



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

26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 26 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*

*Hello from Fr Jonathan*

Thank you for your warm welcome! It is a great joy to be here at St Albans.

I thought I might share a little of my journey with you. I was born and baptised here in Hertfordshire. After Sixth Form, I studied French and English at university in Wales. After graduating, I worked with a charity for homeless people, and then God called me to the Sacred Priesthood. I trained at Allen Hall Seminary, London (which stands on the land of the martyr St Thomas More). Thanks be to God; I was ordained a priest in June 2018 AD. For the last 3 years, I have served in a London parish.

Now, I look forward to the days ahead with you, where we shall get know each other and I promise to keep you and your families in my daily prayers. Please also pray for me, for all our priests, and that God will call more young men to His Sacred Priesthood.

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Jesus says: 'Anyone who is not against us is for us.' (Mark 9:40)

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, writes, "The Church joyfully proclaims that God's Salvation is for everyone. God has found a way to unite Himself to every human being in every age. He has chosen to call them together as 'One People', and not as isolated individuals. No one is saved by himself or herself, individually, or by his or her own efforts. God attracts us by taking into account the complex interweaving of personal relationships entailed in the life of our human community. This people whom God has chosen and called, is the Church. Jesus did not tell the apostles to form an exclusive and elite group. He said: "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Mt28:19). Saint Paul tells us in the People of God (the Church), "there is neither Jew or Greek... for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:28). To those who feel far from God and the Church, to all those who are fearful or indifferent, I would like to say this: *with great respect and love, the Lord is also calling you to be a part of His People!*

Being the Church means being God's people, in accordance with the great plan of His Fatherly Love. This means proclaiming and bringing God's salvation into our world that often goes astray and needs to be encouraged, to be given hope, and to be strengthened on its way. The Church must be a place of Mercy, freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel."

*(Evangelii Gaudium, #113-114)*

### **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 an 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** Today we celebrate International Daughters Day. We bring to mind all daughters currently developing in the womb. That they would be loved and protected at all costs, and that they would all be given the opportunity to experience life outside the womb. Lord hear us".

## SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY

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

**Marshalswick Mass** This Sunday we will have our first Marshalswick Mass since March 2020. 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. For contact tracing purposes, please bring a piece of paper with your name and contact details on it to hand to those stewarding before 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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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. The dates for the next course are Wednesday 10 November 8-10pm, Saturday 13 November 10:30am-3.30pm and Wednesday 17 November 8-10pm. Please email Fr Michael on [michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk) to register for this course.

## PARISH NEWS

**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. No appointment is necessary and children do not need to attend.

**You Can Be Santa 'voucher scheme'**. As always the aim of YCBS is to help children/families who may not otherwise enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. Last year, due to the pandemic, we asked for donations of gift vouchers. The feedback from families who took part was very positive and they were very thankful for the immense generosity of the Parish. This year we intend to repeat the use of vouchers for the children involved.

If you are aware of families within the Parish who may appreciate being a part of the scheme, please mention it to them. Encourage them to contact YCBS by emailing [stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk) with their full contact details. Assure them that all contact details will be kept in confidence and in accordance with data protection requirements. We will be appealing for voucher donations in October and will be asking for vouchers (in £5, £10 & £20 denominations) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos, Amazon & One4All. For more information please email [stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk).

**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 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month with our next meeting on 28 September. Everyone welcome. For queries contact Helen on 07860 830340.

**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 ([d4dstalbans@gmail.com](mailto:d4dstalbans@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Cafod Harvest Fast Day film and soup event - Saturday 9 October.** Lunch at noon followed by a film around 1pm. 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](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com) or 765549.

