



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 3 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 / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059
We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes ... Before studying for the priesthood I studied history. My particular specialism was Elizabethan Recusancy or, expressed somewhat differently, the beginnings of Catholic non-conformity in post-reformation England. I remember clearly a turning point in my research. I had spent a year ploughing through the archives, not finding what I expected to find, and becoming increasingly despondent. In the midst of all this my supervisor sat me down and delivered, in a kindly way, a couple of home truths, the nub of which was this. Michael, the project will only live, if you bring it to life. And the only thing that will bring it to life is a spark, and you have to be that spark. I say this, because I believe we as a parish community are at a similar juncture. We have come through the transition from the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and we have come through the current pandemic, and we have come through our Parish Assembly. Now life after the missionaries, life after the pandemic and the pastoral priorities arrived at during the Parish Assembly need to come to life. And yes, as your parish priest, I exercise a key responsibility. I have to be a spark and things need to be brought to life, but a spark needs touch paper, if it is to do this. It needs something to work with. And if the flame is to be something more, that initial fire must give rise to other sparks. All this is a long way of saying that none of us can rest easy if what we want is a vibrant parish community. Certainly, we can plod along, doing what we do, and doing it reasonably well, but surely our whole purpose is more than this. It is to be a light for others, not for ourselves.

The recent Parish Assembly envisaged the continuation, renewal or establishment of several groups or initiatives. Among the initiatives and groups that continue much as they were are You Can Be Santa, Parish Friends and the Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation group. You will see appeals for your continued support and new members, but the pattern of their work remains much the same. The same is true of our Liturgy Group, but before reconstituting the Liturgy Group we need to establish the representation from each of our parish Masses. A start has been made with the 9.30 am mass, largely because a parishioner has taken the initiative in bringing together those who would be interested in co-ordinating this mass, but realistically this particular pastoral priority will not begin to take shape until the new year.

For now, in the run up to Christmas, I would like to concentrate on the membership of four 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; and finally, 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 stalbans@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.

Congratulations to the Brothers of The Sacred Heart on the 200th Anniversary of their Foundation on 30th September 2021. They arrived at St Columba's College in 1955 and are still present today. Their Founder [André Coindre](#) was a survivor of the [French Revolution](#) and out of this experience committed himself to providing for the moral, intellectual and religious development of the many boys orphaned by the upheavals of this era. Coindre became a [priest](#) of the [Diocese of Lyon, France](#) and envisaged men and women trained to work with the poor through education. His vision persists to this day in schools served by the Brothers throughout the world.

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. Please be advised that 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.

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 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 will run on 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

Pastoral Letter for the Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 2-3 October 2021 Please follow [this link](#) for a copy of the pastoral letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster in which he talks about the 'Synodal' pathway which begins on the weekend of 16/17 October.

PARISH NEWS

C.W.L. Meeting date The Catholic Women's League will meet after 10am mass on Tuesday 5 October for coffee and to discuss future events.

Weekday Refreshments Refreshments will be served after 10am mass on Wednesday 6 October. Everyone welcome. Please do come along and make some new friends.

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 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 about 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.

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. All welcome. 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.

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.

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

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 for details.

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 necessary. Children need not attend.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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.

WIDER COMMUNITY

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.

Saint John Henry Newman (1801–1890) was born on 21 February 1801 in London. An Anglican clergyman, he was a renowned preacher and theologian. An Oxford don, he was one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement and a prominent figure in the Church of England. On 9 October 1845 he was received into full communion with the Catholic Church and was later ordained priest on 30 May 1847. He established the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri in Birmingham. He was an influential writer on many subjects, most notably the development of Christian doctrine, the true understanding of conscience, faith and reason, the role of the laity, and university education. In 1879 he was created Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII. He died in the Birmingham Oratory on 11 August 1890. He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010 and canonised by Pope Francis in 2019.

St Francis of Assisi (1181–1226) The son of a prosperous cloth merchant, his father objected to Francis' selling his goods to pay for the restoration of a church. He gave back everything he had ever been given, even his garments, and began a life of poverty, living by begging. He preached the love of God and the love of the created world. Others followed this simple [life](#). Francis wore an old brown garment tied round the middle with string. Ten years later 5,000 men were wearing it. There are many stories about Francis including his setting up of a crib in church to celebrate the Nativity. Praying to share in Christ's passion he had a vision and received the stigmata in his own body. Years of [poverty](#) made Francis ill and blind. His response to suffering was to write his [Canticum](#) of the Sun that expresses his brotherhood with [creation](#) in praising God. Francis died on October 4, 1226 aged 45. He is considered the founder of all Franciscan orders and the patron saint of ecologists and merchants.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 3 October - Vigil - 27TH SUNDAY ORD TIME

6pm Mass Bridie Cottle (RIP)

Sunday 3 October - 27TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

8am Mass Teresa Sequeira (RIP)

9am Mass Eric Harber (RIP)
(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Brendan Kearns (Ann)

11.30am Mass Patrick Curran (Ann)

6pm Mass People of the parish
Reading 1, Genesis 2:18-24, Psalm 128,
Reading 2, Hebrews 2:9-11, Gospel, Mark
10:2-16

Monday 4 October - St Francis of Assisi

10am Mass Sheila Doohan (RIP)

7pm Mass Deceased of Logan & Fitzpatrick families
Reading 1, Jonah 1:1-2:1, Psalm, Jonah 2,
Gospel, Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday 5 October - feria

10am Mass Mabel O'Leary (RIP)
Reading 1, Jonah 3:1-10, Psalm, 130,
Gospel, Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday 6 October - feria

10am Mass Bridget Kearney (Ints)

7pm Mass Frances Byrne (RIP)
Reading 1, Jonah 4:1-11, Psalm, 86
Gospel, Luke 11:1-4

Thursday 7 October - Our Lady of the Rosary

10am Mass Michael Kennedy (RIP)
Reading 1, Malachi 3:13-20, Psalm, 1
Gospel, Luke 11:5-13

Friday 8 October - feria

10am Mass Robert Falloon (RIP)

7pm Mass Maria Luiza de Souza (RIP)
Reading 1, Joel 1:13-15, 2:1-2, Psalm, 9,
Gospel, Luke 11:15-26

Saturday 9 October - ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

10am Mass John Brennan (RIP)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, Psalm, 145
Gospel, Matthew 13:47-52

Saturday 9 October - VIGIL 28TH SUNDAY ORD TIME

6pm Mass John Bernard Freed (RIP) & Anthony John
Freed (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)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches together in St Albans, this week we pray for the pastor and members of London Colney Baptist Church.

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 Tony Stack.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Patrick Curran, Brendan Kearns and Fr John Roche MSC (St Albans 1965-71)

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.

The annual global ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our planet comes to a close this Sunday on the feast day of St Francis. 'Father of all, Creator and ruler of the universe, You entrusted your world to us as a gift. Help us to care for it and all people, that we may live in right relationship with You, with ourselves, with one another, and with creation' **Pope Francis (JP&IC Team)**

The Bible Timeline Course is currently being delivered by Mauro Iannicelli LIVE via YouTube, completely FREE OF CHARGE It will run through to Wed 17 November (Wednesdays 7pm - 8:40pm). 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).