



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - 13 MARCH 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)
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We are a Fairtrade parish

Lent - A time to discover more about God

Fr Michael writes ...

Lent does not take place in a vacuum, apart from the context in which we find ourselves, Lent has to be lived in the world as it is, not as we would want it to be, a world that can be every inch the desert or hostile environment that Christ entered into before the beginning of his public ministry. Living in the real world, the holiness or wholeness which we aspire to, especially in Lent, means being attentive to the world; its needs and not least the needs of others. In this respect, your generosity over these past weeks has been a powerful beginning to Lent. Nearly £2000 for Mary's Meals, over £1,500 for the Spiritans and their work, and last weekend's retiring collection for the Ukraine. As I write this stands at just over £2,000 with more being received. Thank you!

The response of people and governments to the plight of the Ukrainian people has been remarkably swift; practical and financial support, the relaxation of border restrictions enabling the welcome of refugees, the imposition of sanctions. But that said, for all that has been or is being done, there is more to do as the invasion of Ukraine continues and the full impact both human and physical unfolds. We may, for example, have to bear with an increase in prices that stronger sanctions will entail. We may have to prove ourselves a more welcoming community and nation, learning something from the wholeheartedness we see in Poland. We may have to share, in some small and incomparable way, something of the hardship being visited on Ukraine. Yet, whatever the 'more' you and I might have to do or bear with, it is clear, as Pope Francis has reminded us, that at the heart of the 'more' you and I might do must be prayer and fasting. These are the most important weapons that we have in our armory and these are the weapons each and everyone of us is called to dust off and use in Lent.

Resourcing Lent One consequence of the pandemic was the introduction of streaming and increased use of the internet to enable people to participate in the daily or weekly celebration of the mass. Having used the internet to 'get to' mass many have also been introduced to a host of useful online opportunities and resources that can help us grow in our relationship with God. All-day adoration broadcast from Walsingham and other places of pilgrimage is one example. There are also the excellent talks from speakers such as Scott Hahn and Bishop Robert Barron, both of whom provide additional background on the Sunday readings - you could make listening part of your Lenten routine. An advance summary of the Sunday readings, with a special version for families, can be found at www.wednesdayword.org while our own parish website and the Westminster diocesan website also contain lots of useful articles for you to explore. For those seeking inspiration or guidance from books rather than online there are several Christian bookshops offering access to a wide variety of books. A good local one is Goodnews Books based in Luton.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) We pray that we may respond with open minds & compassionate hearts to the call of Jesus in this moment.

Rosary Prayer The rosary is a powerful weapon against sin. Let us remember to pray the rosary for peace during this time of conflict. Even one decade of the rosary prayed from the heart will be heard by Our Lady Queen of peace. Pray as you can.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Stations of the Cross 12 March On 12 March, at 9.30am, the Stations of the Cross will be led by the Adult Faith Formation Group. On 19 March, at 9.30am, a Spiritual Way of the Cross will be led by the Communications Group. Everyone is welcome to attend. Stations will be followed by Mass and exposition. You can also view the Stations online but accessing the link on the homepage of our [website](#) and the text will be available to help you reflect upon this prayerful journey through our Lord's passion and death.

Easter Garden We will be commemorating our deceased loved ones in a special way in our Easter Garden again this year. We will write their names on bamboo flower shapes and plant them around the rose garden in front of the presbytery. These will be close to the three crosses and will be a symbol of the new life with Christ promised by the resurrection. If you would like to remember your deceased family or friends in this way, please send their names into the office clearly marked 'Easter Garden' either by emailing the parish office at stalbans@rcdow.org.uk or by posting the details through the presbytery door.

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) and to sanitise their hands on entering and leaving the building. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion on the tongue should come up towards the end of Holy Communion.

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is to be held on Saturday 16 April at 11.30am. Please email andrewbowden@rcdow.org.uk with any enquiries.

First Holy Communion Emails have been sent to parents and guardians asking for choices of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Mass dates in July. If you have not submitted your choices online, please can you do so as soon as possible. If you have not received these emails, please contact the parish office.

Post Confirmation Celebration Those young people who recently celebrated their Confirmation have been invited to join Fr Michael and the catechists for a pizza evening on Friday 18 March 7.30-9.00pm. An email has been sent to all parents and guardians about this event.

If you have not yet replied to this email, please could you do so as soon as possible.

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.

Diocesan Faith Sharing Resource for Lent This resource is offered to encourage and enable the continuation of "spiritual conversations" begun during the parish listening phase of the Diocesan Synodal process. It can be used in many different ways by groups at home or at church. 'Encountering the Spirit' is now available as a [download](#).

PARISH NEWS

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.

Traidcraft after ALL Masses this weekend - 12/13 March, and next Sunday 20 March, at Marshalswick Mass Centre. We have our usual range of fair-traded goods as well as 'The Real Meaning of Easter' Easter eggs. Please take time look at the stall and, if you are able, think about supporting this venture which helps people earn a fair wage. This allows those in the developing world to afford education, cleaner water, improved diet and many more of the things we take for granted. All proceeds go to CAFOD. More details, contact Maureen on grabecki@hotmail.com or 765549.

