



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 14 November 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

Synod process Thanks to those who have already completed the Individual survey, do remember this can be done [online](#) or on a paper copy available in the porch or by e-mail. Deadline for completion is this Tuesday 16 November.

There will be two general meetings open to anybody wishing to contribute to our parish response:

- Virtual Zoom Meeting on at 7.45pm on Tuesday 23 November:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84590583620?pwd=VEtpbEFhU2FhUmIzazRpSitpckVBZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 9058 3620 Passcode: 798671

- A face-to-face meeting in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.45pm on Wednesday 1 December.

Preparing for the Synod - Pray and Participate On our Synodal journey may the Holy Spirit inspire us to follow the Pope's plea to reach out to those of other faiths, those who no longer attend church and the marginalised.

National Youth FUNday, 19 November 2021 In preparation for World Youth Sunday, everyone is invited to join in with National Youth FUNday, a live interactive day of quizzes, prayer, input and activities for schools and families, all live streamed on the CYMFed YouTube channel. Last year over 33,000 young people joined in nationwide. To participate please sign up at <https://worldyouthsunday.com/funday>

World Youth Sunday, 21 November 2021 (the Feast of Christ the King) National Youth Sunday is now World Youth Sunday and it is a unique opportunity to celebrate the role and significance of young people in the Catholic Church in England and Wales along with the global Church. The theme this year is, "Stand Up! I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen!" (Acts 26:16). CYMFed has produced resources for schools, parishes, families and individuals available at <https://worldyouthsunday.com> Please join us in prayers on that day.

Job Opportunities at SPEC Retreat Centre in Pinner Westminster Youth Ministry is recruiting a Senior Retreat Leader and two Retreat Leaders. These are live-out job roles crucial to restarting retreat programmes at SPEC Retreat Centre while emerging from the period of lock-downs. To be part of these exciting opportunities, and for more information and application form please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk>

Caritas Advent Giving Calendar Click [here](#) for an advent calendar with a difference. Each day a different item is suggested for donation to a local food bank or food project.

Write to your MP regarding the Nationality and Borders Bill Caritas Westminster and the Jesuit Refugee Service are urging Catholics to write to their MPs about the Nationality and Borders Bill. The proposals in this Bill are unfair, unjust and will not work. They also do nothing to address the root causes of forced migration and trafficking. Find out more and how to respond [here](#).

Afghan refugee support Support is still needed for those who have arrived from Afghanistan in recent months, particularly teaching English and finding accommodation, but also general befriending. Caritas Westminster are leading our diocesan response. To find out more click These leaflets can be found here, or visit www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/afghan-refugees.php. The next Network Meeting for those involved with Refugees and Migrants is on Thursday 9 December and will focus on Community Sponsorship. All are welcome, even if your parish is not yet involved in any refugee project. If you want to know more about this in the meantime, please contact Rosa at Caritas Westminster rosalewis@rcdow.org.uk

Marlborough Road Methodist Church are collecting NEW pants and socks for men, women and children to be distributed to Afghan refugees in our locality. Please contact ann@masonscorer.plus.com for further information.

SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY

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 Masses Please remember in your prayers those children celebrating their First Holy Communion in November.

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](#).

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. 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

Winter Beds Project The Winter Beds Project provides accommodation over the winter for people who would otherwise be sleeping rough in St Albans. We are looking for volunteers to help run. Can you help with co-ordinating volunteers, setting up and greeting guests, checking guests out and cleaning, laundry? One training session to be held on Monday 15 Nov 7:30-9:30pm (via Zoom) and repeated on Monday 22 Nov 7:30-9:30pm (via Zoom). For more information, please get in touch by [email](#).

Parish Friends - Coffee after mass Parish Friends would like to invite you to join them for refreshments after 10am mass on Wednesday 17 November. Everyone welcome.

Knit and Natter The next knit and natter meetings is on 23 November. Please come and join us. All welcome.

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 the month. Coffee and tea is also available after the 6pm Saturday evening Mass. Can you help make and serve the refreshments, once a month? If so, please contact the parish office.

