



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 5 SEPTEMBER 2021**



VirginMoneyGiving

Parish Team: Fr Michael O'Boy (Parish Priest) Fr Jonathan Stogdon (Assistant Priest from mid-September)

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...* At the beginning of the summer we held our long awaited Parish Assembly. A summary of the proceedings and outcomes can be found both [here](#) and on the parish website. Paper copies are also available in the porch. The report will give you a clear outline of our next steps. First and foremost, I would like to thank the outgoing Parish Pastoral Council, as well as the members of the various strategy groups, for all that has been accomplished over the last four years: not least, for serving an extra year, for continuing in office during the transition from the MSCs and the current pandemic, and for pressing on with the Parish Assembly. Now, alongside the return to Sunday Mass (the bishops have signalled that the obligation is to be restored for Advent) our attention must turn to the implementation of the recently adopted pastoral priorities.

One of the things stressed during the recent parish assembly was the importance of being a welcoming community. If anything, world events, not least those in Afghanistan and Hong Kong, both of which have and will occasion a rise in refugees and immigrants, highlights the need for open and welcoming communities. Following on from the Parish Assembly I would like to draw together a group of parishioners to consider how we welcome those who are new to the parish, and the steps we might take to improve the quality of our welcome. It may be that you are an existing parishioner with experience of being 'new' to several parishes. You might also be relatively new to this parish with a particular insight to contribute, something that we need to take on board, something you want to voice on the basis of your recent experience. If you would like to be part of the proposed working please email me at [michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk)

As we chart the course out of the current pandemic re-establishing social connections will be vitally important. Those who joined the celebrations following Brendan's recent ordination to the permanent diaconate and Fr Julian's farewell Mass will readily appreciate their importance. How good it was simply to be together, to share news, to see how we have done and are doing. In the build up to and during the Parish Assembly a good many people suggested that we as a parish should have more social activities. If you would like to be part of a social committee, whose remit would be to co-ordinate four parish socials a year (Autumn, Christmas, Spring and Summer) please email me at [michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk)

**Thank You - Fr Julian writes...** Fr Julian thanks the parish for the farewell party last Sunday evening and for the many well wishes and expressions of kindness as he leaves St Albans and moves to Hoddesdon.

**Brendan Day's Recent Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate** Congratulations to Brendan Day on his ordination to the Permanent Diaconate. Please follow the link [here](#) to read an article about Brendan's recent ordination to the permanent diaconate on the Diocese of Westminster website and click [here](#) to see a selection of photos of the event.

**Afghan Refugees** Our local voluntary group 'Herts Welcomes Refugees' is co-ordinating efforts to support refugees locally. They are seeking in particular: voters to encourage our local councillors to support refugees; rental accommodation for families; mobile phones and donations. Further details are available [here](#).

**CAFOD** is currently responding to significant crises across the world. We are working with local Church organisations in Haiti to deliver emergency aid to people affected by the catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm. In Afghanistan, we are working to ensure the safety of our local partners and their communities. We are supporting local aid workers to deliver urgent food and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people facing extreme hunger in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. You can read more [here](#) about how we can all express solidarity with our sisters and brothers affected by these emergencies. Your compassion, generosity and prayers have helped us to stand together and enable us to continue to support communities in these difficult times. Thank you.

## SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY

**Mass Times - Sunday Evenings** Please note the new earlier time of 6 pm for the Sunday evening Mass.

**Mass Times - Marshalswick Mass** We hope to resume the 9 am Mass at Marshalswick/St John Fisher School from Sunday 26 September. Those attending are asked to wear a face mask, to sanitise their hands and to maintain social distancing. You may also be asked for your name and contact details. Some cleaning and sanitising will be necessary and stewards are needed to help. Please email the parish office if you are happy to help. For the time being, the intention is to begin with reintroducing the Mass and once this is in place to re-introduce tea and coffee afterwards.

**Mass Times - Friday Mornings** Please also note that 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 our 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.

