



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 8 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*

A story is told about St. John XXIII's time as Patriarch of Venice, before he was elected Pope. There was an Easter morning tradition whereby, at daybreak, a priest would enter the Archbishop's apartment and announce, "Christ is risen, our Lady rejoices! Let us go to Mary to share in her joy!" Then they would go together to the altar of Our Lady in the Cathedral of St. Mark and pray to enter into Mary's joy.

May is the month of Mary and often, as is the case this year, we celebrate Easter at the same time. I like to think that is not just a coincidence. Far from detracting from the focus on the resurrection of Christ, our May devotions to Our Lady should really help us to enter into the joy of Easter by entering into Mary's joy.

What we are meditating on during Eastertide is not resurrection as some general spiritual idea but the actual bodily resurrection of Jesus the person who is God and man, just as during Holy Week we meditated on the suffering and death of Jesus, real suffering and death experienced in his human body. In trying to comprehend that suffering we seem instinctively to think about Our Lady of Sorrows and how, as any mother would, she shared her son's pain. Thinking of Our Lady then helps us to enter into the drama of Holy Week, it helps to keep it real. The same is true during Eastertide. Imagining the inexpressible joy of the Mother of Jesus at the news of his resurrection helps us to comprehend the joy of Easter, it helps us to keep Easter real too.

But Our Lady was not just the mother of Our Lord's humanity, she is rightly addressed as the Mother of God because the child she bore was both human and divine. So sorrow of Holy Week which she entered into and helps us to enter into and the joy of Easter which she experienced and which she helps us to enter into is a mystery of God Himself. In other words, by entering into Mary's joy in Eastertide we are entering into the mystery of the joy of heaven itself. The words of the Regina Caeli seem to capture all of this beautifully.

Queen of Heaven rejoice! Alleluia.  
For He whom you were worthy to bear, Alleluia  
Has risen as He said, Alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, Alleluia  
Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary! Alleluia.  
For the Lord has risen indeed! Alleluia.

God bless,

Fr Andrew

**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.

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC)** We pray that we all may hear the call of Jesus to work for peace. We ask that our response, however simple, may help in the building of a more just and respectful world.

## 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

**Priests Training Fund Collection** This weekend our second collection will be in support of the Priest Training Fund, which benefits the parishes and the Diocese of Westminster by providing us with new priests. The formation of our priests is of top priority – it is our future. The Priest Training Fund pays for the training and education of seminarians at our seminary, Allen Hall. There are currently 58 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 17 of whom are from our own Diocese, and two men are currently studying in Rome, also from our Diocese. In 2021 we also celebrated the ordination of four men from Allen Hall to the priesthood, to serve as our future priests. It costs on average £25,000 per man, per year of formation – that is about £150,000 to form and educate a new priest, who makes a lifetime commitment to Christ and the Church. The Priest Training Fund also pays for the ongoing education and formation of our priests, post-ordination.

Priests are the heart of the Catholic Church. So, I ask you to please be generous in your support of this appeal and to continue to pray for vocations and our seminarians. Donation envelopes are available today – you can use this envelope to make a one-off donation or to set up a regular donation to the Priest Training Fund. If you can Gift Aid, please don't forget to tick it off. Thank you.

**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 ([stalbins@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbins@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.

**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 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.

**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.

**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 and Tea after Mass this Monday** Coffee and tea will be available in the Parish Centre coffee bar after 11am Mass this Monday. All welcome.

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

**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 [d4dstalbans@gmail.com](mailto:d4dstalbans@gmail.com)

**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

**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](http://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.

**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.

**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

## 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 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

### **Monday 9 May - Easter feria**

10am Funeral Mass for Concettina Frisso

7pm Mass Linda Fitzpatrick (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 11:1-18

Psalm, 41(42), Gospel, John 10:1-10

### **Tuesday 10 May - Easter feria**

10am Mass Frances Sheehan (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 11:19-26

Psalm, 86(87), Gospel, John 10:22-30

### **Wednesday 11 May - Easter feria**

10am Funeral Mass for Joan De Carle

7pm Mass Annie Coakley (Ann)

Reading 1,

### **Thursday 12 May - Easter feria**

10am Mass World Union of Catholic Women's

Organisations (Ints)

Reading 1, Acts 13:13-25

Psalm, 88(89), Gospel, John 13:16-20

### **Friday 13 May - Easter feria**

7pm Mass Robert Andlaw (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 13:26-33

Psalm, 2, Gospel, John 14:1-6

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

### **Saturday 14 May - ST MATTHIAS**

10am Mass Jim Fahy (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 1:15-17,20-26

Psalm112(113), Gospel, John 15:9-17

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

### **Saturday 14 May - VIGIL 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

6pm Mass John Loughlin (fiftieth anniversary)

### **Sunday 15 May - 5<sup>TH</sup> 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

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the Minister and members of Trinity United Reform 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 Joan De Carle, Concettina Frisso, Callum Gathard, Jill Hall, Mark Johnson, Rose Reilly, Mollie Sandy, Patrick Swift.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Arthur and Catherine Ball, Annie Coakley Maria and Franciszek Frosztega and Fr Brendan Hanley 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. 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.