



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN
 14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB
 Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Tel: 01727 853 585
 E-mail: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org
 YouTube: youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 20 FEBRUARY 2022



Contactless Giving

Parish Team: Fr Michael O'Boy (Parish Priest) Fr Andrew Bowden (Assistant Priest)
 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

Lent - A time to allow God to be a bigger part of our lives

The 40 days of Lent begin on Wednesday 2 March. It is a time for us to turn back to God, to make God a bigger part of our lives, but how? How are we to prepare for the forthcoming celebration of the events that stand at the heart of our salvation; the death and resurrection of Christ? This Lent, as we journey out of the current pandemic, we want to encourage everyone to participate in our Lenten journey by sharing some suggestions under the headings of Prayer, Word and Action.

Prayer If prayer is not a regular part of your day why not commit to five or ten minutes of prayer at some stage during the day. It could even be five or ten of the minutes that you spend on the train travelling to or from work. If a time of prayer is already part of your daily routine you might consider spending an extended time of prayer, before the Blessed Sacrament, on a Saturday morning after the morning mass.

Word Why not choose one of the Gospels, or a book on a religious topic, and commit to reading a part of it on a daily basis? To help, we hope to set up some weekly book clubs reading Pope Francis' recently published book 'Let Us Dream'. The book addresses the impact of the Covid pandemic on society in terms of what we see, what we choose to do about it and how we might respond. You might like to organise a group of friends to consider the Holy Father's latest book, but if you would like to join a parish 'Let Us Dream' book club please follow the [link](#) or use the QR code below. The parish groups of 5-10 people will either meet in the parish centre or on Zoom.

Action Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with a day of fasting and abstinence. Fasting, meaning eating less, and abstinence, meaning avoiding meat. Some people observe the whole of Lent in this way. Avoiding certain foods for the whole of Lent or choosing certain days of the week, maybe Wednesday and Friday, to fast. Of course action does not necessarily mean giving things up. It could mean taking things on, doing something in addition - volunteering for a local charity, being more attentive to the needs of others, committing, for example, to visiting the elderly relatives, friends or neighbours we have intended to visit, but never got round to.



Finally, Lent is a long time so why not ask a friend in the parish to be your 'Lent Buddy' and support each other during this time, checking in once a week and encouraging each other with your Lenten resolutions.

On Thursday 24 February there will be an additional mass at 6pm followed by a time of Eucharistic adoration until 7.30pm. The church will be open for passers-by to join us. You don't have to be there for a whole hour, why not just pop in for 15 minutes on the way home from work or before/after your supper and spend a short time with Jesus?

Synod: The journey continues The Westminster Diocesan Pre-Synodal Assembly is taking place this weekend at which initial reflections from the synthesis of parishes' responses will be shared. Parish representatives and clergy will gather to listen to experiences and reflect upon our ongoing journey. Copies of our parish's Synod feedback are available in the church porch in case you have not yet accessed one. If you would prefer an electronic copy, please contact the parish office.

Pray and Participate: We pray for the that the Holy Spirit will inspire everyone participating in the Diocesan Pre-Synodal Assembly to listen to, and learn from, one another's experiences so as to guide our ongoing journey.

Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Team In these days of uncertainty let us pray for peace for the people of Ukraine.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

'Little Lights' Children's Liturgy Owing to the half-term break please note that there will be no Children's Liturgy on Sunday 13 February or Sunday 20 February. The next Children's Liturgy will be on Sunday 27 February.

Stations of the Cross during Lent Every Saturday morning during Lent at 9.30am, the Way of the Cross will be celebrated in Church before 10am Mass with a different emphasis each week. On 5 March, the theme will be Stations of the Cross in times of difficulty. You can also view the Stations online and the text will be available to help you reflect upon this prayerful journey through our Lord's passion and death.

RCIA Catechists We need to build up a small group of committed adult volunteer catechists for our RCIA program to be able to successfully run our 'Journey In Faith' program. Please contact me, Deacon Steve, for an initial discussion on 01727 863925 or on stephenpickard@gmail.com. It is a ministry of love and joy that will build upon your own faith experiences. You do not need a degree or diploma, just an open heart. So please contact me and I will outline how we propose to start this 'journey' together.

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 andrewbowden@rcdow.org.uk with any enquiries.

Marriage Preparation If you are intending to get married, please note the Diocese requires at least six months' notice with couples 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. Permission from the person being prayed for, or their next of kin, must be obtained before we are able to include their name in the bulletin.