**Sacraments of Baptism** The next baptism preparation course is to held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30 am. For initial enquiries please email Fr Jonathan at [jonathanstogdon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jonathanstogdon@rcdow.org.uk) Fr Jonathan arrives in mid-September. If your enquiry is more urgent please contact the parish office.

**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 of the October 9.30am masses you and your child will attend.

**First Holy Communion 2020/21** Parents and guardians of children currently preparing for their First Holy Communion should have received an email confirming the date and time of their First Reconciliation (either 11.30am or 1.00pm on 25 September or 2 October). If you have not had an email please contact the parish office.

## VOLUNTEERING

Also, an email has gone out to all parents and guardians asking for date preferences for First Holy Communion masses in November. Please email the parish office if you have not received this email.

**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 [jonathanstogdon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jonathanstogdon@rcdow.org.uk) and another date can be offered.

**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 that couples are expected to complete a marriage preparation course. We hope to run the next marriage preparation course in November 2021. If you hope to marry in 2022 please contact Fr Michael [michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk) to register for this course

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

## PARISH NEWS

**Parish Centre** - We are looking to re-commence use of the Parish Centre from Monday 5 September. Please email the parish office with booking requests or queries.

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

**Bingo is back** On Friday 10 September at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall to raise funds for CAFOD. Admission is 50p and everyone is welcome.

**Knit and Natter** Parish Friends would like to announce that Knit and Natter is resuming from 2-4pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month commencing 14th September. Everyone welcome. Any enquiries please contact Helen on 07860 830340.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

**Fire Marshals** We need to recruit fire marshals. There is to be a deanery training session hosted here at the parish centre at 7pm on 15 September. To date our Fire Marshals have been rarely called upon, apart from for occasional fire drills. It should not be an onerous responsibility, but the more who are trained and aware, the more able we are to deliver a safe environment. If you would be willing to act as a fire marshall please email the parish office to let us know. Please

also indicate whether or not you can attend the training session.

**Youtube Diarist** Each week the services to be streamed need to be published on our Youtube account. The whole process takes a maximum of forty-five minutes. If you wish to volunteer your time please contact the parish office. We are looking for 2 or 3 volunteers.

**Streaming** All our masses are streamed. Would you be willing to help by operating the camera system? It sounds way more complicated than it actually is. 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 of the Sunday masses. 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 the parish office stating the mass you would prefer to attend.

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 01727 853585. Unless we have sufficient volunteers it may be difficult to arrange for everyone to return to mass.

**Hospital Volunteers need to support the work of the Watford hospital chaplaincy.** If you would be willing to consider offering an hour or two a week to visit our patients in hospital and would like more information please email: [westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net](mailto:westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net)

Does your faith affect the way you make decisions? Who do you speak to for advice? Who helps you carry your burdens? I'm a Masters Student at the University of Chichester and researching spiritual accompaniment in everyday life. I'm interested in the conversations people have with friends and others about life and faith, conversations involving a search for direction, purpose, understanding, meaning or truth. I'm looking for volunteers willing to be interviewed over zoom about their life experiences. They don't need to be extraordinary experiences, in fact, the more ordinary the better! To find out more, please get in touch with Gemma Wildsmith on [wildsmithge@gmail.com](mailto:wildsmithge@gmail.com)

## LOCAL EVENTS & GROUPS

**COP 26 March** On 7 September the 'Camino to COP 26 March', from London to Glasgow, leaves Harrow at 9:30, and continues on to St Albans, a distance of 13 miles. There is an event in the evening at St Luke's Church, Cell Barnes Lane, St Albans, AL1 5QJ, from 7:30 till 9:30 pm. On 8 Sept the Camino continues on to Harpenden, a distance of 5 miles. That evening there is an event at St Nicolas Church Hall, Church Green, Harpenden, AL5 25P from 7:30 until 9:30pm. All are welcome, to take part in the walk and/or to come to the above meetings.

