



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 17 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)
Safeguarding Lead: Mary Harber / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059
We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes ...

I would like to say that I spend my days praying and visiting - that I have time for God and time for his people, but if truth be told, I spend too much time glued to a desk and a computer screen, making sure the practicalities of parish life are in place. So, needless to say, I must profess an outright and unconditional sympathy for Martha in today's Gospel.

It would however be all too easy to treat today's Gospel as a commentary on the active and contemplative lives, with Christ valuing the contemplative above the active. Indeed, in the first reading, where Abraham and Sarah lavish hospitality on their visitor, we see them being rewarded for the self-same activity, the self-same hospitality, that Martha, in all her doing, sought to exercise. Simply put, it would be a mistake to read today's gospel as a ringing of one way of being over another, or as a critique of Martha's concern for doing things right and offering the kind of hospitality which formed such an important part of contemporary culture. Why?

When Jesus arrived at Mary and Martha's house he had already told his disciples of his impending death, not once but twice, and had reminded them that the Son of Man had nowhere to lay his head. Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem with his sights firmly fixed on the final agony to come. All he wanted to do, all he really needed, was to sit among, talk to and be with his friends. He had things to say and to share. Intuitively or otherwise it was Mary who was being attentive. With all the best intentions in the world Martha had got it wrong, and sometimes as we seek to do the right thing, we too will get it wrong too. We will misjudge situations and much like Martha, we will miss the opportunity to serve.

There are no blueprints for life or living, save that we serve Christ in others; and this serving, whether contemplative or active, will only be of service if is rooted in an attentive listening - not to our own ideas of what is needed, helpful or useful - but to that mature voice within us that says there is a time and a place for everything. You see, on another day, Martha, in all her busyness, may well have chosen the better part.

Newsletter Next weekend's bulletin will be the last before the summer break. The first newsletter after the summer will appear the weekend of 3/4 September.

First Holy Communion 2023 Fr Michael has written a letter concerning the First Communion Programme for 2023. It sets out the programme dates as well as what is being asked of the family's concerned. Please, will all those with children eligible to make their First Holy Communion in 2023 (i.e. those with children currently in Year 2 or above) make sure to take a copy of this letter, copies of which are available in porch and on the ['Parish News'](#) page of our website.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) Prayer Loving Father, we pray for all disabled people and for all those who are vulnerable. Give them and those who care for them hope, strength & comfort. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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.

Little Lights during 9.30am Mass 17 July The last session of Little Lights will be on 17 July, and we will be back on 18 September (post Summer Holidays). If you would like to volunteer to run a session after the summer holiday break, please email yeadonmarta@gmail.com.

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 on andrewbowden@rcdow.org.uk indicating which mass you/they would be interested in serving.

Call for Ministers of the Eucharist and Ministers of the Word If you would like more information about becoming a Minister of the Eucharist or 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.

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 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.

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 We 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.

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 19 July The next meeting of the Knit and Natter Group on 19 July has been cancelled due to the heat. The Knit and Natter Group will be meeting on 2, 16 and 23 August. All welcome.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation group meeting - Thursday 21 July Our next meeting is at 7.30 pm on in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

Parish Friends Tea Party 4 September Parish Friends will be holding a Tea Party on Sunday 4 September from 3-5pm. Come along and be entertained by a great new band "Diamonds Forever" whilst enjoying tea and homemade cakes. Everyone is welcome. Parish Friends are now few in numbers so donations of cakes, drivers with a DBS offering lifts, and offers of help with setting up or serving on the day would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Helen 07860 830340 or email helen.bassill@ntlworld.com.