PARISH NEWS

BINGO Thank you to everyone that supported our recent Bingo and helped to raise £300 for Mary's Meals. Our next Bingo evening is on Friday 11 March at 8.00pm.

Coffee and Tea After Weekend 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.

Knit and Natter The Knit and Natter group will meet between 2-4pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month starting from Tuesday 8 February. Please do a lateral flow test before you come. Everyone is welcome.

Men's Breakfast 19 February The parish men's group are continuing our breakfast gatherings to learn more about the creed. We will meet in the parish centre from 8.15am for coffee, croissants and banter. At 9am we will watch a video on the Nicene Creed, looking at some of the parts which refer to Jesus. This is 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 which is central to the Sunday mass and to the key parts of our catholic beliefs.

Catholic Women's League The CWL will meet after the 10am Mass in Room 1 on Tuesday 1 March. Fr. Michael will be giving us a talk ready for Lent. Everyone very welcome.

Lent CAFOD Fast Day Everyone is welcome to join us for a homemade soup and bread lunch at noon on Saturday 12 March in the Church Hall. This will be followed around 1pm by the film *The Star (U)* - a cartoon version of the Christmas Story with an unusual twist. It is a FREE event with the opportunity to make a donation to CAFOD on the day. This event has been organised by the Parish Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Group. If you are able, you are invited to fast on Friday 11 March in solidarity with the poor of the world and donate any money saved to CAFOD in the retiring collection to be taken the weekend of 12/13 March.

St Patrick's Day Tea Party Parish Friends are holding a tea party to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the Parish Hall on Sunday 13 March from 3-5pm. All parishioners are welcome. We are delighted that Peter and Damien Fahy will be providing the music. If you are able make a cake, offer help on the day, have a Parish DBS and can offer a lift or require a lift please contact Helen 07860 830340 or helen.bassill@ntlworld.com. Please note we will not be holding a raffle.

The Spiritans Mission Appeal 2022 There will be a retiring collection at all masses next weekend to support the work of the Spiritans. The Congregation of the Holy Spirit is a Catholic, religious congregation founded in France in 1703. Also known as the Spiritans, their mission for over 300 years has been to evangelize the poor and marginalized all over the world. Today they have nearly three thousand priests, brothers and Lay Spiritan Associates. With missions in sixty countries around the world, they are involved in many diverse ministries including education, parish work, and refugee ministry. A representative from the Spiritans will be speaking at all masses next weekend.

Marion Miller RIP Geoff and his family wish to thank you all for your love, sympathy and prayers following Marion's death. They are very much appreciated. A Mass will be offered for your intentions.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14 May 2022 at 3pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please phone or email the parish office with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address, phone number and email.

Diocese of Westminster Network meeting for all who welcome and support asylum seekers, migrants and refugees Thursday 10 March 2022, 2pm-3:30pm – online. Join a community of support, hosted by Caritas Westminster. Join a community of support, hosted by Caritas Westminster, to share ideas and skills to help your parish and school become even more of a place of welcome and inclusion for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. At this session we will be hearing from Megan from Schools of Sanctuary, Anjali from Newman Catholic College, as well as Ines from the Notre Dame Refugee Centre and Ed from ESOL provider, Twin. Please sign up on this [website](#).

St Michael's Catholic Grammar School - Applications for Sixth Form Entry in September 2022 open until 28 February St Michael's has a large and vibrant Sixth Form which welcomes significant numbers of new students who have studied their GCSEs elsewhere. If you are interested in applying for a Sixth Form place at St Michael's please look at the virtual open evening on our [website](#). Applications can be made online through the Apply NOW button.

Have Fun Helping Others Luton Catenians are organising 'Masquerade - a fun evening of opera' on Saturday 26 February at Holy Ghost Parish Centre, 33 Westbourne Rd, Luton LU4 8JD in aid of NOAH, the Luton-based charity working across Bedfordshire offering hope and support to people struggling against homelessness and exclusion. Make up a group, bring your friends and book tickets at £32 per head via this [link](#). See the poster in the Porch.

