



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 10 July



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

Fr Michael writes ...

At the centre of our Christianity is the person of Christ, and central to our understanding of Christ, is that he was fully human; that he shared in our humanity. If we believe that Christ was truly human, human in the way that we are, then we must also believe that the way he lived his life is a way in which we can live our lives. Simply put, his humanity was not endowed with super powers, rather it was the humanity which Adam and Eve were created with, a humanity untainted by sin. All this is a long way of saying that the kind of living which Jesus calls us to in the gospel - the kind of life marked by a love of God and love of neighbour - is well within our grasp, because it is a way of life, a way of being, that chimes very precisely with who and what we are, a humanity created in the image of a God, a God who is Love. Indeed, to paraphrase the writer of Deuteronomy, this law is not beyond your strength or reach. It is not in heaven, nor beyond the seas. Rather it is very near to you.

Autumn Study Programme : Catholicism - 21 September To date, thirty people have signed up for the autumn study programme CATHOLICISM which is due to begin on 21 September. Next weekend is the last opportunity for those who would like to sign up to do so. The deadline is early because we need to order the resources that support the programme.

Put together by Bishop Robert Barron the study programme is based on his 10-episode film CATHOLICISM which explores what Catholics believe and why. Its aim is to help adults come to a deeper understanding of their Catholic Faith. More than a video lecture, course in Church history or scripture study, this engaging and interesting faith formation programme was filmed in 50 locations across 15 countries. It uses art, architecture, literature, music and all the treasures of the Catholic tradition to illuminate the timeless teachings of the Church, and reinforces the content with extensive commentary and questions for understanding and application.

The course consists of 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.

Altar Servers We would like to re-introduce altar servers in the autumn. This is open to anyone who has made their First Holy Communion, who is happy to make a regular commitment to a particular Mass and to the relevant training. Training will be held on Saturday afternoons at 4pm in September and October. Those over 18 will need to complete the necessary safeguarding checks. If you or your son or daughter is interested please email Fr Andrew andrewbowden@rcdow.org.uk indicating which mass you/they would be interested in serving.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) Prayer We pray for the peoples of Ethiopia and Eritrea, that there may be lasting peace and reconciliation and greater respect for justice and the human rights of all ethnic groups and minorities.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation courses will be held on Saturday 6 August at 11.30am. Please see our [website](#) or [email](#) Fr Andrew 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 stalbens@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 The new "Faith & Family group" will be meeting in the parish hall on the first Tuesday of each month from September at 10.45am. Activities for under 5s. All welcome.

Traidcraft Goods after SJF Mass 10 July - Traidcraft goods will be available after Mass at John Fisher Mass Centre on 10 July. Additionally, there will be a Traidcraft coffee morning between 10 and 12 noon on Thursday 14 July at 43 Avenue Rd. We have been a Fairtrade Parish for over 10 years and have a fine tradition of supporting those in need through these monthly sales and by using Fairtrade goods in the refreshments we use at Parish events. More information or to place an order, contact Maureen or 765549 or grabecki@hotmail.com.

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.

Emmaus St Albans - Open Day Saturday 9 July The Emmaus St Albans site in Hill End Lane, AL4 0FE is holding an open day on Saturday 9 July from 11.30am to 3.30pm. In addition to the opportunity to tour the site, there will be live music, food & drink, demonstrations of upcycling, a photography exhibition and other activities.

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

Young Adults Group Social 15 July There will be a social on Friday 15 July at 8pm to celebrate the end of exams for years 11 and 12. Live music, food and soft drinks in the large hall. If interested please sign up at the back of the church or WhatsApp Bridget on 07870 620212. There will be a separate social event for 18 to 25 year olds in September. Watch this space!

Knit and Natter Group - Parish Friends 19 July The next meeting of the Knit and Natter Group will be on 19 July 2.15 - 4pm. All welcome.

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](#).

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Catenians Association (Luton Circle) The Catenians are an association of like-minded Catholic men who meet socially for fellowship and encourage families to gather together for friendship and enjoyment. Please see the parish news [page](#) of our website for more information and contact details.

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.

Save the date: 16-17 July 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](#).

Walsingham New Dawn 36th annual family Catholic Charismatic Conference 1-5 August 2022). Programme for all the family, daily Mass, workshops, speakers, Youth Ministry and much more. For more information please see www.Newdawn.org.uk or Facebook.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham 6 August This year's Pilgrimage to Walsingham is being led by Bishop Philip Egan. A coach will leave Harpenden at 7.30 am and St. Bartholomew's church, Vesta Avenue, St Albans at 7.50 am. Tickets cost £20 (adult) and £10 (child) which includes Priory entrance. For more details please contact Geraldine on 07971 028415.

