



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST King of the Universe - 21 November 2021**



Contactless Giving

Parish Team: Fr Michael O'Boy (Parish Priest) Fr Jonathan Stogdon  
Rev. Steve Pickard (Deacon) Rev. Brendan Day (Deacon) Mrs Angela Gray (Parish Administrator)  
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*We are a Fairtrade parish*

*Deacon Brendan writes....*

### **Healing Mass- Saturday 27 November at 11:30am**

Whether it is our departure from the EU or negotiating the challenges occasioned by Covid and our pathway through it, the last couple of years have been marked by upheaval, an upheaval that has run deep in our society, our families, our parish. That upheaval that has touched on so many aspects of our daily life and where there is upheaval or dislocation there is plenty of scope for disagreement and division, within families, between friends, among colleagues. Differences can rumble on and last a long time. They can be unsettling, and those living through them left in anguish and pain. Alongside the pain and anguish occasioned by division and disagreement there is also the pain and anguish that comes with bereavement and loss; the loss of loved ones taken from us suddenly without warning and well before their time, the loss of jobs that we thought secure, the loss of future hopes and expectations.

Advent is a time of preparation, we look forward to the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, a time therefore that should be full of much joy and celebration; but where there is hurt and division, where these things are allowed to fester, it can be difficult to enter into that joy. Indeed, it's often said that when we hold a grudge, when we continue to be upset or to hold on to a pain which others may not even be aware of, a pain which is not always physical, then that can prevent us from enjoying life to the full, from having what God wants for us. Here, healing is needed.

To help us prepare for the Advent season a Mass of healing will be held on Saturday 27 November at 11.30am. The invitation is simple. To hand over to the Lord those things that cause us pain; to ask for healing in our bodies, in our minds, in our souls, that we might live in peace, and be able to look forward with joy to Christmas.

For those whose health has noticeably deteriorated there will be an opportunity to be anointed, for others who aren't seriously ill, with general aches and pains or other non-life threatening conditions, there will be a prayer of blessing, and for all, once Mass has ended, there will be a team of prayer ministers who can pray with and over you, calling down the power of the Holy Spirit to come to your aid, whatever your need, or the needs of those close to you.

Come, ask for healing, for yourself, for our community, and be made ready to celebrate once again the birth of the baby Jesus. Later in the Advent season there will also be an opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation and rejoice in the healing and grace that comes from that understanding of being a loved and forgiven child of God.

**Synodal Journey Extension** We have just heard that the Diocese has extended its deadline for Parish responses, so replies to the Individual surveys either online LINK or on paper can now be sent in, together with any group responses, by the 30 November. A suggestion voiced by other parishioners is to canvass the opinions of those you know who no longer attend church, their views would be very useful in this discernment process.

Please do attend one of the Parish Meetings and share your views whether or not you have completed a survey:

· Virtual Zoom Meeting on at 7.45pm on Tuesday 23 November (Meeting ID: 845 9058 3620 Passcode: 798671)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84590583620?pwd=VEtpbEFhU2FzUmIzazRpSitpckVBZz09>

· Or if you prefer a face-to-face meeting will be held in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.45pm on Wednesday 1 December.

Don't miss these unique opportunities to voice your opinion on the future of our Church!

**Preparing for the Synod - Pray and Participate** Let us pray that our Synodal journey will build on the strengths of our parish initiatives that help us to meet the needs of the marginalised and disadvantaged in our community.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**Christmas Day Lunch** We hope to be able to offer lunch on Christmas Day to any parishioner who may otherwise be alone that day. Assuming pandemic conditions do not worsen, the meal will be served at 1pm in the parish hall as in previous years. We already have volunteer cooks, but volunteers are needed to help set up the room on Christmas Eve, give lifts on the day, and clear up afterwards. If you are able to help, please email the parish office [stalbans@rcdow.or.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.or.uk) heading the email 'Christmas Day Lunch'.

**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](#).

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

**BINGO** Thank you to everyone that supported our recent Bingo evening. The amount raised for the St. Vincent de Paul Society was £175-00. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 10 December at 8.00pm.

**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 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](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com), 765549. If you wish to order a copy of the book, please use the link - [Friends of the Holy Land booklet](#).

**Developing Our Faith as Adults** Our Parish Assembly highlighted the need to promote and facilitate ongoing faith formation for adults beyond sacramental preparation. A key aspect of formation is the need to deepen our understanding of the Mass. The Adult Faith Formation group will investigate ways to address this, in addition to organising parish retreats and pilgrimages, coordinating Lent and Advent courses, and promoting the small prayer communities in our parish. Could you help? The AFF group will meet for just one and a half hours each month either via Zoom or by face to face meeting in the Parish Centre. If you are interested in planning adult faith formation in our parish, please email the parish office on [stalbans@rcdow.or.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.or.uk) heading the email 'AFF'.

