



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY) - 27 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 see those around us and help them

Fr Michael writes ... In the past two weeks you have added another £1,500 to our collection for Ukraine, raising the total to around £3,500. You have also generously supported the Family Fast Day in support of CAFOD and the very popular bread and soup lunch. Alongside this there has been a steady flow of support for the foodbank run by the Salvation Army in the City Centre.

Today's Gospel about the Prodigal Son and his father reminds us of the unlimited generosity of God towards us, whatever our failings. Faced with levels of inflation that we have not seen since the 1970s and the impact which this will have, reflecting God's generosity towards us, in our giving to others, could be more of a challenge, calling us to be generous with what we have, rather than what we have over or spare. That said, it is also important to remember that generosity comes in all shapes and sizes; that it isn't just about money. Our time and our talents - these are things that we can be generous with too. Time to speak with a neighbour or colleague who may be lonely or struggling, talent to support the life, mission and tick of the parish and community in which we find ourselves.

The Cardinal's Appeal 2022 Our parish is part of the Diocese of Westminster. As well as the county of Hertfordshire, the Diocese of Westminster includes a sizeable part of London, north of the Thames. As such it serves a diverse set of communities and needs. For the last 10 years the money raised during Lent for the 'Cardinal's Appeal' has helped fund the Diocese's outreach. This has includes support services for the deaf, St Joseph's in Hendon which supports people with intellectual or physical needs, Bakita House a woman's refuge, as well as a number of foodbanks and projects assisting those suffering from persecution or modern slavery. All of these works come under the auspice of Caritas Westminster which celebrates its tenth birthday this year. All funds raised through the Cardinal's Appeal 2022 will go to support work done by both parishes and Caritas Westminster. To learn more, or to donate online, please go to <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinals-appeal> and find out more about how the charity helps local communities. We have had a number of retiring collections in recent weeks so we will hold our collection for the Cardinal's Appeal 2022 later in Lent.

Holy Week and Easter Cards These cards are now available from the church porch and give the times of services for Holy Week and Easter. Mindful of the Cardinal's recent pastoral letter, in which he encouraged us to reach out to those no longer attending Mass, why not take a few extra copies and deliver them to neighbours and family. With the Cardinal, many of you in our recent Synod process stressed the need to reach out to those who no longer attend church - this is one way we can do just that!

Holy Week Posters These are now available in the Porch. Please take one to put in a window and help spread the meaning of Holy Week.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) Lord Jesus, you said, "My Peace I give you." Help us to be open to your gift and to spread Peace in our everyday lives. May your Holy Spirit guide all world leaders. We pray for Peace, healing and forgiveness.

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 26 March and 2 April 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. The final journey that Christ made in Faith and for Love for us will be commemorated in the Stations of the Cross on 2 April. 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.

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.

Marshalswick Mass Volunteer Rota The new rota is now available for volunteers to download from the parish website. It can be found under 'groups' then 'liturgy group'.

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 - Reconciliation A new date is being arranged for those children who were unable to attend their First Reconciliation service last weekend. Parents and guardians will receive an email with the new date shortly.

First Holy Communion Masses - July 2022 Parents and Guardians will receive an email on Monday giving details of the date on which their child will celebrate First Holy Communion in July.

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.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

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'. An amazing £1,545.00 has been donated by parishioners since our original retiring collection which raised £1,961.67 three weeks ago.

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.

Thank you from CAFOD Thank you so much for your support of CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day, the Walk Against Hunger and the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Your support means we can respond in crises such as Ukraine where our Caritas aid workers and volunteers could quickly help families fleeing conflict. It also means we're there in the long-term and can continue to respond to crises around the world, including in Afghanistan, Syria, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. We work alongside communities as they rebuild their lives once the conflict is over. For more detail please go to the CAFOD [website](#)

The amount collected in the recent retiring collection for CAFOD's Family Fast Day Lenten Appeal totalled £931.20. Thank you for your generosity.

CAFOD bread and soup lunch for the Lenten family fast day Many thanks to all who joined us for this event. A total of £400 was raised, which will go towards helping prevent malnutrition amongst the poorest families in the developing world. Further donations can be given [here](#). This event was arranged by the parish Justice & Peace Group.

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.

