



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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Contactless Giving

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - For 19 DECEMBER 2021 to 2 JANUARY 2022**

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*

*Fr Jonathan writes...* Thank you all for your support and kindness. It's sad to be moving parishes and I shall miss you, but I promise to continue to pray for each of you. Please also keep me in your prayers. May St Alban our Martyr protect you always. I commend you and your families into the loving care of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. God bless.

*Fr Michael writes...* This will be the final bulletin for this year. At its outset I suspect we all hoped that it would be a very different year to its predecessor, a year when things returned to normal. Twelve months on things have got somewhat better, but we are still living with the pandemic and consequent restrictions. Parish life continues to be impacted. Our sacramental programmes and celebrations are still impacted, as is the usual round of parish activities, while our Sunday attendance is just under two thirds of what it was in March 2020.

I was sat having a coffee in the Quadrant during the week, reading my book of choice, 'Poems that make Grown Men Cry'. One of the commentators had penned these words, 'to live is to harbour so many profound losses'. Oftentimes loss and grief is something we carry personally, even alone. Sure, there may be family and friends to accompany us, but the world carries on. In contrast the losses occasioned by the pandemic, certainly as they touch on parish life, are things we carry together. They have affected us together, all at once.

Soon we will celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will rejoice in the coming of the one whose birth makes all things new; whose living, death and resurrection, paves a way through life's challenges and loss. In his birth we discover an antidote to loss, in his birth we find hope. May that hope find a home in our hearts and minds, may it shape and colour the pattern of our lives.

With my prayers and all good wishes for you and your families this Christmas, and in the year ahead. Fr Michael

**Carols by Candlelight 2021** We are experiencing some technical difficulties but hope to broadcast this year's Carols by Candlelight at 7.30pm on Thursday 23 December. Please follow this [link](#) or visit the parish [website](#). Subscribers to our YouTube channel will be notified automatically of the service's availability.

**Christmas Masses** Please note that the 5 pm, 7pm & 9pm masses on Christmas eve are now fully booked. Please remember, when booking for the remaining masses, to complete a registration form for each person attending.

**Christmas Offering** Traditionally the collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is your offering to the priests of the parish and is used to fund their monthly stipend in the year ahead. The collection will be taken after each mass. If you would like to give electronically, the best way to do this is by bank transfer, giving 'Christmas Offering' as a reference. The banks details are: HSBC-69 Pall Mall, Account name: WRCDT St Albans, Sort Code: 40-05-20, Account No: 21094696

**Next Bulletin** available on the weekend of 8/9 January 2022

**Christmas Posters** are still available in the porch. Please take one to put in a window.

### 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.

**Synod Pray and participate** We thank the Holy Spirit for inspiring our responses to the listening phase of our Synodal journey together.

## LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

**Booking for Christmas Masses** There will be four Masses on Christmas Eve at 5.00pm, 7.00pm, 9.00pm and 11.00pm and three Masses on Christmas Morning at 8.00am, 9.30am and 11.30am. This year there will be no particular children's Mass but the first three Masses will be designated as 'family' friendly. The 11.00pm will begin promptly at 11.00pm. There will be no service of carols beforehand. Attendance at these Masses will be limited to 150 and you are asked to pre-book your place. To register, please click on the 'Christmas Services' box on our website homepage or follow this [link](#).

**St Stephen's Day – 26 December** On Sunday 26 December there will be Masses at 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.30am & 6.00pm in the main church and at 9.00am at Marshalswick. People will not need to book for these Masses.

**Marshalswick Masses** There will be no Marshalswick Mass on Christmas Day as the likely numbers will make it difficult to maintain social distancing. There will however be Mass on St Stephen's Day, Sunday 26 December, at 9.00am. Please note that the school wish to carry out essential maintenance work in early January, so there will be no Sunday morning Masses at Marshalswick on 2 and 9 January.

**Mass Attendance** As is our current practice, those attending services at St Alban and St Stephen and at St John Fisher, Marshalswick are asked to wear a face mask (unless medically exempt), to sanitise their hands on entering and leaving the building, to socially distance and to receive communion on the hand. Those who do not wish to receive on the hand should come up to Holy Communion last.

**Sacrament of Baptism** The next baptism preparation course is to be held on Saturday 26 February at 11.30am. Please email Fr Jonathan at [jonstogdon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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 before 31 December via the parish [website](#). The classes for the children will begin on Saturday 22 January with a parent meeting on Friday 14 January at 7.45 pm. Further details will be emailed shortly to those who have registered for the First Holy Communion.