Praying together over Advent. You are invited to join a small group of parishioners who meet in the Cafe area of the Hall at 7.45pm: our next meetings are on Tuesday 16 & 30 November and 14 December. We will be looking at the life of the Holy Family at the time of the birth of Jesus, what life is like today in the Holy Land and examining our own lives. Our starting point is the Annunciation and we will be using the beautiful Friends of the Holy Land Advent & Christmastide booklet. Our group is confidential, you can come when you are able and there are no expectations on anyone. More details from Stan grabecki@hotmail.com,

765549. If you wish to order a copy of the book, please use the link - [Friends of the Holy Land booklet](#)

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 cbstalbins@rcdow.org.uk by 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 - 5.30pm 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 **200 children** this year and we would really like to be able to help all of them enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. This is a reminder that vouchers can be donated until **19 November** at which point they will be distributed to the families identified by the YCBS team. Thank you to everyone who has donated vouchers so far. **We are now collecting voucher donations (in £5, £10 & £20 denominations please, as this will really help when we allocate the vouchers).** If you would like to contribute, 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 stalbinsycbs@rcdow.org.uk.

Parish Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) This Thursday 18 November 7.30pm in the Sacred Heart Centre, monthly gathering for prayer, discussion & action on issues concerning JPIC. All welcome!

Second collection - Sick & Retired Priests' Fund Thank you for so generously supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection last weekend. Our priests give us years of dedicated service and it is only right that, together, we ensure they live out their days with the care they need. If you didn't get the chance to donate, it's not too late. Envelopes are still available in the back of the church or from the parish office, and you can give [online](#). Please keep our sick and retired priests in your prayers.

SCHOOLS & NURSERIES

School Certificates of Catholic Practice For parents and guardians needing to obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice to accompany their child's school application, Fr Michael will be available at the Presbytery at 7.30-8.30pm on Wednesday 24 and 4.00-6.30pm on Friday 26 November. No appointment is necessary and children need not attend.

St. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery The application process for Reception & Nursery admissions in 2022-23 is now open. You are very welcome to join us at one of our Open Mornings on 24 November and 15 December from 9.30-11.00am to find out more. Please email admin@ssaas.herts.sch.uk if you wish to book a place. Full details on how to apply can be found on our [website](#).

St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School Open Days The school will be holding Open Days for families wishing to apply for Reception spaces for September 2022: Tuesday 16, 23 or Wednesday 24 November. Please join us at 9:30 a.m.

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 representatives of the bishop on the school board and need to be practising Catholics. To learn more, please contact christophergov@sjfisher.herts.sch.uk

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Homewood Road URC St Albans Homewood Road URC is seeking to appoint a part time pastoral assistant and a part time youth and families worker. The application deadline is 22 November. For full details please view the vacancies section of the website www.homewoodurc.org.

National Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life On Wednesday 17 November, Vigil of the Dedication of the Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. On this month's Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life, we are especially asking you to fast and pray for the end of DIY abortions at home. Please do join in and invite others to join as well. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

Five Bible Studies on the Advent Sunday Gospels Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Advent Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. As a result, you will experience Sunday Mass in a new way! Five Wednesdays: 24 Nov, 1 Dec, 8 Dec, 15 Dec, 22 Dec (7-8pm UK Time). Free of Charge. Live sessions on YouTube. Info and registration [here](#).

Vinnie Packs for the Homeless The SVP are distributing 11,500 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please 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 to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 46088237. Thank you for your support!

Mary's Meals Our thoughtful gifts make a real difference to the lives of children living in the world's poorest countries – including those affected by natural disasters, conflict, and the ongoing Covid pandemic. And this year, donations made through our gift cards and life-changing gifts will be doubled, thanks to a group of generous supporters who

have vowed to match donations made before 31 January 2022, up to £1.6 million. To send one of your loved ones a truly meaningful gift this Christmas, [order online](#) or call us on 0800 698 1212. Together, we can reach even more hungry children with a life-changing school meal.