Holiday at Home Older members of our parish are invited to join in the August Holiday at Home at Hatfield Road Methodist Church. Time to enjoy crafts, board games, puzzles, music or simply chat and relax. Sessions are on 18 and 19 August from 1.30 until 5pm and on 23 and 24 August from 10am until 2.30pm. A donation of £5 per session is requested to cover costs. To attend or volunteer to help, please [email](#) Maggie Dodd or call on 07462 586773

BINGO - Many, many thanks for the support for our recent Bingo evening. The amount raised for The John Foster Memorial Home (a Trust supporting destitute boys in India - the National project of the Knights of St.Columba - was £220-00. Our next Bingo evening is on Friday 9 September.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Donation to Life The charity 'Life' is delighted to have been given a grant of £1000 from St Albans Cathedral to go towards the running of our Life House in St Albans. We are very grateful to the Cathedral as this money will make such a difference. Life has a network of Life Houses run in partnership with local authorities. We have had a House in St Albans since 1972 where we offer temporary accommodation and support to four homeless pregnant women and homeless mums and their babies for up to two years, when they then move on to independent living. Whilst in the House our Support Worker offers the mums access to the Life skills programme including baby care, cooking and finances. Over the years many parishioners and the Knights of St Columba have offered financial support to the house, and the babies are given vouchers at Christmas and Easter. A very big thank you to the Cathedral and all who support Life financially or with prayers.

Catenians Association (Luton Circle) The Catenians are an association of like-minded Catholic men who meet socially in Harpenden for fellowship and encourage families to gather together for friendship and enjoyment. Please see our parish news [webpage](#) for 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.

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 [here](#).

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.

12th Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage 30 July This will take place this year on the 100th anniversary of GKC being received into the Catholic Church, Saturday, 30 July. Please [email](#) any prayer requests or text them to 07795205114. More details and printable GKC prayercards on our [website](#).

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.

Young Catholic Adults (YCA) Weekend 7 – 9 October
Theme: "The Communion of Saints' prayer and the veneration of Holy Relics". YCA will be running a retreat at Douai Abbey with the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge who will be holding Gregorian Chant workshops. There will also be a Marian Procession, Rosaries, Sung Masses, Confession, talks (and socials). Prices start from £12 (come for the day) and £55 per person per night (residential). Please note to guarantee your place Douai Abbey has requested that everyone books by 16 September. For more information follow this [link](#). To book click [here](#).

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 still 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 with any queries

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 / November 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 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

Monday 18 July - feria

10am Mass Deceased members of the MacDonald family

7pm Mass Marian and Joanna Hoscilowicz (Ann)

Reading 1, Micah 6:1-4,6-8

Psalm 49(50), Gospel, Matthew 12:38-42

Tuesday 19 July - feria

10am Mass Paddy Chronnell (Ann)

Reading 1, Micah 7:14-15,18-20

Psalm 84(85), Gospel, Matthew 12:46-50

Wednesday 20 July - feria

10am Mass Marion Miller (RIP)

7pm Mass Pat Roache (RIP)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 1:1,4-10, Psalm 70(71),

Gospel, Matthew 13:1-9

Thursday 21 July - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Robert David Eldred

Reading 1, Jeremiah 2:1-3,7-8, 12-13

Psalm 35(36), Gospel, Matthew 13:10-17

Friday 22 July - ST MARY MAGDALENE

7pm Mass Richard Field (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Psalm 62(63), Gospel, John 20:1-2,11-18

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

Saturday 23 July - ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

10am Mass The Holy Souls most in need

Reading 1, Galatians 2:19-20

Psalm 33(34), Gospel, John 15:1-8

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Saturday 23 July - VIGIL OF 17TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

6pm Mass Patrick Roache (RIP)

Sunday 24 July - 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Elizabeth (Betty) O'Neill (RIP)

9am Mass Deceased members of the Sheehan & Guinnelly families *(St John Fisher School, M'wick)*

9.30am People of the parish

11.30am Edward Sumner (RIP)

6pm Mass Mike Davis (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 18:20-32, Psalm 137(138)

Reading 2, Colossians 2:12-14, Gospel, Luke 11:1-13

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the communities of the South St. Albans Churches.

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 Bernard Patrick Dehnel, Robert David Eldred, Jean Lawley-Yorke, Angela McCann, Catriona McLoughlan, and Thomas Timmins.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Michael and Sheila Aylward, Paddy Chronnell, Michael Feeney, Pete Helliwell, Marian and Joanna Hoscilowicz, Patrick Keegan, Fr Richard Scriven MSC.

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.