**Confirmation 2022** Parents and guardians of those due to celebrate their confirmation next summer (currently year 10 or above) are invited to register online before 31 December via the parish website. Please go to the 'Sacraments' tab and click on '[Confirmation](#)'. Confirmation classes will begin on Sunday 27 February and will take place every two weeks. Further details will be emailed shortly to those who have registered for Confirmation.

**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

**Bingo** Thank you to everyone that supported our recent Bingo and helped to raise £220.00 for LIFE. Our next Bingo evening is scheduled for 8pm on 14 January. A very Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone.

**Christmas Day Takeaway Lunch - DRIVERS NEEDED** The Christmas Day lunch will again be offered as a takeaway meal this year, providing there are enough volunteer drivers to deliver the meals. If you would like to receive lunch on Christmas Day, please email the parish office on [stalbans@rcdow.or.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.or.uk) heading the email 'Christmas Day Takeaway Lunch'. If you could collect a meal from the parish hall at 1pm on Christmas Day and deliver it to a parishioner locally, please [email](#) the parish office heading the email 'Christmas Day Lunch- DRIVER'.

**Knit and Natter** It has been decided not to have any more Knit and Natter meetings until the New Year.

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group** Our next gathering will be in the Sacred Heart Centre on 20 January.

**Winter Beds Project** A new training session has been arranged for Wednesday 29 December 7.30 - 9.15pm. Joining instructions available [here](#).

**Citizen's Advice - We're here to help** We are providing our full advice service online and over the phone as well as some face-to-face appointments. Our service is free and confidential. Whatever your problem we're here to help. We can help with money and debt, benefits, housing, reducing energy bills, employment, family issues, form filling or applying for a Blue Badge. And we can help you understand and write letters. Call St Albans on 01727 811118 or Herts Adviceline: 0800 144 8848. We are open Monday to Thursday 10am to 4pm or face-to-face at The Hub, Civic Centre, St Peter Street, 10am to 1pm. For general information visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

**School Certificates of Catholic Practice** Fr Michael will be available to sign these at the Presbytery from 4-6.30pm on Tuesday 4 January. No appointment is necessary and children need not attend.

**Westminster Cathedral's annual Christmas Celebration -** Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 December at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:30pm, with organ music from 7pm. The programme includes Advent and Christmas choral music sung by the world-famous Cathedral Choir, as well as favourite congregational carols. This year's selection of readings ranges from the Scriptures to writers such as GK Chesterton, all read by an array of celebrity readers. Tickets are now available at [Ticketmaster](#).

### PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for:

- The minister and members of the City Church (19 December)
- The New Testament Church of God (26 December)
- St Mary's Church Childwick (2 January)
- St Peter's Church (9 January)

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 Patrick Geoghegan, Mary Grant, Jack O'Mahony, Dorothy Mary Peacock, Assunta Potuik, Alexander Vengler Emilio Viscogliosi and Bob Wan.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Pascale Al-Basri, Margaret Brian, John Darby, Vito La Monica, Thomas McGovern, Mary Micallef, Agnes O'Boy, Robert O'Sullivan, John Rowland, Molly Screene and Carmela Sellecchia

*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.

### MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

#### **Saturday 18 December VIGIL 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

6pm Mass Agnes O'Boy (Ann)

#### **Sunday 19 December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8am Mass Holy Souls

9am Mass Maureen Phillips Thanksgiving Intention  
(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass Graham Smith (RIP)

11.30am Mass Mary Anne Curren (RIP)

6pm Mass People of the Parish

Reading 1, Micah 5:1-4, Responsorial Psalm, 80

Reading 2, Hebrews 10:5-10, Gospel, Luke 1:39-45

#### **Monday 20 December - Advent FERIA**

10am Mass Brendan McVeigh

7pm Mass Maria Luiza de Souza (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm, 24, Gospel, Luke 1:26-38

#### **Tuesday 21 December - Advent FERIA**

10am Mass Pascale Al-Basri (Ann)

Reading 1, Song of Songs 2:8-14

Responsorial Psalm, 33, Gospel, Luke 1:39-45

#### **Wednesday 22 December - Advent FERIA**

10am Mass Brian Page (RIP)

7pm Mass Mary Jones (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Samuel 1:24-28

Responsorial Psalm, 1 Samuel 2, Gospel, Luke 1:46-56

#### **Thursday 23 December - Advent FERIA**

10am Mass Karen Brennan (RIP)

Reading 1, Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24

Responsorial Psalm, 25, Gospel, Luke 1:57-66

#### **Friday 24 December - - Advent FERIA**

10am Mass Margaret Sweeney (RIP)