Knit and Natter The knit and natter group will meet on Tuesday 22 March from 2.30-4 pm. We are in the process of knitting vests for babies in Africa, squares for blankets and hats and scarves for the homeless. Everyone welcome and please note new time..

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.

Men's Breakfast 19 March The parish men's group are continuing our breakfast gatherings to learn more about the creed. We will meet in the parish centre on Saturday 19 March from 8.15 for coffee, croissants and banter. At about 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. If you would like more details please text 07976 252309 or email d4dstalbans@gmail.com

The Spiritans Mission Appeal 2022 Thank you for your generous support for the Spiritans in the retiring collection held last weekend. The total amount donated to the Spiritans by the parish amounted to £1,575.96.

Ukraine Appeal Thank you also for your generous support for Ukraine in the retiring collection held last weekend. The total amount donated by the parish through the retiring collection amounted to £1,961.67. If you would like to make a donation, it is not too late. Please post an envelope through the presbytery door marked 'Ukraine Appeal'.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

CAFOD - Family Fast Day Lenten Appeal This Family Fast Day, on Friday 11 March, we remember that there are many people who need our love and support all around the world. Children experiencing malnutrition like Amie's daughter Lombeh did in Sierra Leone or as we are seeing now in Ukraine, families affected by conflict. Your small act of love can make big things happen. Donations to CAFOD this Lent will reach families around the world, enabling local experts to provide support to families in times of need or conflict. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD [website](#).

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.

Churches Together Lent Series of Talks (Marshalswick Baptist Free Church 7pm) Hope in a Time of Change 6 March: Hope through Change - Rev Iain Lane, 13 March: Hope through Discipline- Fr Corniel Quak, 20 March: Hope through Tears-Rev G D Watt, 27 March: Hope through Vision- Fr Richard Watson and Rabbi Zagoria Moffet, 3 April: Hope through Christ- Fr Michael O'Boy

The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral We are seeking to recruit a part time Organising Secretary to help administer the charity, assist in recruiting new members and in organising events. The appointment based in Westminster Cathedral Clergy House is for 20 hours per week at a salary in the region of £14,500 per annum. The appointment is for 12 months. Closing date 27 March 2022. For further details please follow this [link](#).

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.

Planned Giving Envelopes Planned Giving Envelopes for the year commencing 10 April 2022 are now available from the parish office for those parishioners who have advised us that they wish to continue using them to make their Offering. Please collect your envelopes from the parish office between 9am and 1pm any weekday. If you are not able to collect between these times, please call the parish office on 01727 853585 to make other arrangements.

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.

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 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 12 March VIGIL 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT
6pm Mass Noel Halton (RIP)

Sunday 13 March 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

8am Mass Ellen Small (RIP)

9am Mass Milly Yarwood (Ann)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Ellen Mary Small (RIP)

11.30am Mass Albert Joseph Castelino (RIP)

6pm Mass People of the Parish

Reading 1, Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Responsorial Psalm, 27

Reading 2, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Gospel, Luke 9:28-36

Monday 14 March - Lent feria

10am Mass Holy Souls

7pm Mass Anthony and Jacqueline Sumner (RIP)

Reading 1, Daniel 9:4-10

Responsorial Psalm, 79, Gospel, Luke 6:36-38

Tuesday 15 March - Lent feria

10am Mass Helen 'Dolly' Harte (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 1:10,16-20

Responsorial Psalm, 50, Gospel, Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday 16 March - Lent feria

10am Mass Angela Maher (RIP)

7pm Mass Patrick Mannion (RIP)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 18:18-20,

Responsorial Psalm, 31, Gospel, Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday 17 March - ST PATRICK

10am Mass David Mort (RIP)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 1:4-9, Responsorial Psalm 117,

Reading 2, Acts 13:46-49, Gospel, Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Friday 18 March - Lent feria

7pm Mass Kieran O'Donnell (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 37:3-4, 12-23,17-28

Responsorial Psalm, 105, Gospel, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

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

Saturday 19 March - ST JOSPEH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese

9.30am Way of the Cross led by Communications Group

10am Mass Richard Richardson (RIP)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, 2 Samuel 7:4-5,12-14,16, Responsorial Psalm, 89,

Reading 2, 1 Romans 4:13,16-18,22, Gospel, Luke 2:41-51

Saturday 19 March VIGIL 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

6pm Mass People of the Parish

Sunday 20 March 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

8am Mass Peggy Shaw (RIP)

9am Mass Oswald McCarthy (Ann)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Patrick Geraghty (RIP)

11.30am Mass Mary Curran (Ann)

6pm Mass Roger Dew (RIP)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the minister, elders and members of Greenwood United Reform 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 John Baker, Lucidia (Lucy) McPherson-Burton, Nancy Hudson and Patrick (Pat) Roache.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Baxter, Mary Curran, Oswald McCarthy, Fr Sandy Murray MSC and Milly Yarwood.

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.