



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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - 1 MAY**



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*

*Fr Andrew writes...*When the risen Jesus appears to his disciples he does three things; first he says; "peace be with you", then he breathes his Spirit on them, and finally he gives them the authority to forgive sins. Peace then is the first fruit of the resurrection and it is therefore the foundational principle of our Christian life. The Holy Spirit will follow fully at Pentecost. Only after the gift of peace is received, and the Holy Spirit given will the Church's sacramental life come into its full flowering.

The peace that flows from Our Lord's death and resurrection is not just peace and quiet, it is the peace that is inseparable from justice. We know when we look at situations of conflict around the world that there can be no true and lasting peace without justice and the same is true in our hearts and in our communities. Peace is the first fruit of the resurrection because the death and resurrection of Jesus has restored us to right relation with God, to justice in other words. At all times and especially in this Easter season we need to preserve this justice and peace in our hearts, in our families and communities and pray earnestly for justice and peace in our world because in this way we will truly be a resurrection people and Alleluia will truly be our song.

May the peace of the risen Lord be with you always,

Fr Andrew

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**Pray and Participate: Synod 2021-2023** The Bishops of Westminster have produced a summary of the Westminster Synodal Journey synthesising submissions from parishes, schools and meetings; the Bishops commit to using this process to formulate mission priorities within the Diocese. In addition, this report now goes forward to the Bishops' Conference for England & Wales. Along with reports from the other dioceses, it will contribute to a national report, finalised in June, and then on to the Synod Office in the Vatican in July. The reports from this global exercise will then form the basis for preparatory documents for the Synod of Bishops and Church leaders in October 2023. Copies of the Diocesan Report are now available in the porch, on the ['Parish News'](#) page of our website, on the Synod notice board in Church and on the diocesan [website](#). Let us pray that as the Synod process progresses, the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and inspire all who participate.

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**Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) Pentecost Challenge 2022** Friends of the Holy Land (FHL), is a non-political Christian Charity whose mission is to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan - the part of the world that Christians call the Holy Land. FHL's Pentecost Challenge for 2022 aims to raise funds to create a more sustainable future in the Holy Land by building local skills and training young people: £400 covers the annual training fees for an electrician; £1,800 covers the annual training for a nurse.

The Challenge involves walking, running, cycling or swimming the 100-mile virtual route from Nazareth to Bethlehem, reversing last year's route, between Easter and Pentecost Sunday, 5th June. The challenge need not be too arduous: it can be achieved by walking say 2.5 miles a day over 40 days, or, if you're a keen cyclist, you may prefer to cycle 20 miles a day over 5 days!

If you would like to join the parish team that is taking the Challenge, please email the parish office (stalbans@rcdow.org.uk). Please help us raise funds by sponsoring the parish team, using the following [link](#) or drop a donation in an envelope marked 'FHL Pentecost Challenge' through the presbytery letter box. Your encouragement and support of this parish fundraising to help the Christians in the Holy Land is much appreciated.

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC)** We pray for peace & justice in the world. We think of those around the globe facing poverty & lack of nutrition. May governments step up & create political changes so food, clean water & shelter are available to all people.

## LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

**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 25 June 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.

**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

**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.

**Traidcraft** Traidcraft goods will be available after all Masses at church over the weekend of 30 April/1 May and at John Fisher Mass Centre on 8 May. Fair trade ethics allow people to support themselves and their families without fear of being ripped off. It helps generate a more sustainable income and allows poorer people to access many of the things we take for granted in the UK. If you have time, please come and look at the stall and support it. More details, or to place an order, contact Maureen on 765549 or [grabecki@hotmail.com](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com). The Traidcraft stall is part of the Justice & Peace outreach undertaken by the Parish.

**Refreshments after Mass Monday 2 May** Tea, coffee and cake will be served after 10am mass on Monday 2 May. All welcome.

**CWL Meetings 3 May and 9 June** The next CWL meeting will be our AGM after the 10am Mass on Tuesday 3 May. This is the last morning meeting. The following meetings will be on the first THURSDAY AFTERNOON monthly. However the June meeting will be a Jubilee tea party on the second Thursday (9 June) so that members may watch the celebrations on TV.

