



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**PALM SUNDAY - 10 APRIL 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*

### The time of Lent ends, the joy of Easter awaits

*Fr Michael writes...* This Sunday, Palm Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week. For both Fr Andrew and myself this will be our first full Holy Week here at St Alban and St Stephen; Fr Andrew because he only arrived in January, myself because my first two Holy Weeks here were overshadowed by lockdowns of one sort or another.

Today we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and how, as we listen to the account of his passion, the crowd that had welcomed him with joy and the waving of palm branches, turned on him, and demanded his crucifixion. Then, beginning on Thursday, we will remember the events that stand at the heart of our Christian Catholic faith; the Last Supper where Jesus instituted the Eucharist and the ministerial priesthood (Maundy Thursday), Jesus' death on the Cross (Good Friday) and Jesus' Resurrection from the dead (Easter Sunday). Indeed, as St Paul reminds us in his first letter to the Corinthians, 'if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.'

These Holy Week celebrations or liturgies are among the most moving that we celebrate; the Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday, which reminds us that service - self-giving sacrifice - stands at the heart of the Eucharist, the Priesthood and the Christian life; the Veneration of the Cross, that instrument of torture, which Christ on Good Friday, transformed into the means of our salvation, and the Easter Fire and lighting of the Easter Candle at the Easter Vigil, a symbol of Christ's victory over the darkness of sin and death.

Many are accustomed to attending the Solemn Liturgy at 3pm on Good Friday, but as we celebrate these liturgies publicly for the first time in three years, please consider joining in the celebrations on Maundy Thursday (8pm) and Holy Saturday (8pm). Also, there is a special children's service at 11am on Good Friday, Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm, and an ecumenical Way of the Cross beginning at 7.20pm outside our church and concluding at the Abbey on Good Friday evening.

Unless you are medically exempt, we would ask you to continue wearing a face mask in church, especially at those services which are particularly well attended. Also, if you are feeling ill, even slightly ill, please join those participating from home via YouTube (visit our web page at [albanstephen.org](http://albanstephen.org) and click on the live stream button). Finally, please remember that Good Friday is a day of fasting (one main meal and two light snacks) and abstinence (no meat).

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**Music in Holy Week** If you would like to play or sing for the liturgies at 3pm Good Friday or 8pm Holy Saturday please contact Brendan Roche at [bkroche@me.com](mailto:bkroche@me.com) There will be a rehearsals in church on Good Friday at 12 Noon and on Holy Saturday at 11am.

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**Offertory Promise Envelopes** The new Offertory Promise Envelopes have now arrived. If you responded to the letter we sent out before Christmas or to the newsletter announcements confirming that you wanted to continue using Offertory Promise Envelopes, then these are now available and can be collected from the presbytery. We cannot leave them out on open display for people to collect as the labelling includes people's personal data. You can always ask one of the priests after Mass on Sunday.

**Gift Aid** If you are a UK tax payer and have previously signed a gift aid declaration, but no longer pay tax, please contact the parish office and let us know. If you have stopped paying tax, we can no longer claim gift (25p in every pound). If you do not pay tax and gift aid is claimed on what you give, then HMRC may seek reimbursement.

## LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

**Stations of the Cross Good Friday** At 11am all children and families are welcome to join in the Children's Way of the Cross. At 6.30pm everyone is invited to reflect upon our Lord's passion and death, In the midst of our busy lives, and in the present uncertain times, we will pause to pray as we reflect on Christ's suffering as it continues in the lives of his people. You can also view the Stations online and the text will be available to help you meditate. This service will be followed by a Cross Procession from the church to the Cathedral Abbey, finishing with the Unity at the Cross service led by Soul Survivor.

**Holy Week and Easter Cards** These cards now available in the church porch give the times of services for Holy Week and Easter. Let us respond to the Cardinal's encouragement to reach out to those who no longer attend Mass by taking a few and delivering them to neighbours and family.

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

**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](mailto: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 the recent First Reconciliation service. Parents and guardians will receive an email with the new date shortly.

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

**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.

## 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'. Nearly £3,800 has been collected through the generosity of our parish community.

**Collection for the Cardinal's Appeal** This weekend we will have a retiring collection for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. The appeal supports the work of Caritas, the Diocese's outreach to those in need of support.

**Collection for the Holy Places in the Holy Land** There will be a retiring collection for the Holy Places on Good Friday. This offering, called for by successive Popes, allows our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land to continue to live, hope and offer a living witness to the Word made flesh in the very places and streets that saw his presence.

**Easter Offering** The priests of the parish do not receive a wage or salary, instead they receive a monthly stipend or allowance which is funded out of the offering received on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day, as well as for masses, baptisms, weddings and funerals. If you wish to use an envelope for this purpose these are available in the porch.

**St Albans Market Easter Card Stall** Thanks to the very many parishioners who helped with our Easter card market stall which was a great success. We spoke to many people at the market and the cards were well received.

**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.

**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 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. To place an order - Maureen 765549, [grabecki@hotmail.com](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com).

**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. All welcome.

**Refreshments after mass Monday 11 April** Please join us for tea, coffee and homemade cake after 10am mass on Monday morning. All welcome.

**Knit and Natter** There will be no knit and natter meeting this week. The next meetings will be on 12 and 26 April 2.30-4pm. We meet in Room 1 of the Sacred Heart Centre and new members are always very 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

**Feast of Divine Mercy at St Bartholomew's - Sunday 24 April.** Prayers begin at 2.15pm with Holy Rosary, 3.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, 4.15pm Benediction followed by veneration of the Divine Mercy image. 5pm Old Rite Latin Mass (Missa Cantata). For details, call Margaret Leahy 01727 763832.

