



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS – 31 October 2021



VirginMoneyGiving

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We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Jonathan writes...

I believe in the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of Sins; the Resurrection of the Body; and Life Everlasting.

As we celebrate All Saints' Day - this wonderful Feast of Light and Victory -, we think again of the great multitude of Saints and Martyrs, of men and women, of all ages and nations, who have now entered the Joy of Heaven, where they reign with Christ Our King.

As the People of God on Earth, we lift up our hearts to heaven, confident that our patron saints are interceding before the Throne of God, for us and for our families. Of course, we naturally think of our special patrons - St Alban who lived and prayed here, or maybe St Antony of Padua who always finds our keys when we ask him, or perhaps of St Monica of Africa, that strong mother who prayed for her son.

On this beautiful feast, we also think of those unnamed saints - all the Holy Souls who were saintly people in this life and who are now in Heaven and continue to pray for us. As one Church together, we stop and thank God for sending us these holy Saints who have inspired us by their good example and who strengthen us with blessings from Heaven.

For All Saints, some people put up images of Skeletons. As Catholics, we remember the words of the Prophet Ezekiel: *'Can these old bones live again? ... O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord: 'I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.' I prophesied as God commanded me, and the breath came into the bones, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude of saints.'* (Ezekiel 37: 1 -10)

Trusting in God's promise, we do believe in the Resurrection of the Body and we look forward to the Resurrection of the Dead. Whilst we await that Final Judgement Day, we continue to ask for God's Mercy. As Pope Francis reminds us, it is never too late to ask God for His Divine Mercy.

So it is right, especially in November, to pray for those who have died and to ask God to be merciful to them, that they may soon join all the Saints in Heaven. Indeed, in Sacred Scripture, the prophets proclaim: *'It is therefore holy and pious to pray for the Dead, so that they may be released from their sins.'* (2 Maccabees 12:46)

As we celebrate all the Saints who rejoice in Heaven, let's pray for the souls of the Faithful Departed, that they may quickly enter the Light of Heaven. So you see, Halloween is not a night of darkness, but instead - Halloween is our Celebration of God's Mercy and Light - when we give thanks for all the Saints and we look forward to the Resurrection of body!

St Pope Paul VI said, *"We believe in the Communion of all the faithful of Christ - us here, who are pilgrims journeying through life on earth; the 'Faithful Departed' who are being purified in Purgatory; and the blessed Saints in Heaven - all together we form One Holy Catholic Apostolic Church; and we believe that, in this Communion, the merciful Love of God and His saints is always attentive to our prayers"* (Pope Paul VI)

So on this day, with all Christian people throughout the ages, we too can say: **I believe in the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of Sins; the Resurrection of the body and Life Everlasting. Amen**

Preparing for the Synod - Pray and Participate We pray that the Synod pathway will inspire us to discern the will of the Lord, to enlighten minds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to warm hearts and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.

Synodal Pathway Synod Group discussions are ongoing. Individual surveys will be available from next weekend. We urge everyone to take this unique opportunity to voice their opinions. The Synod page on the website contains information from the Diocese and the Vatican. Two general meetings have been arranged: a virtual Zoom meeting on the 23 November and a face-to-face meeting in our Sacred Heart Parish Hall on 1 December.

SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY

November - Month of the Holy Souls We will hold our annual Novena of Masses for the Holy Souls from 2-10 November, praying the Novena Prayer at all masses. The mass for all those who have died in the past twelve months will be offered on Friday 5 November at 7pm. If you would like to include people in the Holy Souls List, to be placed near the altar, please collect an envelope and leaflet from the Church porch or download a leaflet from our [website](#).

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is to be held on Saturday 4 December at 11.30am. Please email Fr Jonathan at jonstogdon@rcdow.org.uk.

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 from 1 November to 31 December. The programme will begin in 2022.

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 has three sessions: Wednesday 10 (8-10pm), Saturday 13 (10:30am-3.30pm) and Wednesday 17 (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

Knit and Natter This Parish Friends Group is resuming from 2-4pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. All are welcome. Contact Helen on 07860 830340.