**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.

**Parish Bingo** On Friday 13 May by the Knights of St.Columba, at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall in aid of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone welcome.

**Mens Breakfast Saturday 14 May** We are continuing our series of Men's Breakfasts focused on the Creed and we will next meet in the parish centre on Saturday 14 May from 8.15 for coffee, croissants and conversation. At about 9am we will watch a video on the Nicene Creed, looking at the final section on the meaning of our beliefs regarding the Apostolic Church. 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 email [d4dstalbins@gmail.com](mailto:d4dstalbins@gmail.com)

**Knit and Natter** The next meetings of Knit and Natter will be from 2.30 - 4pm on Tuesday 10 and 24 May. All welcome.

**St Albans Sustainability Festival** Our parish has supported this event for a number of years. This year we are running a bread-making workshop in the Hall on Saturday 21 May, from 10.00am to 1pm. If you would like to attend, please book a ticket via Eventbrite [here](#) and bring a mixing bowl, small metal bread tin and apron on the day; ingredients supplied. Please walk to the event or park in Loreto car park (Beaconsfield Road entrance, about 100m north of the Church). There is NO PARKING at the church during that day as it's needed for a wedding. The event is free and is part of the parish Justice and Peace group's outreach to our local community. There are 16 places - the size of the oven in the hall, so booking is essential. More details from Stan on 765549, [grabecki@hotmail.com](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com).

**Loreto College (St Albans) Centenary Garden Party Sunday 10 July 12-6pm** (last admission 5pm) Admission £5.00 per person (FREE entry for children aged 5 and under) There will be live music by the popular local band Soulfish, BBQ, afternoon tea, bar, traditional games/stalls and much more including our Centenary Raffle. A link to the ticket page and more information can be found [here](#).

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**Community Café Manager Wanted** The Cross Street Café at Dagnall Street Baptist Church is looking to appoint a Manager/Assistant Manager for its busy community café. The Café is open from 10.00am-2.00pm, Wednesday-Saturday. The daily shift is 9.00am-3.00pm and the number of shifts worked per week is negotiable. Duties include: welcoming customers; preparing food and hot drinks; waiting at tables; cleaning and washing up. For further information, email [simon@dbsbc.org.uk](mailto:simon@dbsbc.org.uk)

**Good Counsel Network Thanksgiving Mass 30 April** Holy Mass in Thanksgiving for 25 Years of the Pro-Life Work of the Good Counsel Network. Main Celebrant Fr Richard Whinder. Saturday 30 April at 12.00 (New Rite Mass) St James' Church (Spanish Place), 22 George St, London W1U 3QY. Followed by Refreshments in the Hall. All Welcome. [www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)

**A Day with John Bell, Iona Community 7 May** Our friends across Beaconsfield Road at Trinity URC church are part of a group which is organising a day with John Bell, of the Iona Community, at Wigmore Hall, Luton on Saturday 7 May from 10am until 4pm. John is a lecturer, author and hymn writer, but best known to many as a regular contributor to Radio 4's "Thought for the Day". The day is split into 2 parts with a seminar on "The imagination as a resource for Faith" in the morning and workshop on "Singing the Gospel in the 21st century" in the afternoon. Tickets can be purchased separately for the morning or afternoon at a cost of £10, or £15 for both sessions. They are selling quickly but there are still some available, please contact Gill Elliott for more details by emailing [gilldotelliott@googlemail.com](mailto:gilldotelliott@googlemail.com).

**May Procession - Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, Nicoll Road, NW109AX. Sunday 8 May 3pm.** Preacher, Most Rev Kenneth Nowakowski; Eparch of the Holy Family of London (Ukrainian Catholic Church), who will be accompanied by the Icon of the Mother of Protection-Pokrova. Come and join the praying of the Rosary asking the prayers of the Black Madonna of Willesden for the protection of London, and Peace and Restoration in Ukraine.