## VOLUNTEERING

**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 a month please contact the Parish Office.

## LOCAL COMMUNITY

**Loreto College Open Evening (secondary transfer 2022) Hatfield Road, St Albans** Open Evening for prospective pupils applying to Loreto College for September 2022 will take place on Tuesday 28 September 6.00-9.00pm. Please use the entrance in Upper Lattimore Road. Guided tours will be organised from 6-7.45pm. Mrs Máire Lynch, Headteacher, will address parents at 6.15pm, 7.15pm, and 8.15pm. Tours during the school day will take place 4-15 October (by appointment only). Appointments can be made from 29 September onwards by calling 01727 856206. Please note that there are no parking facilities available at the school, and that parking locally is restricted. Public car parks are located nearby at the Civic Centre (Upper Marlborough Rd) and at The Maltings (Victoria St).

**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](#).

**Nicolas Breakspear Open Evening Invitation** Thursday 7 October 5.30pm - 8.30pm Headteacher's address at 5.45pm, 6.45pm and 7.45pm. Visit [www.nbs.herts.sch.uk](http://www.nbs.herts.sch.uk) for details.

## WIDER COMMUNITY

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - Climate Crisis Appeal Friday 1 October** Our local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. This Family Fast Day, donate in the parish using a CAFOD envelope or online through the [CAFOD website](#) and help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. You can also add your voice to our online [petition](#) calling for our Prime Minister to show leadership in tackling the climate crisis. Thank you for your generosity for our emergency appeals to support our sisters and brothers in crisis in Afghanistan and Haiti. You can read more about CAFOD's response [here](#).

There will be a retiring collection for CAFOD after all masses next weekend.

**Annual Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers - 2021** The Archconfraternity of St Stephen invites all Servers to mass 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.

**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 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** 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.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Sunday 26 September – 26<sup>TH</sup> 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)

Reading 1, Numbers 11:25-29, Responsorial Psalm, 19

Reading 2, James 5:1-6, Gospel, Mark 9:38-48

### Monday 27 September – St Vincent de Paul

10am Funeral Mass for Elifa Vetere

7pm Mass Liber Marzo (RIP)

Reading 1, Zechariah 8:1-8

Responsorial Psalm, 102, Gospel, Luke 9:46-50

### Tuesday 28 September – St Wenceslaus

10am Mass Edward (Ints)

Reading 1, Zechariah 8:20-23

Responsorial Psalm, 87, Gospel, Luke 9:51-56

### Wednesday 29 September – SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL and RAPHAEL

10am Cesar Lapuente (RIP)

7pm Mass Thiago Pavoski (RIP)

Reading 1, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Responsorial Psalm, 138, Gospel, John 1:47-51

### Thursday 30 September – St Jerome

10am Funeral Mass for Mary Thomasina Fitzpatrick

Reading 1, Nehemiah 8:1-12

Responsorial Psalm, 19, Gospel, Luke 10:1-12

### Friday 1 October – St Thérèse of the Child Jesus

10am Mass Paddy McGarrigle (RIP)

7pm Mass Michael Kennedy (RIP)

Reading 1, Baruch 1:15-22

Responsorial Psalm, 79, Gospel, Luke 10:13-16

### Saturday 2 October – The Holy Guardian Angels

10am Mass Tom Bagge (RIP)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29

Responsorial Psalm, 69, Gospel, Matthew 18:1-5,10

### Sunday 3 October – 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

6pm Vigil Mass Bridie Cottle (RIP)

8am Mass Teresa Sequeira (RIP)

9am (Marshalswick) Eric Harber (RIP)

9.30am Mass Brendan Kearns (Ann)

11.30am Mass Patrick Curran (Ann)

6pm Mass People of the parish

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for pray for the Lutheran Congregation of St Albans Cathedral.

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, Tony Stack and Elifa Vetere.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Nigel Appleyard, Martin Brosnan, Patrick Curran, Finian Gavin, Jane Grandesso, Brendan Kearns, and Fr Liam O'Callaghan MSC (St Albans (1984-90)

*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.

**Parish Team for Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation** God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one is forgotten in your sight. Help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. (*Pope Francis, 'Laudato Si'*)

**C.W.L. Meeting date** The C.W.L. will meet after 10am mass on Tuesday 5th October for coffee and to discuss future events.

**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](http://www.comeandsee.org)) and with the endorsement of Jeff Cavins (who originally devised the course).