



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: stalbens@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org

YouTube: [youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch)

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 10 October 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 / stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes ... In his pastoral letter last weekend, the Cardinal highlighted Pope Francis' invitation issued to each and every one of us to contribute to the meeting or Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome. In creating this opportunity for listening and dialogue at the local level, Pope Francis is calling the Church to humbly learn together how God is calling us to be as the Church in the third millennium. Synod means quite literally 'journeying together'. At the heart of our journeying together is our listening – listening to one another, yes, but listening first and foremost to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us through the scripture, through the Tradition of the church, and through each other.

I do want to stress that this invitation is for everyone. In a preparatory document for the Synod, the point is well made. 'In a synodal Church the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on making pastoral decisions which correspond as closely as possible to God's will'. To this end, Pope Francis has asked every bishop throughout the world to listen to the local church that he has been called to shepherd. In turn, Cardinal Vincent has asked that each parish facilitate this listening.

Not long after the first lockdown had ended, we, as a parish, conducted a parish survey the principal aim of which was to listen to and learn from people's experience of that first lock down. Again, the recent Parish Assembly was, I trust, an exercise in listening and journeying together. I hope therefore that we are well placed to respond to the Pope's invitation and to engage in a discernment that relates to the life and mission of the church as a whole, not simply as it is lived here in St Albans or indeed the Diocese of Westminster. In the coming weeks and months, we will pray for the forthcoming Synod and, in particular, the success of these preparatory stages taking place across the world. More importantly, there will be opportunities for us to do what the Cardinal and Holy Father have asked us to do – to listen to one another: to share our experiences of life and faith, its joys and sorrows, its comforts and challenges so as to understand more fully what it is that God is calling us to.

A Call for Volunteers!

As mentioned in last week's bulletin, in the run up to Christmas, I would like us to concentrate on building the membership of four Parish Groups which are either entirely new, or are embarking on a re-shaped set of priorities:

- the social committee who will be asked to deliver four parish socials.
- the youth and young families group who, amongst other things, will look to the appointment and support of a parish youth worker.
- the adult faith formation group concerned with promoting faith formation.
- a communications group, which will help to ensure that everyone in our parish feels connected.

A few people have signalled an interest in joining some of these groups, but we need more, and we need new people to step up to the task. So, if you want to play a part, please consider joining any of the groups I have mentioned and let me, Fr Jonathan or the parish office know of your interest. Call 01727 853585 or email stalbens@rcdow.org.uk Once the membership of these groups is in place we will be in a good position to re-establish a Parish Pastoral Council.

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.

SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY

Marshalswick Mass As in the main church, people are asked to wear masks, to sanitise their hands on entering and leaving, and to observe social distancing. Windows, and possibly the doors leading onto the playground, will be open for ventilation. 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.

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is to be held on Saturday 30 October at 11.30am. 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 2022 Parents and guardians of children currently in Year 3 or above are invited to register their child online via the parish website between 1 November and 31 December. The programme will commence in January 2022.

Confirmation 2022 Parents and guardians of young people currently in Year 10 or above wishing to celebrate their Confirmation in May/June 2022 are invited to register online. Please go to the 'Sacraments' tab of the parish website and click on 'Confirmation' for the application 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 next preparation course takes place in November and will contain three sessions: Wednesday 10 November 8-10pm, Saturday 13 November 10:30am-3.30pm and Wednesday 17 November 8-10pm. To register please email Fr Michael on michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk

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

PARISH NEWS

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] If you would like to help on the day, contact Maureen or Stan on grabecki@hotmail.com or 765549.

Parish Friends will be meeting in Room 1 of the Parish Centre on Wednesday 13 October at 7.45pm. If you are interested in joining our group or want to find out more about us, please do come along. Further information from Helen - helen.bassill@ntlworld.com or 07860 830340.