**Catholic Listeners, Diocese of Westminster** A new confidential listening helpline will launch this month, set up for those who are returning to the faith. The helpline is all about listening to others, listening to those who might have become isolated due to the pandemic. Although we are not a counselling service, we have a professional team trained on signposting to other services and agencies. Sometimes just communicating with someone who listens and understands can help clarify a way forward. We aim to help those in need of a safe space to talk. [Email](mailto:) Ade for more information. We are here to listen on 0800 448 0704.

**Priests Training Fund Collection** Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 58 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 17 of whom are from our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also from our Diocese. Last year four men who studied at Allen Hall were ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available in the

back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations). Thank you for your generosity.

## PARISH ADMINISTRATION

**Recent retiring Collections** The recent retiring collection for the Cardinal's Appeal raised £754.21 and the collection for Holy Places raised £838.62.

**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.

**Offertory Promise Envelopes** 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.

**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 August 2022 and that intentions may have to be moved with little notice to accommodate funerals. The suggested diocesan donation is currently £10 per mass.

**The English Martyrs - 4 May** On 4 May 1535, at Tyburn in London, three Carthusian monks died, the first of many martyrs from all walks of life of the English Reformation. Of these martyrs, 42 have been canonized, and a further 242 have been declared Blessed; but the true number of those who died cannot be reckoned. The persecution lasted 150 years. From 2001, there are also celebrated on this day the 40 martyrs of England and Wales who were canonized on 25 October 1970 and formerly celebrated on that day.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

**Saturday 30 April - VIGIL 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
6pm Mass Jack O'Mahony (RIP)

**Sunday 1 May THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8am Mass People of the Parish

9am Mass Bridget Kearney (Ints)

*(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)*

9.30am Mass Ellen Small (RIP)

11.30am Mass John Darby (RIP)

6pm Mass Terry Mahabir (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 5:27-32,40-41 Psalm, 29(30)

Reading 2, Apocalypse 5:11-14, Gospel John 21:1-19

**Monday 2 May - St Athanasius**

10am Mass Mona Parker (RIP)

7pm No evening Mass

Reading 1, Acts 6:8-15, Psalm, 118(119), Gospel, John 6:22-29

**Tuesday 3 May - SS PHILIP and JAMES**

10am Mass Marion Miller (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Psalm, 18(19), Gospel, John 14:6-14

**Wednesday 4 May - THE ENGLISH MARTYRS**

10am Mass Michael Fennessy (RIP)

7pm Mass Leisha Dobson (Ints)

Reading 1, Acts 7:55-60, Psalm, 30(31),

Gospel, Matthew 10:17-20

**Thursday 5 May - Easter feria**

10am Mass Karen Brennan (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 8:26-40, Psalm, 65(66), Gospel, John 6:44-51

**Friday 6 May - Easter feria**

10am Funeral Mass for Elaine Murphy

7pm Mass Jim Fahy (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 9:1-20, Psalm, 116(117),

Gospel, John 6:52-59

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

**Saturday 7 May - Easter feria**

10am Mass Nana Angiolina Cosimini (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 9:31-42

Psalm 115(116), Gospel, John 6:60-69

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

**Saturday 7 May - VIGIL 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

6pm Mass Deceased members of the Sheehan and Guinnelly families

**Sunday 8 May - 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8am Mass Deceased members of the Bergin and Cawley Families

9am Mass Marion Miller (RIP)

*(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)*

9.30am Maria and Franciszek Frosztega (Ann)

11.30am Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

6pm Mass People of the Parish

Reading 1, Acts 13:14,43-52, Psalm, 99(100)

Reading 2, Apocalypse, 7:9,14-17, Gospel, John 10:27-30

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the priest and members of the St Leonard's 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 Concettina Frisso, Joan De Carle, Jill Hall, Mark Johnson, Elaine Murphy, Rose Reilly and Mollie Sandy.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Karen Brennan, Fr Joe Colbert MSC, Maria and Franciszek Frosztega, Mary Gallagher, Tony Harding, Terry Mahabir and Fr Michael O' Leary MSC.

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace*

## 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.

## 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.