Martyrs - 9 July Augustine Zhao Rong was one of the Chinese soldiers who escorted Bishop John Gabriel Taurin Dufresse to his execution. He asked to be baptised and was eventually ordained a priest. He was arrested, tortured and died in 1815. Also celebrated are 119 of his companions including Bishop Dufresse, martyred in China from 1648 to 1930 Official persecution of Christians by the Emperors ceased in 1842, but in the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 many thousands of Christians were attacked and killed.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 4 July - 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6pm Vigil Mass Peter Rowland (RIP)
8am Mass Stephanie Newson (Ints)
9.30am Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)
11.30am Mass People of the Parish
7pm Mass Bob Markham (RIP)
Reading 1, Ezekiel 2:2-5, Responsorial Psalm, 123
Reading 2, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Gospel, Mark 6:1-6

Monday 5 July - feria

10am Mass David Edwards (Ints)
7pm Mass James Donachie (RIP)
Reading 1, Genesis 28:10-22, Responsorial Psalm, 91
Gospel, Matthew 9:18-26

Tuesday 6 July - feria

10am Mass Barrie Witchard (RIP)
Reading 1, Genesis 32:23-33, Responsorial Psalm, 17
Gospel, Matthew 9:32-38

Wednesday 7 July - feria

10am Mass Martina Athy and family (Ints)
7pm Mass Sheila Doohan (RIP)
Reading 1, Genesis 41:55-57, 42:5-7,17-24
Responsorial Psalm, 33, Gospel, Matthew 10:1-7

Thursday 8 July - feria

10am Mass Tony Moran (RIP)
Reading 1, Genesis 44:18-29, 45:1-5
Responsorial Psalm, 105, Gospel, Matthew 10:7-15

Friday 9 July - feria

10am Mass Berti and Sammons families (Ints)
7pm Mass John Cafferkey (RIP)
Reading 1, Genesis 46:1-7,28-30
Responsorial Psalm, 37, Gospel, Matthew 10:16-23

Saturday 10 July - Memoria of BVM

10am Mass Eric Harber (RIP)
10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession
Reading 1, Genesis 49:29-33, 50:15-26
Responsorial Psalm, 105, Gospel, Matthew 10:24-33

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

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the minister and members of the St. Mary's Church, Marshalswick.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick including

For those who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Edna McCarthy.

(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 the families and friends of pregnant women. That they would recognise their responsibility to care for the mother and child, and that they would surround them with love and support through the journey of pregnancy and beyond. Lord hear us.

St Maria Goretti (1890 - 1902) 6 July Maria Goretti was the third of seven children of a poor Italian peasant family. Maria's father died in 1900, when Maria was 10. A neighbouring farmhand, Alessandro Serenelli tried to force himself on Maria but she vehemently resisted his attentions begging him to have a care for his immortal soul. This enraged him and he stabbed her 14 times, Maria was rushed to hospital and, as she lay dying, specifically forgave her murderer. Alessandro was tried and sentenced to 30 years' penal servitude with hard labour. For the first 7 years he maintained defiant, but finally he repented following a vision of Maria handing him lilies. Maria was beatified in 1927. Alessandro was released in 1928, and begged forgiveness from Maria's mother, which she duly granted. Maria was canonised in 1950. Her mother was present at the ceremony; the first time this had happened. Some say that Alessandro was there too; he spent his last years in a Capuchin monastery and died in 1970. Maria is the patron saint of purity, rape victims, young women, and youth.