Tea and Coffee after Mass this Monday 28 March Tea, coffee and homemade cake will be served after 10am mass this Monday. Everyone is welcome especially new parishioners. Please do come and join us.

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 A wide range of fairly-traded goods will be available after all Masses next weekend - 2/3 April - and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 10 April. The sales help producers and their communities in the developing world gain access to better education, food, housing and health. All the profits made by the parish are donated to CAFOD. More details, or to place an order - Maureen 765549, grabecki@hotmail.com.

Catholic Women's League The CWL will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 5 April after the 10am Mass. Gill and Barry Goodman will be giving an interesting and lively talk on 'Unusual English Customs'. (£2 entrance towards speaker's fee). Parishioners and friends very welcome.

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 07976 277059.

Gazebo Needed We need a pop up freestanding gazebo (no guy ropes) for the market Easter stall on 6 April. Please call Mary on 07976 277059 if you can help.

BINGO On Friday 8 April, by the Knights of St. Columba, at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall, in aid of Help Ukraine. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Parent and Toddler Group St Alban and St Stephen would love to restart our very successful parent and toddler group; however we need more volunteers who are willing to help on Monday mornings to serve the drinks and biscuits. We operate from 10am until mid-day and all volunteers must be willing to apply for DBS checks. Mary Harber, our safeguarding lead, is very helpful and the procedure isn't difficult. If you are interested either phone the presbytery or contact Sheila on 01727 853100 or 07957 281248.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

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.

Churches Together Lent Series of Talks (Marshalswick Baptist Free Church 7pm) Hope in a Time of Change 27 March: Hope through Vision - Fr Richard Watson and Rabbi Zagoria Moffet, 3 April: Hope through Christ - Fr Michael O'Boy.

The Helpers of God's Precious Infants The next Rosary Procession Vigil, led by Father Juniper Adams, CFR, will be held on Saturday 9 April at St. Mellitus Church, Tollington Park, N4 3AG. Full details on poster in church porch or contact tel. 01727 763832 or e-mail marg@helpersuk.org

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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 26 March VIGIL 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

6pm Mass Joao Paulo Martins (RIP)

Sunday 27 March 4TH 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)

Reading 1, Joshua 5:9-12, Responsorial Psalm, 34

Reading 2, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Gospel, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Monday 28 March - Lent feria

10am Mass Mary Bergin (Ann) and Annie Cawley (Ann)

7pm Mass Brian Ebbitt (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 65:17-21

Responsorial Psalm, 30, Gospel, John 4:43-54

Tuesday 29 March - Lent feria

10am Funeral Mass for Lucidia (Lucy) McPherson-Burton

Reading 1, Ezekiel 47:1-9,12

Responsorial Psalm, 46, Gospel, John 5:1-3,5-16

Wednesday 30 March - Lent feria

10am Funeral Mass for Patrick (Pat) Roache

7pm Mass Tony Purcell & Family (Ints)

Reading 1, Isaiah 49:8-15

Responsorial Psalm, 145, Gospel, John 5:17-30

Thursday 31 March - Lent feria

10am Mass Anthony Shannon-Little (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 32:7-14

Responsorial Psalm 106, Gospel, John 5:31-47

Friday 1 April - Lent feria

10am Ellen Small (RIP)

7pm Mass Bartholomew Dunne (RIP)

Reading 1, Wisdom 2:1,12-22

Responsorial Psalm, 34, Gospel, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

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

Saturday 2 April - Lent feria

9.30am Stations of the Cross - Journey of Love and Faith

10am Mass Margaret Sweeney (Ann)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Jeremiah 11:18-20

Responsorial Psalm, 7, Gospel, John 7: 40-52

Saturday 2 April VIGIL 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

6pm Mass Elaine Gatta (RIP)

Sunday 3 April 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

8am Mass Patrick Geraghty (RIP)

9am Mass Bridie Barry (Ints)

(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass Eleanor Dean (Ints)

11.30am Mass People of the Parish

6pm Mass Sheila Whyte (RIP)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the leaders and members of Ashley 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 Frederico Ciaccio, Lucidia McPherson-Burton, Jimmy Moloney, Pat Roache, Edward Sumner and P J Renehan.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Bergin, Annie Cawley, Floryse Chan-Fat, Kate Moran, Joe Moran, Thiago Pavoski, Margaret Sweeney.

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.