**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.

**Churches Together in Marshalswick Food Collection for Vineyard Church Bridge Project** Please support us. We will be outside Budgens 9.30-11.30am Saturday 9 April.

**Heinrich Schutz St Matthew's Passion** sung by The Fairfax Consort at St Saviour's Parish Church Palm Sunday 5pm, with a retiring collection for refugees in St Albans.

**BOOK SALE- Saturday 30 April 10.30am to 1pm, at Hatfield Road Methodist Church** Please support this sale of Christian books in aid of the Book Aid Charitable Trust which sends Christian books to needy areas; mainly in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. The Trust needs books on theology, doctrine, bible commentaries, bible encyclopaedias and dictionaries. Christian biographies, books on prayer, discipleship and Christian living and bibles [except New English Bible]. They cannot use secular books, school text books, dated reading notes, anything not in English, or non-book items like CDs and DVDs. You can donate books, on the day, or beforehand by [emailing](#) Chris Hancock or phoning 01727 854211.

**The Passage**, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme. Every £1 donated online by 12.00 noon on Tuesday 19 April makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. Please follow this [link](#) to support the campaign. The campaign 'It takes more than a house to make a home' focuses on the services we provide to people who have been homeless in their journey to being happily settled in a new home.

**Masquerade Opera Night** The event organised by Luton Catenians in aid of Noah on 26 February at Holy Ghost Parish Centre, was a tremendous success, raising £2228.75 for NOAH, the Luton based charity supporting the homeless and marginalised. Thank you to everyone who supported the evening and to Fr Kevin McGinnell for the use of the Holy Ghost Parish Centre. The Catenian Association is an increasing international group of Catholic men and families whose motto is 'Faith, Family, Friendship'. For more information email [here](#).

## 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.

**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 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.

### Welcoming all new parishioners!

Please see the [page](#) on our website with useful information for those who are new to our parish. Please complete our online **New Parishioner Registration 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.

### Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC)

On Good Friday, we (the crowd) chose that an innocent man should die. Now, we yearn for all violence to stop. Father forgive us, for we know not what we do. In your mercy, Lord, protect all people caught up in war or wrong-doing and bring a change of heart and lasting reconciliation with God and one another.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Saturday 9 April - VIGIL of PALM SUNDAY

6pm Mass Holy Souls

### Sunday 10 April - PALM SUNDAY

8am Mass Janette Dedi (Ints)

9am Mass Anthony Barry (RIP)

*(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick, begins in playground)*

9.30am Mass Michael Finucane (Ann) \*

11.30am Mass Patrick Mannion (RIP) \*

\* Begins in the car park

6pm Mass People of the Parish

Short Gospel Luke 19:28-40

Reading 1, Isaiah 50:4-7, Responsorial Psalm, 21

Reading 2, Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel, Either Luke 22: 14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

### Monday 11 April - Monday of Holy Week

10am Funeral Mass for Patrick (PJ) Renehan

7pm Mass Fred Gill (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 42:1-7

Responsorial Psalm, 26, Gospel, John 12:1-11

### Tuesday 12 April - Tuesday of Holy Week

10am Sr Mary Aelred (Ints)

Reading 1, Isaiah 49:1-6

Responsorial Psalm, 70, Gospel, John 13:21-33, 36-38

### Wednesday 13 April - Wednesday of Holy Week

10am Mass Elaine Gatta nee Bagge (Ann)

7pm Mass Jean Ritchie (First Anniversary)

Reading 1, Isaiah 50:4-9, Responsorial Psalm, 68,

Gospel, Matthew 26:14-25

## THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM:

### Thursday 14 April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

No Morning Mass

#### 8pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Reading 1, Exodus 12:1-8,11-14, Responsorial Psalm 115,

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Gospel, John 13:1-15

### Friday 15 April - GOOD FRIDAY

11am Children's Way of the Cross

#### 3pm The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

6.30pm Stations of the Cross

7.20pm Walk of Witness to St Albans Abbey

Reading 1, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Responsorial Psalm, 30,

Reading 2, Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9, Gospel, John 18:1-19:42

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

### Saturday 16 April - VIGIL OF EASTER SUNDAY

No morning Mass

#### 8pm Mass The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

OT Reading 1, Genesis 1:1-2;2:2, Responsorial Psalm, 103

OT Reading 2, Exodus 14:15 - 15:1, Psalm, Ex 15:1-6, 17-18

OT Reading 3, Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28, Psalm, 41

NT Reading 4, Romans 6:3-11, Psalm, 117

Gospel, Luke 24:1-12

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Sunday 17 April - EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

8am Mass Mary Bergin (Ann) and Annie Cawley (Ann)

9am Mass People of the Parish

*(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)*

9.30am Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

11.30am Mass Patrick Geoghan (RIP)

6pm Mass Adhemar Funes (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 10:34,37-43, Responsorial Psalm, 117

Reading 2, Colossians 3:1-4, Gospel, John 20:1-9

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for everyone involved with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

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 Ruggiero 'Roger' Barresi, Edward Francis Belward, Joan de Carle, Jill Hall, Elaine Murphy, P J Renehan, Molly Sandy, Fr Mike Stanier, Edward Sumner and Betty Wong.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Bergin, Annie Cawley, Michael Finucane, Elaine Gatta and Jean Ritchie.

*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.