



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 26 June



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 ...

In today's gospel we encounter a determined Jesus. He sets out 'resolutely' for Jerusalem, refuses to be caught up in his disciples' desire for revenge, promises hardship to those who would follow him, challenges a would-be disciple to let his father bury himself and insists that there is no room for looking back when it comes to following him. Much like Elijah in the first reading, who chastises Elisha for wanting to bid farewell to his parents, the Jesus we encounter doesn't save his punches. It is all or nothing. For the disciple, as the second reading reminds us, there is no room for self-indulgence or for a way of life we might design and carve out for ourselves, which begins with 'me', 'I' or 'my'. Our focus is to be Christ and the proclamation of the kingdom. 'Your duty', says Jesus, 'is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God'.

We lead busy lives and our days are filled with all sorts of things that need to be done – good and laudable things, like the burying the dead; but if in the midst of all these good even charitable deeds, we lose sight of Christ, of the one we are called to proclaim, then we are missing the point.

At the beginning of today's second reading Paul reminds us that it is Christ who is the source of our freedom and liberty. The most loving thing that you and I can do for anyone is to put them into contact with this Christ; the Christ who frees us from every form of enslavement. Yes, we can do all sorts of good things, a myriad of good deeds, but if these good deeds do not spring from a living relationship with Christ, from a life focused on him, then all our good deeds will ever be is just that; good deeds rather than a proclamation of the kingdom.

Social to thank our volunteers An enjoyable evening in the parish hall on 18 June celebrated and thanked our volunteers for all the time they give and the talents they share with our parish. Volunteers enrich our parish and their support has been essential over the last two years. It was lovely to gather and catch up again. Please see the [Parish News](#) page of our website for some photos from the event.

CATHOLICISM - Series Study Programme beginning 21 September 8 weekly sessions in the Parish Centre, each 90 minutes (plus 30 min preparation time at home in advance of the weekly sessions). Starting Wednesday 21 September at 10.45am or Thursday 22 September at 7.45pm (breaking for the half-term holiday). Light refreshments provided; biscuits and cakes on Wednesdays, soup and a roll on Thursdays. Cost £10 - This includes a study guide and is payable on registration. Please register by Monday 18 July 2022 by either emailing the parish office at or phoning on 01727 853585 during office hours (9am – 1pm Monday to Friday). Details of how to pay on registration.

Young Adults Group We would like to mark the end of public exams with celebrations for those in years 11, 12 and 13. If you are in Years 11, 12 or 13 and have just finished your exams and would be interested in coming or helping to organise these events, please WhatsApp Bridget on 07870 620212.

Peter's Pence The retiring collection this weekend will be in support of Peter's Pence. This is a worldwide special collection and goes to support the international ministry of the Holy See, in particular its charitable and philanthropic work – special aid is given in the Holy Father's name to dioceses and religious communities in particularly poor and needy parts of the world.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) Prayer Dear Lord, teach us to listen to the voice of creation.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation courses will be held on Saturday 6 August 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.

Call for Ministers of the Eucharist and Ministers of the Word We are very blessed to have many extraordinary ministers in the parish but we always need more, particularly at 9.30 Mass. If you would like more information about becoming a Minister of the Eucharist or a Minister of the Word, please contact the Parish Office on stalbins@rcdow.org.uk giving full names, contact details and which Mass you normally attend.

Call for helpers for Children's Liturgy at 9.30am Mass We are looking for volunteers to help running the Sunday Liturgy at 9:30am for children aged 5 to 8. Commitment would be 2 to 3 hours per month to prepare and run one of the Sunday Liturgies for the children to participate in.

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.

Parking Please check the parking restrictions in Beaconsfield Road when attending weekday and Saturday morning Masses – traffic wardens seem to have been very active recently! Note that Loreto car park is now open for use at Sunday Masses, please park here if possible and leave the church car park available for those less mobile.

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. Please contact the parish office if you can help make and serve the refreshments, once a month.

Coffee after Monday Morning Mass Coffee and tea will be available in the Parish Centre coffee bar after 10am Mass each Monday. All welcome.

