



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 19 SEPTEMBER 2021



VirginMoneyGiving

Parish Team: Fr Michael O'Boy (Parish Priest) Fr Jonathan Stogdon
Rev. Steve Pickard (Deacon) Rev. Brendan Day (Deacon) Mrs Angela Gray (Parish Administrator)
Safeguarding Lead: Mary Harber / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059
We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes...

Welcome to Fr Jonathan who takes up his ministry among us this weekend. I know, as he settles in, that you will make him welcome. I will leave Fr Jonathan to introduce himself over the weekend and in next week's newsletter.

Marshalswick Mass Next Sunday we will have our first Marshalswick mass since March 2020. It has been a long wait, but it is good that we can gather at St John Fisher once again. As in the main church people will be asked to wear masks, to sanitise their hands on entering and leaving, and to observe social distancing. Please be advised that windows, and possibly the doors leading onto the playground, will be open for ventilation purposes. It would be a good idea to wear a warm coat if you suspect you will feel the cold. In terms of the liturgy itself, we have not yet re-introduced the offertory procession or congregational singing but we hope to have some music and singers. In terms of the sacristy I would ask that people come in and out of the sacristy as necessary, but avoid congregating there. For the time being we will concentrate on ensuring that all is in place for the celebration of Mass. I hope it will not be too long before we can have tea and coffee after Mass. Finally, the Sunday collection will be taken up as people leave. If you have volunteered to help with any aspect of the mass at Marshalswick, please ensure to consult the parish website where the rota will be made available.

Church Buildings Development One of the outcomes of this year's Parish Assembly was to consider opportunities to create a more welcoming and inclusive church frontage and porch, and to redevelop the presbytery so as to better serve the needs and mission of our parish going forward. As a first step, a brief specification of our needs will be prepared and then shared with architects and structural engineers invited to consider how they would respond to the brief and develop the church buildings. It is likely that we will need to form a working party to review these options, and I am grateful to those of you who attended the Parish Assembly and have already expressed an interest in helping with this. I will, of course, update and engage the parish throughout the process.

Primary, Secondary and Nursery School Certificates of Catholic Practice

For those parents and guardians who need to obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice to accompany their child's application for a school place (nursery, primary or secondary), Fr Michael will be making himself available at the Presbytery between 4pm and 6.30pm on Wednesday 20 October, and again on Saturday 23 October between 11.30am and 1.30pm. It is not necessary to make an appointment or for the child to attend with their parent or guardian.

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.

Right to Life We pray for all women going through unexpected pregnancies, that they would experience peace and support in this circumstance, and recognise the many blessings that motherhood brings. Lord hear us.

SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY

Sunday Evening Mass Time Please note the new earlier time of 6pm for the Sunday evening Mass.

Friday Morning Masses From January 2022 the 10am Friday morning Mass will be discontinued. There will still be two public Masses parish every Friday. The Abbey Mass at noon and the 7pm in the Church. We will continue to have a 10am Mass on the First Friday of the month and where Funeral Masses require it.

Prayers for the Sick If you would like to include someone in the prayers for the sick, please contact the presbytery.

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is to held on Saturday 30 October at 11.30 am. For initial enquiries please email Fr Jonathan at jonstogdon@rcdow.org.uk.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Confessions are currently available on Saturday mornings between 10.30am and 11.30am. You are also welcome to ring or call at the Presbytery door to arrange another time.

First Holy Communion 2019/20 If your child received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in July, August or October 2020 or July 2021, commemorative certificates will be presented at the 9.30am masses during October. Please email the parish office to let us know which October 9.30am mass you and your child will attend.

First Holy Communion 2020/21 Parents and guardians of children currently preparing for their First Holy Communion in November should have received emails confirming the dates and times of their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Mass. If you have not had either email, please contact the parish office.

There will be a meeting for all parents and guardians in the church at 8pm on Wednesday 22 September.

First Holy Communion 2021/22 Parents and guardians of children eligible to make their First Holy Communion in 2022 (Year 3 or above) will be invited to register their child online via the parish website between 1 November and 31 December. The programme will commence in January 2022.

Confirmation 2019/20 Certificates will be presented to those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation in May 2021 at the Sunday evening masses at 6pm in October. If you can't make your scheduled mass, please email Fr Jonathan at jonstogdon@rcdow.org.uk to arrange another date.

Confirmation 2020/21 The entry for this year's delayed confirmation course for 2021 is now closed. The enrolment mass will be on 26 September at 6pm. If candidates were not baptised in the parish, please ensure that a copy of your baptismal certificate has been emailed to the parish office.