BINGO On Friday 15 October at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre, in aid of the Cardinal's Appeal. Admission is 50p to include refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

Coffee and Tea after 11.30am Mass We are hoping to recommence the previously popular coffee and tea in the Parish Centre coffee bar after 11.30am Mass starting on Sunday, 17 October. Can you join a team to make and serve the refreshments, perhaps once a month? If so, please contact Melanie (mjoneill5@btinternet.com or 07900 051956).

Churches Together in St Albans Autumn Forum: COP26 Vigil - Wednesday 20 October 8pm At COP26, World leaders meet to decide what to do about climate change. Current global commitments will fail to prevent uncontrollable, irreversible and catastrophic climate change. "We are on the verge of the abyss." - UN Secretary General (2021) It's time to pray and fast. "Consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly...and cry out to the Lord" Joel 1:14. Join with Christians from different churches on Wednesday 20th October as we:

- Fast for a day from meat, dairy and fish
- Join together at 8pm on Zoom to pray.

"This is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us" 1 Jn 5:14 . Further details can be found [here](#).

Mercy Associates We will be having a meeting on Wednesday 20 October in Room 1 of the Parish Centre from 5 until 7pm. Sr Maura will be joining us. All are welcome.

Lifts to Mass Parish Friends are resuming organizing 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.

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. They were very thankful for your immense generosity. This year we intend to use the vouchers system once more.

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 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 appeal for voucher donations in October and will be ask 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.

Knit and Natter The Parish Friends Knit and Natter Group is resuming from 2-4pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month with our next meetings on 12 and 26 October. All are welcome. Contact Helen on 07860 830340.

Parish Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Group Parishioners interested in issues concerning Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation meet every third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Sacred Heart Centre.

Traidcraft. Fairtrade goods - tea, coffee, chocolate, nuts, cereals, etc. - are still available from Maureen. Ring 765549 or email grabecki@hotmail.com to place an order or for an enquiry. If an item is not in stock, we can usually get it within a week. The latest autumn/winter catalogue is available in the church porch; please take a copy. Anyone can order via the Traidcraft website, traidcraft.co.uk or [click here](#), although ordering through the parish is often cheaper and 10% of the sales value goes to CAFOD.

SCHOOLS & NURSERIES

Primary, Secondary and Nursery School Certificates of Catholic Practice For 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 available at the Presbytery 4pm-6.30pm on Wednesday 20 October, and Saturday 23 October 11.30am-1.30pm. No appointment is necessary and children need not attend.

St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School Open Days St John Fisher School will be holding the following Open Days in November for families wishing to apply for Reception spaces for September 2022: Tuesday 2nd; Wednesday 3rd; Tuesday 9th, Tuesday 16th, Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th November. Please join us at 9:30a.m. for an informative tour of the school!

Call for School Governors St John Fisher is looking to appoint (up to four) foundation governors to help with the strategic running of the school. A governing body requires a wide cross section of skills and we would welcome volunteers from all backgrounds. Foundation governors are appointed by the bishop and are his representatives on the school board. They need to be practising Catholics and ensure that a school maintains its Catholic ethos. There are 4 meetings a year together with some committee meetings plus school visits. Training is offered, much of which is online and can be done in your own time. Please contact christophergov@sjfisher.herts.sch.uk to arrange a call to talk more about the role.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Universe Catholic Weekly - Online Publication On 8 October we shall be launching a new online Catholic newspaper called the *Universe Catholic Weekly* as a successor to the former *Catholic Universe* which went into

administration earlier this year. The aim of the new publication is to give Catholics the chance to read about the world through the lens of their religion. It will contain the latest UK and world news alongside features about the Vatican, discussions about topics such as abortion and married clergy alongside lighter fare in our lifestyle supplement. Contact details will be available shortly.

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

Volunteers needed The Passage a Catholic Charity working with homeless people has its annual opportunity to take up a public collection on the streets of the City of Westminster on Tuesday 19 October (from 7.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.). In order to make the most of this opportunity to raise funds to support homeless people they need more volunteers on the day. Could anyone interested please contact Andrew Hollingsworth andrew.h@passage.org.uk 020 7592 1886 (07928 703131)

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Retiring Collections The recent retiring collection for the Home Missions Appeal raised £324.87. The retiring collection for the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day last weekend raised £893.65. Thank you for your generosity.