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

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) Meeting 16 June This meeting will take place at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome to attend.

Toddlers' Playgroup has now restarted! The Toddler playgroup restarted on Monday, 20 June at 10:30am After over two years away due to Covid, we are pleased to celebrate the return of our playgroup. For pre-school age children and their carers. Join us in the upstairs hall, for toys, books, games and singing plus drinks and snacks. If able to help, please email David Markham or call 07543 400650.

Knit and Natter Group - Parish Friends 5 July The next meeting of the Knit and Natter Group will be on 5 July 2.15 - 4pm. All welcome.

C.W.L. Thursday 7 July Meet at 2pm for meeting followed by a talk "Tales from the Opera" by Jeremy. Members and visitors all welcome. Cost £2.

Bingo 8 July - by the Knights of St.Columba, at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall in aid of The John Foster Memorial Home (a Trust that supports destitute boys in India). Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. All are welcome.

Parish Men's Group - Summer events Before the summer holidays start we have a couple of events planned for the Men's Group in the parish. Firstly on Thursday 30 June we are planning pub night at the Great Northern on London Road. We will be there from 7pm to 10pm so why not pop in at some point in the evening. They also do food so you can eat there as well if you wish. Secondly on Saturday 2 July we have a Men's Breakfast with a difference. We are going to start at 8.30am with the Morning Office of the Church - which should take about 20 minutes and then follow that with a discussion over coffee and pastries, which will start on the theme of Prayer may well diverge on to other topics. We will finish by about 9.45am.

Mothers' Prayers 11 July We will meet in room 2 on Monday 11 July at 8pm. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information; office@mothersprayers.org.

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 email.

Drivers needed Do you come to 6pm Mass on Saturday evenings? How would you like to join a rota and give a lift to this mass to two parishioners (from the same road) once every month? Being without a car means that some parishioners are not able to return to mass. Volunteer drivers make a huge difference and enable them to enjoy the mass in church, receive Holy Communion, light a candle and socialise with other parishioners. Please consider offering your help. For more information contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340 or via the Parish Office by emailing stalbins@rcdow.org.uk or phoning 01727 853585.

Host families needed for Ukrainian refugees There are still many families fleeing Ukraine but with nowhere to go. Could you please help by offering them space in your home? You have no obligation to cook for them, and the Government will pay you £350 per month. Full support given through the process. Contact David Markham on Dave.markham@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07543 400650.

Wanted: Part time Female Personal Assistant / Carer for young lady with Multiple Sclerosis. Needed for 5 or 6 hours on Fridays, to help with daily tasks of living, go shopping, etc., For more information, please contact Mary on 07508 601066.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

CTSA Information Exchange Forum 27 June Churches Together in St Albans are running an Information Exchange concerning refugees and asylum seekers. The forum will take place on Monday June 27 June at 8pm, at Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Avenue AL4 9QL ALL WELCOME. Churches Together in St Albans. www.ctstalbans.org.uk. If you are hosting or involved in some other way, please email Peter Berners-Lee peter@ctstalbans.org.uk. - he'd love to hear from you.

Walsingham New Dawn 36th annual family Catholic Charismatic Conference 1-5 August 2022 "Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden" (Matt11 v 28-30). Programme for all the family, daily Mass, workshops, speakers, Youth Ministry and much more. Information www.Newdawn.org.uk or Facebook.

CTSA Autumn Prayer Walk, 2022: date for your diary Churches Together in St Albans Autumn Prayer Walk – Sunday, 18 September 2 – 6pm. Come and join other local Christians for all or any part of this relaxed walk around St Albans. As usual, we will pause at number of churches for a short prayer for the people of St Albans. Details to follow.

Save the date: 16-17 July 2022. Marriage Encounter are hosting a non-residential marriage enrichment weekend. This is a wonderful opportunity for couples to spend time reflecting on, refreshing and rejoicing in their wonderful vocation. For details follow this [link](#).