Confirmation 2021/22 Parents and guardians of those due to celebrate their Confirmation next May/June (currently 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 form.

Marriage Preparation If you are intending to get married, please note the Diocese requires at least six months' notice and couples are expected to complete a preparation course. We hope to run the next preparation course in November 2021. If you hope to marry in 2022 please email Fr Michael on michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk to register for this course.

PARISH NEWS

Home Mission Appeal - 19 September Each year, on the third Sunday in September we celebrate Home Mission Sunday - a day when the Bishops invite parishes to pray for the mission of the Church in England and Wales and there is a second collection this weekend to support the Bishops' work of evangelisation.

Coffee after Mass Refreshments will be served in the Parish Centre immediately after mass on Tuesday 21 September. Please come and join us. We may even have cake!

BINGO Many thanks to those that supported our recent Bingo evening. The amount raised for CAFOD was £165.00. Our next Bingo session will be on 15 October at 8.00pm.

Knit and Natter The Parish Friends Knit and Natter Group is resuming from 2-4pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month commencing 14 September. Everyone welcome. For queries contact Helen on 07860 830340.

Players and Manager wanted - St Albans Romans FC The parish football club, St Albans Romans FC, has two 11-a-side men's teams playing locally in the Herts Christian Football League on Saturday mornings, with training on Tuesday evenings. We are looking for someone to manage the 2nd team and also keen for more players to join the club. If you are interested please contact us via our website, www.stalbansromans.com or ring Richard on 07976 252309.

Cafod Harvest Fast Day film and soup event - Saturday 9 October. Lunch at noon followed by the film, "Up". This year, to acknowledge the pressure and isolation so many of us have been under, the Parish Justice and Peace group are providing our Soup and Film event FREE OF CHARGE. We hope that many parishioners will want to join us in the Hall to meet, chat and share a homemade bread and soup lunch before relaxing to watch "Up" [cert U, run time 90 mins] - a beautiful film celebrating human relationships. If you would like to help on the day, contact Maureen or Stan on grabecki@hotmail.com or 765549.

Men's breakfasts to restart on 2 October We have decided to re-start the Men's breakfasts on Saturday 2 October. We will meet in the parish centre from 8.15am for coffee, croissants and banter. At about 9am we will watch the first episode in a new series on the Nicene Creed, narrated by Bishop Robert Barron, and we will aim to finish at 10am. This is a great opportunity to learn more about this prayer which is central to the Sunday mass and to the key parts of our catholic beliefs. Please contact Richard & Brendan on email (d4dstalbins@gmail.com) for more information.

VOLUNTEERING

Thinking of volunteering? Caritas Westminster is running a free, online 'Introduction to Volunteering' event on 21 September 2021, 10 - 11:30 am. From finding a suitable role to your first day, we will cover all you need to know to get started. For more information and to register, please follow this [link](#) or email cvs@rcdow.org.uk.

Streaming All our masses are streamed. Would you be willing to help by operating the camera system? All you need know is how to operate a remote control and have some fairly basic laptop skills. Initially, we would like to recruit a couple of volunteers for each Sunday mass. Please contact the parish office if you are interested.

Lifts to Mass Parish Friends are resuming organising lifts to masses at the weekend - either the Saturday Vigil mass or Sunday morning. If you would like to return to mass but require a lift, please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340. If you can offer a lift to mass, are happy to complete the necessary safeguarding checks, and would like to join a rota giving a lift once every month please contact the Parish Office.

LOCAL COMMUNITY

Churches Together in St Albans Autumn Prayer Walk - 19 September 2 - 6pm. Please 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.

Nicolas Breakspear Open Evening Invitation Thursday 7 October 5.30pm - 8.30pm Headteacher's address at 5.45pm, 6.45pm and 7.45pm. Visit nbs.herts.sch.uk for more details.

St Columba's College Open Morning - Saturday 2 October 9:00am-12:00pm St Columba's College and Preparatory School is an independent Catholic day school for pupils aged 4 - 18 in St Albans. This year, girls have joined Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and the Sixth Form. From September 2022, girls will be welcomed into Year 3, Year 4 and Year 7. There will be an opportunity for tours and to hear from the Headmaster, as well as other members of staff, and students. Please register online by going to the ['Visit Us'](#) page on our website, or by clicking on this [link](#).

WIDER COMMUNITY

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, 2 October 2021 at 2:30pm The principal celebrant will be the Rt. Rev. Nicholas Hudson Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster.