**You Can Be Santa 'Voucher' Scheme 2021** Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to this year's scheme. We are now in the process of allocating and distributing all the vouchers to the 210 children on our list. We are very close to being able to give every child the gift of a voucher this Christmas. If you would still like to donate, we would be very grateful to receive vouchers (in £5, £10 or £20 denominations please from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos, Amazon & One4All) or monetary donations anytime during the w/c 22 November. Please post your voucher/s through the Presbytery door in a clearly marked envelope (YCBS Vouchers). Thank you for all your support and good wishes for the YCBS scheme.

**Second collection - Sick & Retired Priests' Fund** Thank you for so generously supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. £1,026.10 was raised from this retiring collection.

**Second collection - SVP** There will be a second collection next weekend to support the work of SVP.

## 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.

**Loreto College (St Albans) Admissions Criteria 2023/24 – Consultation** The Governors of Loreto College recently agreed to propose some changes to the admissions criteria for 2023/24 – the full details are available on the school website on the Secondary Transfer [page](#). The school would welcome any written comments that you may wish to make – these should be sent to Mrs S Williams at the address above (or via [email](#)) by the closing date of the formal consultation, 9am on 31 January 2022. The school will not be able to acknowledge or respond individually to comments, however, they will be taken into account when the Full Governing Body meet at the end of the period of consultation, the 2023/24 Admissions Criteria will be determined by 28 February 2022.

**St. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery** The application process for Reception & Nursery admissions in 2022-23 is now open. Please 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](mailto: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 23 or Wednesday 24 November. Please join us at 9:30 a.m.

**St John Fisher School Consultation** The Governors of St John Fisher Catholic Primary School have recently taken the decision to initiate the consultation process regarding the acquisition of academy status and joining the existing All Saints Catholic Academy Trust. The governors have produced a booklet on the implications of becoming an academy which is available on the school's [website](#). The closing date for consultation is 10 December 2021.

**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](http://www.homewoodurc.org).

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**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](#).

**Westminster Diocese's Agency for Evangelisation - online sessions with Fr Richard Nesbitt over Advent and Christmastide.** The dates are Tuesday 30 November, Thursday 9, 16 & 23 December, Tuesday 4 January, at 8.00pm. Please register [here](#) beforehand. You will then receive the Zoom link details. The book is available at £9.99

including UK p&p, by emailing [here](#). Also available as an e-book at a price of £7.99, using Issuu. Browse the first chapter of the book [here](#) before you buy.

**Mary's Meals** Our thoughtful gifts make a real difference to children living in the world's poorest countries – including those affected by natural disasters, conflict, and the ongoing Covid pandemic. 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 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 3 November for a spectacular finale. 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 pp and all proceeds 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. Full details [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 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 Holy Souls

11.30am Mass Eric Gosling (Ann)

6pm Mass Andrew Burke (RIP)

Reading 1 Daniel 7:13-14, Responsorial Psalm, 93

Reading 2, Apocalypse 1:5-8, Gospel, John 18:33-37

### **Monday 22 November - St Cecilia**

10am Mass Karen Brennan (RIP)

7pm Mass James de Souza (RIP)

Reading 1, Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20,

Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:52-56, Gospel, Luke 21:1-4

### **Tuesday 23 November - feria**

10am Mass Anna Evelyn and John Cronin (RIP)

Reading 1, Daniel 2:31-45

Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:57-61, Gospel, Luke 21:5-11

### **Wednesday 24 November - St Andrew Dung-Lac**

10am Mass Deceased members of the Bagge family and

Elaine Gatta (RIP)

7pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Daniel 5:1-6,13-17,23-28

Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3: 62-67, Gospel, Luke 21:12-19

### **Thursday 25 November - feria**

10am Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Daniel 6:12-28

Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:68-74, Gospel, Luke 21:20-28

### **Friday 26 November - feria**

10am Mass Sr Mary Dominic (Ints)

7pm Mass Mary Jones (RIP)

Reading 1, Daniel 7:2-14

Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:75-81, Gospel, Luke 21:29-33

### **Saturday 27 November - Memoria of Blessed Virgin Mary**

10am Mass Eddie Mansfield (RIP)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Daniel 7:15-27

Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:82-87, Gospel, Luke 21:34-36

### **Saturday 27 November VIGIL FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

6pm Mass Winifred Sudell (RIP)

### **Sunday 28 November FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Richard Field (RIP)

(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass Paddy Chronnell (RIP)

11.30am Mass Helena Cuneen (Ann)

6pm Mass Mary Malik (Ann)

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans, we pray for the minister and members of Hatfield Road Methodist 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 Mary Rainforth and Ellen Mary Small.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Helena Cuneen, Eric Gosling and Mary Malik.

*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)

The Earth is our precious home. May all mankind come together to love and protect our beautiful planet, and to do all we can to ensure the living things that share our home survive.