Walk with Amal London welcomed Little Amal. She visited the market; the Opera House and St. Paul's Cathedral. She celebrated her 10th birthday at the V&A with children from all over London. There was a special service at Westminster Cathedral before she left for Oxford and the rest of her journey reaching Manchester on 3rd November for a spectacular finale. It has been a wonderful venture to bring awareness to the refugee problem which is worldwide. If you would like to learn how Hertfordshire Welcomes refugees, come to our very own cultural event on Sunday 21 November at 7.30pm in Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden. Tickets are £10 per person and all proceeds to go to Herts Welcomes Refugees. For more information and tickets please phone Margaret Cox 01582 713727.

Night Under the Stars concert The Passage, a Christian Charity working with homeless people, is holding a fundraising concert at the Royal Festival Hall on Thursday 25 November on the theme Bohemian Rhapsody, featuring popular works by Dvořák, Mahler and Smetana. The performers include Andrei Ioniță, Cello; Anush Kovhannisyan, Soprano; Streetwise Opera; Toby Purser, Conductor; and the Orion Orchestra. Full details [here](#).

Inter Faith Week 2021 begins on Sunday 14 November. It highlights the contribution of faith groups to society; encourages greater inter faith understanding and cooperation and also dialogue between those of religious and non-religious beliefs. More information [here](#).

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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 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 Please be aware that VMG, the online donation platform used throughout the diocese, is to close at the end of November. From then monthly donations will be cancelled automatically by VMG. The diocese will be setting up new online giving tools but the best way to support the parish is by standing order.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 13 November VIGIL 33RD SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

6pm Mass Deceased members of the Catenian Association

Sunday 14 November 33RD SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

8am Mass Holy Souls

9am Mass Mary Thomasina Fitzpatrick (RIP)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Freda and George Sumner (RIP)

11.30am Mass Mary Anne Curren (RIP)

6pm Mass People of the parish

Reading 1, Daniel 12:1-3, Responsorial Psalm, 16, Reading 2,

Hebrews 10:11-14,18, Gospel, Mark 13:24-32

Monday 15 November - feria

10am Mass Michael Clarke (Ann)

7pm Mass Peter Celestine Okoru (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-64

Responsorial Psalm, 119, Gospel, Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday 16 November - St Edmund of Abingdon

10am Funeral Mass for Angela Maher

Reading 1, 2 Maccabees 6:18-31

Responsorial Psalm, 3, Gospel, Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday 17 November - feria

10am Mass Patricia Pearce (first anniversary)

7pm Mass Martin Cooper (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Maccabees 7:1,20-31

Responsorial Psalm, 17, Gospel, Luke 19:11-28

Thursday 18 November - feria

10am Mass Deceased family and friends of Sieglinde Wilson (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Maccabees 2:15-29

Responsorial Psalm, 50, Gospel, Luke 19:41-44

Friday 19 November - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Mary Rainforth

7pm Mass Tom McCoy (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Maccabees 4:36-37,52-59

Responsorial Psalm, 1 Chronicles, Gospel, Luke 19:45-48

Saturday 20 November - Memoria of Blessed Virgin Mary

10am No Morning Mass

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, 1 Maccabees 6:1-13

Responsorial Psalm, 9, Gospel, Luke 20:27-40

Saturday 20 November VIGIL OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe

6pm Mass George, John, Pauline and Bella Taites (RIP)

Sunday 21 November OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, King of the Universe

8am Mass People of the Parish

9am Mass Cliff Staniforth (RIP)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass President's Mass for Luton Catenian Circle

11.30am Mass Eric Gosling (Ann)

6pm Mass Andrew Burke (RIP)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans, we pray for the members of Forest Town Church St Albans.

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 Angela Maher, Con McGowan, Mary Rainforth and Ellen Mary Small.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Michael Clarke, Eric Gosling and Patricia Pearce.

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.

Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Team (JPIC)

On this World day of prayer for the poor, let us pray for all those who are struggling to survive on too little.