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 – LOOKING TO LISBON World Youth Day 2023 will take place in Lisbon in the beginning of August 2023. Westminster Youth Ministry, with support from Cardinal's Appeal, is offering a limited number of discounted places (50%) to young people between the ages of 16-25. Any 16 year olds who apply will need to have completed year 12 by the start of World Youth Day pilgrimage. Those in receipt of a discounted place are asked to commit to a series of preparatory sessions from September 2022 and be prepared to assist in support roles during the pilgrimage acting, for example, as small group leaders. More details can be found [here](#). at or by [emailing](#)

Westminster Youth Ministry at youth@rcdow.org.uk. Please apply by 31 July 2022.

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 taxpayer 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. Please also be aware that if you have signed a gift aid form, your offertory donations need to be made from a bank account in your name only or a joint bank account on which you are also named. Please contact the parish office if you have any queries on this.

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

St Irenaeus - Tuesday 28 June (130 - 202) Irenaeus was born in Smyrna, in Asia Minor (now Izmir in Turkey) and emigrated to Lyons, in France, where he eventually became the bishop. It is not known whether he was martyred or died a natural death. Whenever we take up a Bible we touch Irenaeus's work, for he played a decisive role in fixing the canon of the New Testament. Irenaeus went through all the books of the New Testament and all the candidates and carefully considered the canonicity of each. Irenaeus's canon of scripture is very nearly the modern but more important is that he started the tradition of biblical scholarship.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 25 June - VIGIL OF 13TH SUN. IN ORD TIME
6pm Mass John and Pamela Kentleton (RIP)

Sunday 26 June - 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8am Mass Mary Watkins (Ints)
9am Mass Marion Miller (RIP) (*St John Fisher School, M'wick*)
9.30am Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)
11.30am Mass People of the parish
6pm Mass James Patrick Gogarty (RIP)
Reading 1, 1 Kings 19:16,19-21, Psalm 15(16)
Reading 2, Galatians 5:13-18, Gospel, Luke 9:51-62

Monday 27 June - St John Southworth
10am Mass Steve Pickard (ints) - ordination anniversary
7pm Mass Colin Molloy (RIP)
Reading 1, Amos 2:6-10, 13-16
Psalm 49(50), Gospel, Matthew 8:18-22

Tuesday 28 June - St Irenaeus
10am Funeral Mass for James Aloysius Ryan
Reading 1, Amos 3:1-8, 4:11-12
Psalm 5, Gospel, Matthew 8:23-28

Tuesday 28 June VIGIL OF ST PETER & ST PAUL
7pm Mass People of the parish

Wednesday 29 June - ST PETER & ST PAUL
10am Mass Paddy Crowley (Ann)
7pm Mass People of the parish
Reading 1, Acts 12:1-11, Psalm 33(34),
Reading 2, 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18, Gospel, Matthew 16:13-1

Thursday 30 June - feria
10am Mass Paul Liversidge (RIP)
Reading 1, Amos 7:10-17,
_Psalm 18(19), Gospel, Matthew 9:1-8

Friday 1 July - DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL
10am Mass - Margery Davies (RIP)
7pm Mass Noreen Donohue (Ann)
Reading 1, Amos 8:4-6, 9-12, Psalm 118(119),_
Gospel, Matthew 9:9-13_
(*On Friday Mass is celebrated at St Albans Cathedral at Noon*)

Saturday 2 July - Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday
10am Mass The Holy Souls most in need
Reading 1, Amos 9:11-15
Psalm 84(85), Gospel, Matthew 9:14-17
10.30am Confessions (No Exposition & Benediction)

Saturday 2 July - VIGIL OF 14TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME
6pm Mass Mary Steele (Ann)

Sunday 3 July - 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8am Mass Ellen Mary Small (RIP)
9am Mass Edna McCarthy (Ann) *St John Fisher School, M'wick*
9.30am David and Joanne Napper (Ints)
11.30am Maxine Zambardi (RIP)
6pm Mass People of the Parish

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the minister and members of Dagnall Street Baptist 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 Tessa Brooks, Margery Davies, Denise Kearns, Jean Lawley-Yorke, Shirley Penstone, Raul Pujol and James Aloysius Ryan.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Paddy Crowley, Noreen Donohue, Fr Jerome O'Hanlon MSC, Edna McCarthy and Mary Steele.

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.

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.