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.

Diocesan Financial Controller Wanted The Diocese of Southwark is looking for a full time financial controller based in London. The application deadline is 18 July. Please follow [this link](#) for more details.

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.

Contactless Donations We are very grateful to those parishioners who have made donations over the past months using one of the two contactless devices in the church porch, and thanks to those who have also signed up to gift aid their donations.

If you do register as a gift aiding donor on one of our contactless devices, please ensure that you add both your first and surname, in full, and your full address, including road name, so that your gift aid declaration meets the standards for gift aid reclaim required by HMRC. Thank you for your help with this.

Offertory Promise Envelopes 2022/23 These are now available to those who requested them and can be collected from the presbytery.

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 needs 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 email 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 Benedict (480 - 547) – 11 July Benedict was born in Italy, and studied in Rome; but unable to stomach the dissolute life of the city, he became a hermit. His reputation spread, and some monks asked him to be their abbot; but they did not like the discipline he imposed and tried to poison him. Benedict organised various small communities of monks and nuns imposing a set of rules to guide their communal. This Rule of St Benedict proved so wise that it has served as the foundation of many attempts at communal living ever since – and not only in religious communities. This Rule recognises that people aim at perfection but often fall short of it, so that even the least perfect and least able can grow in spiritual stature.

St Bonaventure (1218 - 1274) – 15 July Bonaventure was born in Etruria in about 1218. He became a Franciscan in 1243 and studied philosophy and theology at the University of Paris. He became a famous teacher and philosopher. At this time the friars embraced poverty and by rejecting institutional structures faced considerable opposition. Bonaventure defended the Franciscan Order and, after he was elected general of the order in 1255, he ruled it with wisdom and prudence. He declined the archbishopric of York in 1265 but was made cardinal bishop of Albano in 1273, dying a year later in 1274 at the Council of Lyons, at which the Greek and Latin churches were (briefly) reconciled. He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1588 by Pope Sixtus V.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 9 July - VIGIL OF 15TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

6pm Mass Jimmy Flavin (Ann)

Sunday 10 July - 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the Parish

9am Mass Cliff Staniforth (RIP)

(St John Fisher School, M'wick)

9.30am Colin Molloy (RIP)

11.30am Louis Fernandes (Ann)

6pm Mass Juana Vargas (RIP) and Domenica Merlino (Ann)

Reading 1, Deuteronomy 30:10-14, Psalm 68(69)

Reading 2, Colossians 1:15-20, Gospel, Luke 10:25-37

Monday 11 July - ST BENEDICT

10am Funeral Mass for Ray Pujol

7pm Mass Richard Field (Ann)

Reading 1, Proverbs 2:1-9

Psalm 33(34), Gospel, Matthew 19:27-29

Tuesday 12 July - feria

10am Mass Marion Miller (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 7:1-9

Psalm 47(48), Gospel, Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday 13 July - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Denise Kearns

7pm Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 10:5-7,13-16, Psalm 93(94),

Gospel, Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday 14 July - feria

10am Mass Robert David Eldred (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 26:7-9,12,16-19

Psalm 101(102), Gospel, Matthew 11:28-30

Friday 15 July - St Bonaventure

7pm Mass St John Fisher Leavers Mass

Reading 1, Isaiah 38:1-6,21-22,7-8

Psalm Isaiah 38, Gospel, Matthew 12:1-8

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

Saturday 16 July - Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday

10am Mass Sister Joan Yates (RIP)

Reading 1, Micah 2:1-5

Psalm 9(10), Gospel, Matthew 12:14-21

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Saturday 16 July - VIGIL OF 16TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

6pm Mass Betty O'Meara and Michael O'Meara (RIP)

Sunday 17 July - 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Valerie Scully (RIP)

9am Mass Michael and Sheila Aylward (Ann)

(St John Fisher School, M'wick)

9.30am Mary Curran (RIP)

11.30am Patrick Keegan (Ann)

6pm Mass Michael Feeney (Ann)

Reading 1, Genesis 18:1-10, Psalm 14(15)

Reading 2, Colossians 1:24-28, Gospel, Luke 10:38-42

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the minister and members of St Marys Church, Marshalswick.

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, Bernard Dehnel, Robert David Eldred, Denise Kearns, Jean Lawley-Yorke, Raul Pujol and Thomas Timmins.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Michael and Sheila Aylward, Michael Feeney, Louis Fernandes, Richard Field, Patrick Keegan, Domenica Merlino and Winifred Sudell.

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.