CAFOD's Walk Against Hunger Lent challenge There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. This Lent, challenge yourself to walk 200km, and help give hunger its marching orders. Do 5k a day, your way, for 40 days, get sponsored and you'll conquer your 200km target in time for Easter – and help people around the world to live free from hunger. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Marlborough Road Methodist Church – Circuit Quiet Day at St Stephen's Church, Watling Street – 26 February As we approach Lent we take this opportunity to 'step aside' and listen to God as we reflect upon some of the Psalms. There will be extended periods of silence, the opportunity (if the weather is kind) to spend time outside, poems and pictures to help our reflection. Please follow this [link](#) for details.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham 25 March Come and celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation with a coach from St Albans. Holy Mass in Walsingham at 12noon will be celebrated by the Bishop of East Anglia, Alan Hopes, followed by a visit to the Slipper Chapel and a walk along the Holy Mile to the Priory, the original site of the holy house requested by Our Lady in 1061. The cost is £25 and £5 for children. To book please [email](#) Rosemary or phone 07723 546642.

St David's Day concert The Passage, a Catholic Charity working with the homeless, is holding a St David's Day concert on Thursday 3 March at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square with The London Welsh Male Voice Choir and soloist tenor Ryan Vaughan Davies. All tickets are £20. Please support the work of this excellent charity. Tickets [here](#) or telephone 020 75921856.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Hiring 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 If you have previously gift aided your standing order or envelope donations but no longer pay tax or are now 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 VMG, the online donation platform used by the diocese, closed at the end of November. The diocese is currently setting up new online giving tools but the best way to support the parish is by standing order. A standing order form can be downloaded [here](#).

Mass Intentions The best way to book mass intentions at the moment is to do so by phoning or emailing the parish office between 9am and 1pm any weekday. Donations can be made by posting an envelope through the presbytery door or by making a payment via bank transfer. Our bank account details can be accessed [here](#).

Please note that we are currently booking intentions for masses from May/June 2022 and that intentions may have to be moved with little notice to accommodate funerals. The suggested diocesan donation is currently £10 per mass.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 19 February VIGIL 7TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME
6pm Mass People of the Parish

Sunday 20 February 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8am Mass Loreta Cashin (RIP) and Michael Cashin (RIP)

9am Mass Arthur and Catherine Ball (Ann)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Edward Joseph McShane (RIP)

11.30am Paulo, Magdalena and Antonina Cannata (RIP)

6pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Samuel:2,7-9, 11-13,22-23, Res Psalm, 103

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, Gospel, Luke 6:27-38

Monday 21 February - feria

10am Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

7pm Mass Hannah Brosnan, Eileen Keane, Catherine Kerins and Eric Sanchez Cronin (RIP)

Reading 1, James 3:13-18

Responsorial Psalm, 19, Gospel, Mark 9:14-29

Tuesday 22 February - THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

10am Mass Patrick Smyth (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Peter 5:1-4

Responsorial Psalm, 23, Gospel, Matthew 16:13-19

Wednesday 23 February - St Polycarp

10am Funeral Mass for Monica Parker

7pm Mass Bill Tuck (RIP)

Reading 1, James 4:13-17

Responsorial Psalm, 49, Gospel, Mark 9:38-40

Thursday 24 February - feria

10am Mass Michael O'Shea (RIP)

Reading 1, James 5:1-6

Responsorial Psalm 49, Gospel Mark 9:41-50

Friday 25 February - feria

7pm Mass Frank Donohue (Ann)

Reading 1, James 5:9-12

Responsorial Psalm, 103, Gospel, Mark 10:1-12

(On Friday Mass is celebrated at St Albans Cathedral at 12 Noon)

Saturday 26 February - Memoria of Blessed Virgin Mary

10am Mass Laurie Blythman (Ann)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, James 5:13-20

Responsorial Psalm, 141, Gospel, Mark 10:13-16

Saturday 26 February VIGIL 8TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

6pm Mass James Taylor (RIP)

Sunday 27 February 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass John Lennon (Ints)

9am Mass Patricia McCarthy (Ann)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am George and Freda Sumner (RIP)

6pm Mass Ferghal Maher (RIP)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the officers and members of the Salvation Army, 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 Evelio Azcona, Michele Citrano, James Morrissey and Monica Parker.

The Funeral Mass for Evelio Azcona will be on Monday 28 February at 10 am with his remains being received into the church after the Sunday evening mass.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Arthur and Catherine Ball, John Baxter, Laurie Blythman, Frank Donohue, Ernest Gaufroid, Hermina Gaufroid, Elizabeth Harding, Patricia McCarthy, William Miller and William Rigg.

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 [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.