



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 15 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)
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We are a Fairtrade parish

Returning to Mass at Pentecost **An invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales**

This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity - "The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist." It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as "the Sunday Obligation."

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. "Virtual viewing" of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person.

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

Bishops of England & Wales, 6th May 2022

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) Conscious of the difficulties so many of us face with rising prices, we recall and pray for an end to the evil of not paying workers a just wage.

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 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.

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

Priests Training Fund Collection I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. The response of prayer for vocations, love and concern for the clergy, and for the current seminarians, was heart-warming. If you still wish to make your donation, you will find envelopes at the back of the church or you can use the QR code on the envelope or poster to make your donation [online](#) through the Diocesan website. The formation of priests is of top priority; it is our future. May God Bless you for your generosity.

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, 5 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. 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.

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.

Coffee after Mass Monday 16 May Coffee and tea will be available in the Parish Centre coffee bar after 10.00am Mass on Monday morning. All are welcome.

Mercy Associates Meeting 18 May Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 18 May in Room 1 of the Parish centre from 5 until 7pm. Sr.Maura will be with us.

St Albans Sustainability Festival 21 May 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 10am 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.

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

CWL Meetings 9 June From now on 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.

Parish Friends Summer Tea Party 10 July Parish Friends are having a Summer Tea Party on Saturday 10 July 3.30-5.30pm to which all are welcome. We will be entertained by a new group "Forever in Diamonds" a Neil Diamond tribute band. Please join us for an afternoon of great entertainment.

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](#).

Please pray Please pray for George Shields who died recently. Formerly of this parish, now in Ripon.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

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 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.

Newman Association Talk 21 May The Herts Circle of the Newman Association will be hosting a talk by Monsignor Pat Kilgarraff, Five Sonnets by Gerard Manley Hopkins, followed by refreshments at Our Lady of Lourdes Church (Undercroft), Rothamsted Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2QH at 11.30 on Saturday 21 May. There is no need to book.

The Kingdom Come - Evening Prayer in St Albans Abbey each night at 8pm Each evening between 26 May and 6 June in St Albans Abbey there will be services of prayer led by both the Abbey Team and a range of ecumenical partners, all services are open to all and there will be a focus on young people on Friday 27 May. Please do support these services as we pray and worship together. More information on <http://www.ctherts.org.uk/events/thy-kingdom-come> and www.stalbans.anglican.org/TKC.

St Michael's Catholic Grammar School - Applications to sit the entrance tests for Year 7 Entry in September 2023 Applications are now being accepted for girls currently in year 5 to sit the entrance tests for year 7 entry to St Michael's in September 2023. Applications can be made through the online system available on our [website](#) Parents should ensure that they read the Admissions Policy prior to making an application and provide the original Certificate of Catholic Practice signed by their Parish Priest by the closing date of 4pm on Tuesday 5 July 2022.

Discover Together evening Monday 16 May The Reverend Jeffrey John, Associate Chaplain, St George's, Paris; formerly Dean of St Albans will lead us in a session exploring “The Miracle Stories in the Gospels” 8.00pm via Zoom. All are welcome to come along.

The paradox of abundance Over 800 million people go hungry each day. Yet the world produces over 4 billion tonnes of food and we only need 3.7 billion tonnes to feed everyone. From all this food produced, a third is wasted. St John Paul II called this ‘the paradox of abundance.’ Clearly the currently global food system is not working. But as Pope Francis said, "Each of us has a role to play in transforming food systems for the benefit of people and the planet." Let's respond to his call! CAFOD's new campaign is called Fix the Food System. See www.cafod.org.uk/food for more information, including an invitation for parish groups to learn about the impact of our food with our Fix the Food System: a 7-station journey resource.

Accommodation needed Female archaeologist, Spanish, Catholic, seeks accommodation for 3 nights a week (Fri-Sun) for 3 months while working in St Albans. For more details, please phone 07983 477 819.

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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 14 May - VIGIL 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
6pm Mass John Loughlin (fiftieth anniversary)

Sunday 15 May - 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
8am Mass Bridget and Patrick Scully (RIP)
9am Mass Arthur and Catherine Ball (Ann)
(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)
9.30am Mass Andrew Fernandes (RIP)
11.30am Mass Thomas Fox (RIP)
6pm Mass People of the parish
Reading 1, Acts 14:21-27, Psalm, 144(145)
Reading 2, Apocalypse, 21:1-5, Gospel, John 13:31-35

Monday 16 May - Easter feria
10am Funeral Mass for Rose Reilly
7pm Mass Nancy (Anne) Hudson (RIP)
Reading 1, Acts 14:5-18
Psalm, 113B (115), Gospel, John 14:21-26

Tuesday 17 May - Easter feria
10am Mass Deceased members of the Steele family
Reading 1, Acts 14:19-28
Psalm, 144(145), Gospel, John 14:27-31

Wednesday 18 May - Easter feria
10am Funeral Mass for Mark Johnson
7pm Mass Elizabeth Ingman (Ann)
Reading 1, Acts 15:1-6
Psalm, 121(122), Gospel, John 15:1-8

Thursday 19 May - Easter feria
10am Mass Robert Falloon (Ann)
Reading 1, Acts 15:7-21
Psalm, 95(96), Gospel, John 15:9-11

Friday 19 May - Easter feria
10am Mass Funeral Mass for Jill Hall
7pm Ian Fincham (RIP)
Reading 1, Acts 15:22-31
Psalm, 56(57), Gospel, John 15:12-17
(*On Friday Mass is celebrated at St Albans Cathedral at 12 Noon*)

Saturday 20 May - Easter feria
10am Mass Eric Harber (RIP)
Reading 1, Acts 16:1-10
Psalm, 99(100), Gospel, John 15:18-21
10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Saturday 21 May - VIGIL 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
6pm Mass George & Perry Taites (RIP)

Sunday 22 May - 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
8am Mass Sajish Kandaramath (Ann)
9am Mass Angela and her daughter, Angela (Ints)
(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)
9.30am Mass People of the Parish
11.30am Mass Annie Goddman (RIP)
6pm Mass Freda and Margaret Clancy (Ann)
Reading 1, Acts 15:1-2,22-29, Psalm, 66(67)
Reading 2, Apocalypse, 21:10-14,22-23, Gospel, John 14:23-29

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the intentions of Christian Aid Week.

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 Callum Gathard, Jill Hall, Mark Johnson, Maureen McCarthy, Rose Reilly, George Shields, Patrick Swift.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Arthur and Catherine Ball, Freda and Margaret Clancy, Robert Falloon, Enid Gomez, Elizabeth Ingman, Sajish Kandaramath.

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. 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.