



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - 20 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 Pray

*Fr Michael writes ...* Alongside fasting and almsgiving, Lent is a time for prayer. The Catechism describes prayer as 'the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God'. Today, in particular, we continue our prayer for the ending of the war in Ukraine and the establishment of a lasting peace. We also keep in mind the need for justice, peace and reconciliation elsewhere in the world, in Syria, Palestine, Yemen and Myanmar among others.

In our Catholic tradition it is customary to call on the intercession of the saints; recruiting them, as it were, to give added weight to our prayer. Here there is no greater intercessor than Mary, Mother of God. On Friday of this coming week we will celebrate the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and she accepted God's invitation to be the Mother of his Son. With her yes, the Son of God comes to share in our humanity, and by no means least, its suffering.

One of the ways in which we have traditionally called to mind this event is through the praying of what is called the Angelus. The Angelus is usually prayed three times a day: morning, midday and evening, and in churches such as ours, where there are bells, it has been customary to call people to pray the Angelus by ringing the bells three times a day. We are currently working on our automated bell system, looking to restore the ringing of the Angelus - at least for the midday and evening. In the meantime, you could always set a clock or your mobile, allow it to disrupt your day and call you to prayer for the people and peace of Ukraine.

#### Step 1

Verse 1: The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

Response: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Recite: Hail Mary, etc...

#### Step 2

Verse 2: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Response: Be it done unto me according to Thy Word.

Recite: Hail Mary, etc...

#### Step 3

Verse 3: And the Word was made flesh,

Response: And dwelt among us.

Recite: Hail Mary, etc...

#### Step 4

Verse 4: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

Response: That we be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

#### Step 5

Let us pray ... Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, Thy Grace into our hearts; that we to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.

Through the same Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The Stations of the Cross at 9.30am on Saturdays in Lent is another opportunity to identify with and pray for the people of Ukraine; reflecting on Christ's suffering, it is a natural opportunity to reflect on the suffering in the world today. Last week about 70 people gathered in church, with a similar number participating via the livestream and parish YouTube channel.

### 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 [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk) or by posting the details through the presbytery door.

**Rosary Prayer** The rosary is a powerful weapon. 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 19 and 26 March** On 19 March, at 9.30am, a Spiritual Way of the Cross will be led by the Communications Group. On 26 March at 9.30am, in tribute to Mothering Sunday, Mary's Way of the Cross will honour the mother of our blessed Lord. 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.

**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](mailto: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** 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](mailto: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](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. 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

**Ukraine Appeal** If you would like to make a donation, it is not too late. Please post an envelope through the presbytery door marked 'Ukraine Appeal'.

**Food Bank** If you would like to support the foodbank currently being run by the Salvation Army here in St Albans donations of non-perishable food items (cans and dried goods) can be left in the cardboard box in the porch.

**CAFOD - Family Fast Day Lenten Appeal** Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Lent Appeal. Your generous gifts will ensure that CAFOD's local experts, like Sister Anthonia in

Sierra Leone, can support families with training in growing and making healthy food so that children can grow up big and strong. You can still donate on the CAFOD [website](#) or join CAFOD's Walk Against Hunger to raise vital funds to tackle extreme hunger and its causes.

**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.

**St Albans Market Stall Wed 6 April: Help needed** We will be inviting people to share our Easter celebrations by distributing Easter cards at the market on Wed 6 April. Volunteers are needed to attend for a half hour on the day. To volunteer please call Mary on 07976277059.

**Traidcraft after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre (Sunday 20 March)** 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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:d4dstalbans@gmail.com)

**St Patrick's Tea Party** Parish Friends would like to thank all those who made Sunday's St Patrick's Tea Party such a success. Over 70 people attended and enjoyed the wonderful entertainment provided by Peter Fahy. Unfortunately, Damian was unable to perform due to Covid and we wish him a speedy recovery. Thanks to the many parishioners who made delicious cakes, those who offered transport and the magnificent band of helpers preparing the hall, serving food and washing up. A wonderful long awaited afternoon enjoyed by all who attended.

**BINGO** Many thanks to everyone that supported our recent Bingo. £150.00 was raised for the benefit of The Catholic Children's Society. Our next Bingo evening is on Friday 8 April at 8.00pm.

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**St. Colmcille's Gaelic Football Club** The club is taking part in a programme called Gaelic4Girls. The programme consists of 8 weekly sessions starting 16 March and each Wednesday after that (other than a 2 week break for Easter holidays) at the Irish Centre in Cotswoldswick AL2 1DW from 5.30-6.30. There is a one off registration cost of £12 which is used to pay for the jersey each girl will receive upon completing the course. Please click this [link](#) for information.

**Funeral - Myra Littlechild (RIP)** The funeral of Mary Rose (Myra) Littlechild will take place at 10.00am on Friday 1 April 2022 at Our Lady, St Mary of Walsingham, London Colney. Myra died on Monday 7 March 2022 aged 96. She had many friends in St Albans and was married here at St Alban and St Stephen.