**Thinking Lunches - Marlborough Road Methodist Church 2021/22** All welcome. First Thursday of the month 12.30pm - 1.30pm. Half hour talk followed by discussion. Refreshments provided but please bring your own sandwiches. On 9 September Rev. Dr Inderjit Bhogal will speak on 'The roots of Sanctuary in St Alban: Making St Albans a City of Sanctuary'. Further details can be seen [here](#). Please see the attached [flyer](#) for details of individual talks from September to May 2022.

**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. You can join for whole or part of the walk.

## FURTHER AFIELD

**March for Life UK - 4 September 2021** This year's 'March for Life UK' will take in London on Saturday 4 September. In the morning the Life Fest will take place from 10.00 - 13.00 in the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham St, London, SW1P 3D. The March to Parliament Square will take place from 13.30 - 16.00. Please follow this [link](#) to view a poster from the event or visit the March for Life UK [website](#) for more information.

**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.

## PARISH ADMINISTRATION

**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 in order to confirm that you still wish to receive offertory envelopes in the future.

**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.

**Recycling** As part of our efforts to live simply you may wish to recycle the goods you no longer want or need. To help you, why not visit [www.ilovefreegle.org](http://www.ilovefreegle.org).

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Sunday 5 September - 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

6pm Vigil Mass Jose, Piedade & Anthony Fernandes (RIP)

8am Mass Deceased members of the Sheehan and Guinnelly families (RIP)

9.30am Mass Jim Moss (RIP)

11.30am Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

6pm Mass People of the Parish

Reading 1, Isaiah 35:4-7, Responsorial Psalm, 146

Reading 2, James 2:1-5, Gospel, Mark 7:31-37

### Monday 6 September - feria

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Marcelline Clarke

7pm Mass Ken Liversidge (RIP)

Reading 1, Colossians 1:24-2:3

Responsorial Psalm, 62, Gospel, Luke 6:6-11

### Tuesday 7 September - feria

10am Mass Mabel O'Leary (RIP)

Reading 1, Colossians 2:6-15

Responsorial Psalm, 145, Gospel, Luke 6:12-19

### Wednesday 8 September - THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10am Cliff Staniforth (RIP)

7pm Mass Angela Maria Dew (Ints)

Reading 1, Micah 5:1-4

Responsorial Psalm, 13, Gospel, Matthew 1:1-23

### Thursday 9 September - feria

10am Mass Sr Mary Aelred (Ints)

Reading 1, Colossians 3:12-17

Responsorial Psalm, 150, Gospel, Luke 6:27-38

### Friday 10 September - feria

10am Mass Joe and Ann Vaughan (Ints)

7pm Mass James de Souza (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14

Responsorial Psalm, 16, Gospel, Luke 6:39-42

### Saturday 11 September - Memoria of Blessed Virgin Mary

10am Mass Peter Healy (RIP)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, 1: Timothy 1:15-17

Responsorial Psalm, 113, Gospel, Luke 6:43-49

### Sunday 12 September - 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

6pm Vigil Mass John Paton (Ann)

8am Mass Kathleen and Michael Burke (RIP)

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am Mass Daniel Brudney (RIP)

6pm Mass John Taylor (RIP)

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for pray for the priests and members of all Churches Together in Hertfordshire.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick

*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 Kate Forsythe, Marcelline Clarke, Maggie Walsh, Peggy Shaw, Joanna Hoscilowicz, Mary Jones and Rosemary Smith.

*The Funeral Mass for Maggie Walsh (RIP) will be at 10 am on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September.*

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including John Paton and Fr Richard Scriven MSC (St Albans 1958-65)

*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** Today (5 September) we celebrate the feast of St Mother Teresa of Calcutta, patron saint of the pro-life movement. We ask for her intercession as we seek to support all pregnant mothers through their pregnancies, and that, like her, we would become models of support and charity to all in society. Lord hear us...

## 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.