Leaving a Legacy Have you ever considered remembering the parish in your will? The Diocese have asked us to participate in a pilot scheme on legacies. There will be a meeting on Wednesday 3 November at 11am. If you are interested in finding out more, please speak with Fr Michael.

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 no longer pay tax or are unable to gift aid your contributions, please contact the parish office so that we can amend our records.

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.

Prisons Week 10 - 16 October Lord, we pray for all children, women & men affected by prisons. Comfort and guide them. Touched by your Spirit, may they find newness of heart and be open to that new life that is only found in you. (*Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Team*)

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 9 October - Vigil - 28TH SUNDAY ORD TIME
6pm Mass Bridie Cottle (RIP)

Sunday 10 October - 28TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

8am Mass People of the Parish

9am Mass Friends of Eric Harber (Ints)

(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass Alec Anderson (RIP)

11.30am Mass Michael Finucane (RIP)

6pm Mass Patricia 'Pat' Murphy (RIP)

Reading 1, Wisdom 7:7-11, Responsorial Psalm, 90

Reading 2, Hebrews 4:12-13, Gospel, Mark 10:17-30

Monday 11 October - St John XXIII

10am Mass Harry Brinkworth (RIP)

7pm Mass Michael Kennedy (RIP)

Reading 1, Romans 1:1-7

Responsorial Psalm, 98, Gospel, Luke 11:29-32

Tuesday 12 October - St Wilfred

10am Mass Marion Nash (RIP)

Reading 1, Romans 1:16-25

Responsorial Psalm, 19, Gospel, Luke 11:37-41

Wednesday 13 October - ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

10am Mass Derite Whyte (RIP)

7pm Mass Patricia Pearce (first anniversary)

Reading 1, Romans 2:1-11

Responsorial Psalm, 62, Gospel, Luke 11:42-46

Thursday 14 October - feria

10am Mass Vincent O'Reilly (RIP)

Reading 1, Romans 3:21-30

Responsorial Psalm, 130, Gospel, Luke 11:47-54

Friday 15 October - St Teresa of Jesus

10am Mass Winifred Sudell (RIP)

7pm Mass Brendan Day (Ints)

Reading 1, Romans 4:1-8

Responsorial Psalm, 32, Gospel, Luke 12:1-7

Saturday 16 October - Memoria of Blessed Virgin Mary

10am Mass Deirdre Manasterski (RIP)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Romans 4:13, 16-18

Responsorial Psalm, 105 Gospel, Luke 12:8-12

Saturday 16 October - VIGIL 29TH SUNDAY ORD TIME

6pm Mass Graham Smith (Ann)

Sunday 17 October - 29TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

8am Mass Alice Healy (RIP)

9am Mass Adrian (Ady) Connolly (RIP)

(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass People of the parish

11.30am Mass Steve Lee (Ann)

6pm Mass Patricia (Pat) Murphy (RIP)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for pray for the ministers and members St Mary's Church, Childwick Green.

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 George Xuereb Brennan, Ray Pujol, Bernadette Roache and Thomas Bradbury (formerly of St Albans).

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Steve Lee, Patricia Pearce and Graham Smith.

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.

Homeless Sunday 10 October We remember those who are homeless, afraid, cold & lonely. Lord, comfort them and give them hope. Help us to see your face in the eyes of every person experiencing homelessness we meet. By your grace, empower us & our leaders to create a just and compassionate world. (*Parish Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Team*)

St Edward the Confessor (1003-1066) Edward became King of England in 1042. He was regarded as a saint during his lifetime, renowned for his generosity to the Church and to the poor and for his readiness to listen to his subjects' grievances. He died on 5 January 1066, the last of the old Anglo-Saxon line, and his death precipitated the dynastic quarrels that led to the conquest of England by William of Normandy later the same year. On 13 October 1163 his relics were translated to a new shrine in Westminster Abbey.