Cafod Harvest fast day - Friday 1 October We are all invited to eat a simple, planet friendly meal and consider making a donation to Cafod in the special collection to be taken up over the weekend of 2/3 October. You can also donate via the CAFOD website or by texting CAFOD10 to 70580 (£10) - or any whole amount between £1 and £20 by texting CAFOD, followed by the amount you wish to donate, to 70580. This year, all funds raised will go towards helping those communities worst affected by the impacts of the climate crisis.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham This year the Pilgrimage to Walsingham is taking place on Saturday, 23 October 2021. Click [here](#) for more details.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Parish Centre - We have now re-commenced use of the Parish Centre. Please email the parish office with booking requests or queries and visit the [Parish Centre Hire](#) page of our website for more details of facilities available.

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 donations but are not longer able to do so, please contact the parish office so that we can amend our records.

Envelope Offertory Donors Parishioners who currently give using 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. Please ensure to reply by the end of September to confirm that you still wish to receive offertory envelopes.

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.

Parish Team for Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation The global ecumenical celebration of prayer & action to protect our common home, Planet Earth, starts each year on 1 September and finishes on the Feast of St. Francis, 4 October. "God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of the earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power & money that they may love the common good & help us all to care for the world in which we live." Pope Francis.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 19 September – 25TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

Home Mission Sunday

6pm Vigil Mass Catherine Mannion (RIP)

8am Mass Margery Davies (Ints)

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am Mass Danny Onn (Ann)

6pm Mass Ngozi Ibeh (Ints)

Reading 1, Wisdom 2:12,17-20, Responsorial Psalm, 54

Reading 2, James 3:16-4:3, Gospel, Mark 9:30-37

Monday 20 September – St Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul

Chong Ha-sang and Companions

10am Mass Mabel O'Leary (RIP)

7pm Mass John McDaid (RIP)

Reading 1, Ezra 1:1-6, Responsorial Psalm, 126

Gospel, Luke 8:16-18

Tuesday 21 September – ST MATTHEW

10am Mass Paul Howego (RIP)

Reading 1, Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13, Responsorial Psalm, 19

Gospel, Matthew 9:9-13

Wednesday 22 September – feria

10am Nancy Cannon (RIP)

7pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Reading 1, Ezra 9:5-9, Responsorial Psalm, Tobit 13:2,4,6-8

Gospel, Luke 9:1-6

Thursday 23 September – St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

10am Mass Martin Brennan (RIP)

Reading 1, Haggai 1:1-8, Responsorial Psalm, 149

Gospel, Luke 9:7-9

Friday 24 September – Our Lady of Walsingham

10am Mass Anthony Moran (first anniversary mass)

7pm Mass Pru Hill (RIP)

Reading 1, Haggai 1:15-2:9, Responsorial Psalm, 43

Gospel, Luke 9:18-22

Saturday 25 September – feria

10am Mass Richard Richardson (RIP)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Zechariah 2:5-9,14-15

Responsorial Psalm, Jeremiah 31, Gospel, Luke 9:43-45

Sunday 26 September – 26TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

6pm Vigil Mass People of the parish

8am Mass Martin Brosnan (Ann)

9am (Marshalswick) Brendan Day (Ints)

9.30am Mass Nigel Appleyard (Ann)

11.30am Mass Derite Whyte (RIP)

6pm Mass Eileen Durie (RIP)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for pray for the intentions of all those participating in the CTSA Prayer Walk.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick including

The names of those we have been asked to pray for are not included in the web version of the parish bulletin for reasons of data protection

For those who have died recently, including Mary Thomasina Fitzpatrick, Margaret Roberts, Peggy Shaw, Tony Stack, Maggie Walsh and Elifa Vetere.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Nigel Appleyard, Martin Brosnan, Finian Gavin, Jane Grandesso, Danny Onn and Fr Pat O' Sullivan MSC (St Albans 1984-86)

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 Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) (1887-1968) Pio was born in the small village of Pietrelcina in southern Italy, and joined the Capuchin friars at the age of 16, becoming a priest seven years later. He spent fifty years at the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo and was very much sought after as a spiritual advisor, confessor, and intercessor. He died a few days after the fiftieth anniversary of his receiving the stigmata, and over 100,000 people attended his funeral.

The Bible Timeline Course The next Bible Timeline Course will be delivered by Mauro Iannicelli LIVE via YouTube, completely FREE OF CHARGE, starting on Wed 29 September and ending on Wed 17 November (8 consecutive Wednesdays 7pm - 8:40pm UK Time). The response to this course has been incredible - Mauro had 2,500 participants in the last two courses he delivered online. You can find over 650 testimonials from former course participants [here](#). Mauro delivers the course under the umbrella of his Come & See Catholic Evangelisation Ministries (www.comeandsee.org) and with the endorsement of Jeff Cavins (who originally devised the course).