



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 22 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 Michael writes ...

We recommenced congregational singing and the use of hymn books as well as holy water a few weeks ago. I understand that for some the use of face masks is still desirable, but given that the use of face masks has ceased in so many other settings, I think it is now time to stop insisting on their use in church. If people wish to use a face mask they will be welcome to do so. Indeed, we will still make them available, should people forget to bring their own, but going forward my feeling is that the decision whether or not to wear a mask should be left entirely to individual discretion. Of course, if you have a respiratory infection, please consider staying away from church until the infection has passed.

I am conscious, as I write, of the small army of volunteers who have seen us through the pandemic. In the early days of the pandemic that meant developing a way of streaming what we do in church, it also involved drawing on the time and talents of musicians and readers as we developed a more innovative approach to our celebrations of Holy Week and Carols by Candlelight, and then, once we returned to the public celebration of mass, it involved a host of welcomers and stewards willing to sign people in, show them to their seats and, once mass was over, to wipe down and sanitise the benches. I am also mindful of the planning group who offered their advice on what we should be doing at various stages, and all the volunteers who continued to do what they do as we journeyed through these last two years.

On Saturday 18th June following the evening Mass, at which all those who read at that mass will be invited to renew their commitment to reading, there will be a parish social; partly to celebrate our coming through these last couple of years, but primarily to celebrate and thank our volunteers, not least those who have helped to keep the church open. So, if you are a parishioner or a visitor to our parish, consider yourself invited. Come along, to say thank you. If you are a volunteer, or have volunteered in the past, consider yourself invited. Come along to this celebration of you and the generosity that makes parish possible.

Catechetical Coordinator Sr Anita left us in January 2020 and, with parish life settling back into its new normal, it seems a good time to look to her replacement. We hope in the future to appoint a youth minister, so the post of catechetical coordinator will be a part time role at 20 hrs a week. For the full job description visit the [Job Vacancies](#) section of the Diocese of Westminster website. The closing day for applications is Thursday 9 June at noon.

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 available on the ['Parish News' page](#) of our website.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) On this International day of Families, let us pray for families worldwide, especially those torn apart by war, human trafficking and illnesses.

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.

First Reconciliation The parents or guardians of those children making their First Holy Communion in July and who have not yet made their First Reconciliation have received an email this week inviting them to make their First Reconciliation between midday and 1pm on Saturday 18 June. If you have not received an email and your child has still to make his or her First Reconciliation, please contact the parish office.

Confirmation Parents or guardians of Confirmation candidates have received an email asking for their choice of Confirmation date in July. If you have not received an email, please contact the parish office.

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 Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. The total donated was £1,485.99.

Catholic Communications Network This year the Catholic Church celebrates World Communications Day on 29 May. It's a day when we pray for those who work in the media and we have a second collection after Mass next weekend to support the Church's important work in this area.

Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) Pentecost Challenge 2022 Our team of parishioners who are each walking 100 miles, the distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem, before Pentecost, are well on their way, with our keenest walker, almost reaching the target. The walk aims to encourage sponsorship to raise funds for The Friends of the Holy Land's work to create a more sustainable future for Christians in the Holy Land. At the beginning of the 20th century, Christians made up roughly 29% of the overall population of The Holy Land. Today they account for less than 2%. FHL provide help 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. If you would like to join the parish team that's taking the Challenge, please email the parish office or help us raise funds by sponsoring the parish team, using this [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 23 May Coffee and tea will be available in the Parish Centre coffee bar after 10.00am Mass on Monday morning. All are welcome.

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

Faith and Family Group 7 June A new 'Faith & Family group' will be meeting in the parish hall on the first Tuesday of each month starting on Tuesday June 7 at 10.45am. The topic for discussion will be 'Passing on the Faith from an Early Age.' Activities for under 5s. All welcome.

CWL Jubilee Tea Party 9 June The CWL will hold a Jubilee Tea Party on Thursday 9 June 2.30pm, at 4 Marshalswick Lane. £5. If you can, please bring a cupcake (shop or homemade) decorated by you in honour of Her Majesty's Jubilee. Prize for best cupcake. Any queries to Anne on 01727 837511.