5pm Mass for Christmas Priest's Intention

7pm Mass for Christmas Priest's Intention

9pm Mass for Christmas People of the Parish

11pm Mass during the Night Priest's Intention

Reading 1, 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Responsorial Psalm, 89, Gospel, Luke 1:67-69

#### **Saturday 25 December - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

8am Mass Priest's Intention

9.30am People of the Parish

11.30am Priest's Intention

Reading 1, Isaiah 52:7-10, Responsorial Psalm, 98

Reading 2, Hebrews 1:1-6, Gospel, John 1:1-18

**Afghanistan Crisis Appeal** CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD [website](#) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### **Sunday 26 December – ST STEPHEN**

8am Mass Elizabeth Haggerty (RIP)  
9am Mass People of the Parish  
(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)  
9.30am Mass Linda Peters (RIP)  
11.30am Mass Carmela Sellicchia (Ann)  
6pm Mass Alec Anderson (RIP)  
Reading 1 Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-55  
Responsorial Psalm 31, Gospel, Matthew 10:17-22

### **Monday 27 December – ST JOHN**

10am Mass Vito La Monica (first anniversary)  
7pm No Evening Mass  
Reading 1, 1 John 1:1-4  
Responsorial Psalm, 97, Gospel, John 20:2-8

### **Tuesday 28 December – THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

10am Mass Holy Souls  
Reading 1, 1 John 1:5-2:2  
Responsorial Psalm, 124, Gospel, Matthew 2:13-18

### **Wednesday 29 December – ST THOMAS BECKET**

10am No Morning Mass  
7pm Mass Reza Tanha (RIP)  
Reading 1, Colossians 1:24-29  
Responsorial Psalm, 23, Gospel, Matthew 10:28-33

### **Thursday 30 December – 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS**

10am Mass Eileen Durie (RIP)  
Reading 1, 1 John 2:12-17  
Responsorial Psalm, 96, Gospel, Luke 2:36-40

### **Friday 31 December – 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS**

10am Funeral Mass for Bob Wan  
7pm Mass People of the Parish  
Reading 1, 1 John 2:18-21  
Responsorial Psalm, 96, Gospel, John 1:1-18

### **Saturday 1 January – SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

10am Mass People of the Parish  
10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession  
Reading 1, Numbers 6:22-27, Responsorial Psalm, 67  
Reading 2, Galatians 4:4-7, Gospel, Luke 2:16-21

### **Saturday 1 January VIGIL 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY**

6pm Mass Deceased members of the Peters family

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### **Sunday 2 January - 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY**

8am Mass People of the Parish  
9am Mass Peter Busby (RIP)  
(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)  
9.30am Mass Noleen Devlin (Ints)  
11.30am Mass Alexander Vengler (Ann)  
6pm Mass Bridget Kearney (Ints)  
Reading 1, Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12  
Responsorial Psalm 147  
Reading 2, Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18, Gospel John 1:1-18

### **Monday 3 January – Christmas feria**

10am Mass Roger Dew (RIP)  
7pm Mass Anne & Michael Quinn (Ints)  
Reading 1, 1 John 2:29-3:6  
Responsorial Psalm, 98, Gospel, John 1:29-34

### **Tuesday 4 Jan - Christmas feria**

10am Mass Pat Dorman (RIP)  
Reading 1, 1 John 3:7-10  
Responsorial Psalm, 98, Gospel, John 1:35-42

### **Wednesday 5 January – Christmas feria**

10am Funeral Mass for Emilio Viscogliosi  
7pm Mass John Rowland (first anniversary)  
Reading 1, 1 John 3:11-21  
Responsorial Psalm, 100, Gospel, John 1:43-51

### **Thursday 6 January – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

10am Mass People of the Parish  
Reading 1, Isaiah 60:1-6, Responsorial Psalm 72  
Reading 2, Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6, Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

### **Friday 7 January – Christmas feria**

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Assunta Potuik  
7pm Mass Molly Screene (Ann)  
Reading 1, 1 John 3:22-4:6  
Responsorial Psalm, 2, Gospel, Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

### **Saturday 8 January – Christmas feria**

10am Requiem Mass for John Darby  
10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession  
Reading 1, 1 John:4:7-10  
Responsorial Psalm, 72, Gospel, Mark 6:34-44

### **Saturday 8 January VIGIL THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

6pm Mass Thomas McGovern (Ann)

### **Sunday 9 January - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

8am Mass John Burke (RIP)  
9am Mass Margaret Brian (Ann)  
(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)  
9.30am Mass Anna Yeadon (Ints)  
11.30am Mass Jane Grandesso (RIP)  
6pm Mass People of the Parish

**Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Team (JPIC)** May we and all in our homes experience the true peace of Christ this Christmas.