Coffee and Tea After Mass Coffee and tea will be available in the Parish Centre coffee bar after 11.30am Mass on the first Sunday of every month: next session Sunday 7 November. Coffee and tea is also available after the 6pm Saturday evening Mass. Can you join a team to make and serve the refreshments, perhaps once a month? If so, please contact the parish office.

C.W.L. Meeting after 10am mass on Tuesday 2 November.

Invitation to join a small group of parishioners for Advent. We meet alternate Tuesday evenings in the Parish Centre 7.45-9.30pm and will be working our way through the Friends of the Holy Land Advent and Christmastide book of 15 poems and reflections following the route of the Holy Family at the time of the birth of Christ and matching that journey to the experience of Christians living in the Holy Land today. Please consider joining us for prayer and confidential sharing of our own stories; come when you are able, there is no ongoing commitment. We will begin this journey on Tuesday 2 November. For more information contact Stan on 765549 or grabecki@hotmail.com.

Traidcraft goods will be available after all Masses on the weekend of 6/7 November. Please try to support this fair-trade venture: we will have our usual range of foods plus Advent Calendars and Christmas cards. Sales help producers and their families in the developing world and all profits made at the Church go to CAFOD. More details from Maureen - 765549, grabecki@hotmail.com.

BINGO By the Knights of St. Columba, at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall on Friday 12 November in aid of the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Admission is 50p to include refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Men's breakfasts on 13 November Following a successful restart of the Men's breakfasts in early October, we have another one planned for Saturday 13 November. We will meet in the parish centre from 8.15 for coffee, croissants and banter. At about 9am we will watch a video on the Nicene Creed, part of a series narrated by Bishop Robert Barron, and aim to finish at 10am. This is a great opportunity to learn more about this prayer and to the key parts of our catholic beliefs. Please contact Richard & Brendan on d4dstalbans@gmail.com for more information.

Carols by Candlelight 2021 Readers, singers and musicians needed for this year's service! If you'd like to take part and can make the dates below, please text Jacquie on 07840 367555 or email cbcstalbins@rcdow.org.uk before Monday 8 November.

- 20 November in hall. 3.30 - 5.30pm Singers only
- 27 November in hall. 2.00 - 3.30pm Singers THEN 4 - 5.45pm Musicians
- 4 December in church. 2.00 - 6.00pm Singers and Musicians together
- 11 December in church. 2.00 - 5.15pm Singers and Musicians and Readers together

You Can Be Santa voucher scheme The YCBS team has identified over 150 children this year and we would really like to be able to help all of them enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. We are appealing for voucher donations (in £5, £10 & £20 denominations please, this will really help when we allocate the vouchers) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos, Amazon & One4All. Thank you very much to everyone who has donated vouchers so far.

If you would like to contribute to the YCBS scheme, please post your voucher/s through the Presbytery door in a clearly marked envelope (YCBS Vouchers). If you are unable to obtain vouchers but would still like to contribute, any monetary donation would be gratefully received and vouchers can be purchased by the YCBS team on your behalf. Vouchers can also be purchased online and sent to the YCBS email address below. Vouchers can be donated until 19 November at which point they will be distributed to the families identified by the YCBS team. For more information, please email stalbinsycbs@rcdow.org.uk.

Annual Blessing of Graves Fr Kevin Moule, parish priest of Radlett, Shenley and London Colney parishes, will be blessing graves on Sunday 7 November. Please see below for the venues and times that this will take place:

- 12.30pm - London Road Cemetery
- 1.30pm - London Colney Cemetery
- 1.45pm - Shenley Cemetery
- 2.00pm Radlett Cemetery

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.

SCHOOLS & NURSERIES

Volunteers needed! The Toddler Group would like to begin meeting again on Monday mornings in the Parish Centre. However, they need more volunteers before they are able to restart the group. If this is something you can help with, please contact the parish office.