CWL Meetings 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.

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](#).

Parish Friends Summer Tea Party Due to a clash of dates with the Garden Party at Loreto College Parish Friends is postponing the Tea Party booked for 10 July to a date later in the year.

Volunteers wanted There will be a lively "Celebrate" style faith event with mass in the Autumn, date yet to be arranged, hopefully to be agreed soon. If you would like to get involved in the planning for this family event, then please let Deacon Brendan know by emailing at brendanday@rcdow.org.uk. The more people that get involved, the less everyone will need to do, and the better the event will be.

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

Thankyou to parishioners The family of the late George Xuereb Brennan wish to thank Fr Michael and everyone for their support, mass cards and prayers during their sad loss. The 6pm mass on Sunday 11 September will be offered for your intentions.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Mass of Thanksgiving for Matrimony - Westminster Cathedral Westminster Cathedral welcomed over 430 couples for the annual Mass in thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony on Saturday 14 May, celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. The couples came from 144 parishes, including St Alban and St Stephen, representing all 22 deaneries. Together they celebrate over 5,000 years of marriage. During the Mass the couples renewed their marriage vows and were blessed by the Cardinal. Thirty-five couples were celebrating at least 60 years of marriage, with a further 74 celebrating 50 years together. Please see the following [link](#) for more details of the event on the Diocese of Westminster website and follow this [link](#) for some photos from the Diocesan Flickr page.

Permanent Diaconate - 'Come & See' - 21 May 2022 The Permanent Deacon is a man who serves the Church through ministry of Word, Altar and Charity, under the direction of the Bishop and Priest. For men who may be interested in learning more about the Permanent Diaconate, they are invited to a 'Come & See' Morning on Saturday 21 May, 10am - 12noon at Church of The Guardian Angels, 377 Mile End Road, E3 4QS. For further information please contact Deacon Adrian Cullen adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk or 07961 594725. Follow this [link](#) for more information.

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.

CAFOD 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 [here](#) 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/ September 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 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

Monday 23 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Bridie Synott (RIP)

7pm Mass Gertie Sloan (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 16:11-15

Psalm, 149, Gospel, John 15:26-16:4

Tuesday 24 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Marion Miller (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 16:22-34

Psalm, 137(138), Gospel, John 16:5-11

Wednesday 25 May - St Bede the Venerable

10am Mass Patrick Bagge (Ann) and Tom Bagge (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 17:15,22-18:1

Psalm, 148, Gospel, John 16:12-15

Wednesday 25 May - VIGIL MASS OF THE ASCENSION

7pm Mass Holy Souls

Thursday 26 May - THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

10am Mass People of the Parish

Reading 1, Acts 1:1-11, Psalm, 46(47)

Reading 2, Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23, Gospel, Luke 24:46-53

Friday 27 May - ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

7pm Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:2-8

Psalm, 116(117), Gospel, Luke 10:1-9

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

Saturday 28 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Deceased members of the Davies family

Reading 1, Acts 18:23-28

Psalm 46(47), Gospel, John 16:23-28

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Saturday 28 May - VIGIL 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

6pm Mass Perry Taites (RIP)

Sunday 29 May - 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Fearghal Bergin (Ints)

9am Mass Holy Souls

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Ellen and Thomas Lawless (Ann)

11.30am Mass Rita & Gatarno (RIP)

6pm Mass People of the parish

Reading 1, Acts 7:55-60, Psalm, 96(97)

Reading 2, Apocalypse 22:12-14,16-17,20, Gospel, John 17:20-26

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the Pastors and members of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship.

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 Rita Dellow, Joyce Eastham, Callum Gathard, Veronica Grant, Maureen McCarthy, Tomasz Moller, George Shields and Nellie White.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Patrick Bagge, Tom Bagge, Freda and Margaret Clancy, Enid Gomez, Sajish Kandaramath, Ellen and Thomas Lawless, Dorothy Salisbury.

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.