**Refugees** Check the CTSA [web page](#) for details on how you can help refugees. This page marshals information from the key agencies. In particular check out about Noke Bikes: there are 120 refugees living at the Noke Hotel, Chiswell Green. They can't afford bus fares, but would love to ride bikes. We are sourcing 10 second hand bikes, hi-vis jackets, helmets and locks with keys. Can you support us by maintaining the bikes or teaching safe cycling? Or do you have spare bikes or equipment that we could use? Please contact Teresa Clarke by [email](#) or on 01727 855026.

**St Columba's College Prep School Open Morning - Thursday 28 April** St Columba's College and Preparatory School is an independent Catholic day school for pupils aged 4 - 18 in St Albans. Last year, we welcomed our first girls into Lower Prep (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2) and the Sixth Form, and this September we will also welcome girls into Years 3 and 4 in Upper Prep, and Year 7 in the Senior School. Prospective families are warmly invited to St Columba's Prep School Open Morning on Thursday 28 April from 9:15-11:30am. During this event, there will be an opportunity to take a tour and attend a presentation by the head of Prep, Mr Richard McCann, and other members of staff. Families can register for this event by contacting us by [email](#) or going to the 'Visit Us' page on our website, clicking on 'Prep School Open Morning' and completing the online registration form.

**Catenian Catholic Schools 6th Form Public Speaking Challenge - Success** Catholic Schools from our Catenian provincial area entered students to compete in this year's provincial final, at the University of Hertfordshire. In a highly contested competition, the judges, chaired by Bishop Paul McAleenan, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, awarded first place to Cynthia Nassali from St Mary's

Catholic School, Bishop Stortford. Raphael Monteiro from Nicholas Breakspear School, St Albans took second place and third prize was awarded to Sofia Giraldo Henao from St Thomas More School Wood Green. Cynthia will now go on to represent the province at the national final to be held in Manchester in September. This year's event attracted 11 Catholic Schools, as it continues to grow into the premier 6th Form public speaking event in the region. For more information or how to become a Catenian please [email](#).

**Churches Together Lent Series of Talks (Marshalswick Baptist Free Church 7pm) Hope in a Time of Change** 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

## 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 before the end of the current tax year.

**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 emailing the parish office or phoning 9am - 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 July 2022 and that intentions may have to be moved with little notice to accommodate funerals. The suggested diocesan donation is currently £10 per mass.

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC)**  
Dear Lord, help us to do what we can by prayer and/or donations for those who are in Ukraine and the Russians who may not want to fight them. Look after them all.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### **Saturday 19 March** VIGIL 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

6pm Mass People of the Parish

### **Sunday 20 March** 3<sup>RD</sup> 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)

Reading 1, Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15, Responsorial Psalm, 103

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12, Gospel, Luke 13:1-9

### **Monday 21 March** - Lent feria

10am Mass Edward Sumner (RIP)

7pm Mass Ellen Mary Small (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Kings 5:1-15

Responsorial Psalm, 42, Gospel, Luke 4:24-30

### **Tuesday 22 March** - Lent feria

10am Mass Walter Redmond (RIP)

Reading 1, Daniel 3:25, 34-43

Responsorial Psalm, 25, Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35

### **Wednesday 23 March** - Lent feria

10am Funeral Mass for John Baker

7pm Mass Barrie and Sarah Witchard (RIP)

Reading 1, Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9

Responsorial Psalm, 147, Gospel, Matthew 5:17-19

### **Thursday 24 March** - Lent feria

10am Mass Taylor family (Ints)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 7:23-28

Responsorial Psalm 95, Gospel, Luke 11:14-23

### **Friday 25 March** - THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

7pm Mass Margaret Lavelle (Ints)

Reading 1, Isaiah 7:10-14,8:10, Responsorial Psalm, 40,

Reading 2, Hebrews 10:4-10, Gospel, Luke 1:26-38

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

### **Saturday 26 March** - Lent feria

9.30am Mary's Way of the Cross

10am Mass Paddy Gerrity (RIP)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Hosea 5:15-6:6, Responsorial Psalm, 51,

Gospel, Luke 18:9-14

### **Saturday 26 March** VIGIL 4<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

6pm Mass Joao Paulo Martins (RIP)

### **Sunday 27 March** 4<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (Laetare Sunday)

8am Mass People of the Parish

9am Mass Anthony Barry (RIP)

(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass Floryse Chan-Fat (Ann)

11.30am Mass Thiago Pavoski (Ann)

6pm Mass Tommy McGloughlin (RIP)

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the minister and members of Marshalswick Baptist Free 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, Frederico Ciaccio, Lucidia (Lucy) McPherson-Burton, Jimmy Moloney, Patrick (Pat) Roache and Edward Sumner.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Baxter, Floryse Chan-Fat, Mary Curran, Oswald McCarthy, Joe Moran, Kate Moran, and Thiago Pavoski.

*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.