St Columba's College Sixth Form Preview Evening Tuesday 9 November from 5:30pm - 8:30pm. During this event, applicants will have the opportunity to tour the recently refurbished Sixth Form centre, and talk to current Sixth Form students, teachers and members of the Sixth Form and College Leadership Teams. There will also be an opportunity to attend a short presentation by Headmaster the Head of Sixth Form on our website '[Visit Us](#)' page by clicking on the '[Sixth Form Preview Evening](#)' event.

'St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School Open Days The school will be holding the following Open Days for families wishing to apply for Reception spaces for September 2022: Tuesday 2; Wednesday 3; Tuesday 9, Tuesday 16, Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 November. Please join us at 9:30 a.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. 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. Please contact christophergov@sjfisher.herts.sch.uk to learn more.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Vinnie Packs for the Homeless The SVP are distributing 11,500 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.70 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support!

A message from CAFOD: Thank you for supporting our Climate Crisis Appeal for our recent Family Fast Day. Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from 31 October to 12 November. Please pray that that world leaders will put the needs of marginalised communities around the world, those most affected by climate change, right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information click [here](#).

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

The Sick & Retired Priests' collection is next weekend The second collection next week will be for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential costs and give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met. This is our chance to say thank you to our sick and retired priests who have given so much. You will find a donation envelope at the back of the church today. Please take one home, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill. You can donate [online](#) and the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online.

Leaving a Legacy 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 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.

Virgin Media Giving You may have already heard that Virgin Money Giving – the online donation platform used throughout the diocese – is to close at the end of November 2021. From that date monthly donations will be cancelled automatically by Virgin Money Giving. The diocese will be setting up new online giving tools but this will take a little time to arrange. It is worth remembering that the best way to support the parish is by standing order.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 30 October – VIGIL ALL SAINTS

6pm Mass Annie Coakley (RIP)

Sunday 31 October – ALL SAINTS

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Frank Hannan (RIP)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

11.30am Mass Martin Brosnan (Ann)

6pm Mass Maria Louiza de Souza (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14, Responsorial Psalm, 24

Reading 2, 1 John 3:1-3, Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12

Monday 1 November – feria

10am Mass People of the parish

7pm Mass Deceased members of the Moore family

Reading 1, Romans 11:29-36

Responsorial Psalm, 69, Gospel, Luke 14:12-14

Tuesday 2 November – THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)

10am Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Wisdom 3:1-9, Responsorial Psalm, 23

Wednesday 3 November – feria

10am Mass Holy Souls – for deceased brothers and sisters

7pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Romans 13:8-10

Responsorial Psalm, 112, Gospel, Luke 14:25-33

Thursday 4 November – St Charles Borromeo

10am Mass Holy Souls - for deceased victims of violence

Reading 1, Romans 14:7-12

Responsorial Psalm, 27, Gospel, Luke 15:1-10

Friday 5 November – feria

10am Mass Holy Souls

7pm Mass All those who have died since November 2020

Reading 1, Romans 15:14-21

Responsorial Psalm, 98, Gospel, Luke 16:1-8

Saturday 6 November – Memoria of Blessed Virgin Mary

10am Mass Holy Souls

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27

Responsorial Psalm, 145, Gospel, Luke 16:9-15

Saturday 6 November VIGIL 32ND SUNDAY OF ORD TIME

6pm Mass Holy Souls – for deceased parents/grandparents

Sunday 7 November 32ND SUNDAY OF ORD TIME

8am Mass Holy Souls

9am Mass Holy Souls

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am Mass Holy Souls - for all who have died in War

6pm Mass Bridget & Terence Molloy (Ann)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans, we pray for the members of St Albans Quakers.

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 Antonio Joaquim Rosado Alipio, Fr. Dan O'Neill and Eddie Riley.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Martin Brosnan, Mary Comer, Bridget & Terence Molloy.

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.

Welcoming all new parishioners!

Please see the new [page](#) on our website with useful information for those who are new to our parish. An online **New Parishioner Registration Form** can be found on the webpage. Please complete this form if you have not already registered as a new parishioner 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.

Parish Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Team –
On this day we remember & pray, with gratitude, for all who have been kind to us throughout our lives.