



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Tel: 01727 853 585

E-mail: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org

YouTube: youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 3 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 ...*

In the coming weekends just over 100 children will celebrate their First Holy Communion. Later this month, on Sunday 10 & Sunday 17 July, Bishop Paul will confirm 37 young adults. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they celebrate these sacraments of initiation; that for each and every one of them, that whether receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time or being sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit, the Christ who we receive in the Eucharist, may grow stronger in their hearts and minds.

The preparation for and celebration of these sacraments is a staple part of parish life; without them there would be a gaping hole. The programmes represent a great commitment on our part; they need resourcing, not just money, but also the time and energy of the table leaders and catechists that make them possible.

Until January 2020 the First Communion and Confirmation Programmes were co-ordinated by Sr Anita. With her departure and the onslaught of the Coronavirus we have got through because parents have done much at home and because volunteer catechists have been generous with the time and talents, working alongside myself, Deacon Brendan, Fr Julian, Fr Jonathan and now Fr Andrew. Thank you! Now, with the pandemic having entered into a new phase and parish life becoming normalised, I believe, as I mentioned in a previous newsletter, that it is time to recruit a new Catechetical Coordinator. So, having advertised and interviewed for the role, I am happy to announce that from September of this year Mrs Joan Egenes is to be our new Catechetical Coordinator. I will leave Joan to introduce herself in the autumn, but both Joan and her family will be well known to many of you already; they have been parishioners here at St Alban & St Stephen for a number of years.

With those of you who previously expressed an interest in our outreach to young people I have been reflecting on what our ministry to young people might look like. In particular we have been working on a job description for the Youth Minister that our most recent Parish Assembly called for. Shortly, I hope, we will begin the process of recruiting to this post. Please pray for its success; that our ministry to young people, like our programmes of sacramental preparation, will be put on a new, stronger footing. That said, with the appointment of a new catechetical co-ordinator, and the hoped for appointment of a Youth Minister, we cannot become complacent. This is a large parish with large programmes. One person cannot deliver an entire sacramental programme or a whole ministry. We will still need volunteer catechists for our First Communion and Confirmation Programmes, and we will also need responsible adults and volunteer youth ministers to help bring our youth ministry alive.

Finally, looking forward to 2023, I have written a letter concerning the First Communion Programme for 2023. It sets out the programme dates as well as what is expected of both children and parents. 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 which is now available in porch and on the ['Parish News'](#) page of our website..

\*\*\*

**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.

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) Prayer** We ask our Father that in these uncertain times we do not fall prey to doubt and fear, but keep in mind Jesus' words - do not be afraid.

## 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](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.

**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](mailto: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.

**Peter's Pence** The retiring collection last weekend in support of Peter's Pence raised £451.89.

**Sea Sunday 10 July** This is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting the [website](#), or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.

## 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.

**Traidcraft Goods after Mass 2/3 July** - Traidcraft goods will be available after all Masses at the Church on the weekend of 2/3 July and 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. Supporting fair trade makes sure that producers in the developing world are paid properly for their labour and for the products they grow or make. 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](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com).

**Faith and Family Group** 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.

**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.

**Parish Men's Group 2 July** 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.

**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.

**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](mailto: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!

**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](mailto: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 [stalban@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalban@rcdow.org.uk) or phoning 01727 853585.

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**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](mailto:Dave_markham@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 07543 400650.

**In-Person Refugee Hosting Information Session 28 June** At 6 - 8.30pm, Hurtado Jesuit Centre, 2 Chandler St, London E1W 2QT. To attend, and for more information, sign-up via Eventbrite. The second of the Diocesan Community of Support sessions, focusing on the hosting of Refugee guests, this information session is for anyone who is hosting, would like to host, or explore further ways of providing support to those who are seeking sanctuary. The session is facilitated by the JRS, who run the 'At Home' hosting scheme.

**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, shopping, etc., For more information, please contact Mary on 07508 601066.

**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](http://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** 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](#).

## 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.

**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.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

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

**Sunday 3 July - 14<sup>TH</sup> 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

Reading 1, Isaiah 66:10-14, Psalm 65(66)

Reading 2, Galatians 6:14-18, Gospel, Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

**Monday 4 July - feria**

10am Mass Tessa Brooks (RIP)

7pm Mass Angela and daughter, Angela (Ints)

Reading 1, Hosea 2:16-18,21-22

Psalm 144(145), Gospel, Matthew 9:18-26

**Tuesday 5 July - feria**

10am Mass Marie Hunter and grandson (Ints)

Reading 1, Hosea 8:4-7,11-13

Psalm 113B(115), Gospel, Matthew 9:32-38

**Wednesday 6 July - feria**

10am Mass Margery Davies (RIP)

7pm Mass Teresa Sequeira (RIP)

Reading 1, Hosea 10:1-3,7-8,12, Psalm 104(105),

Gospel, Matthew 10:1-7

**Thursday 7 July - feria**

10am Mass Marion Miller (RIP)

Reading 1, Hosea 11:1-4,8-9

Psalm 79(80), Gospel, Matthew 10:7-15

**Friday 8 July - feria**

7pm Mass Andrew Burke (first anniversary)

Reading 1, Hosea 14:2-10, Psalm 50(51),

Gospel, Matthew 10:16-23

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

**Saturday 9 July - Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday**

10am Mass Margaret Sweeney (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 92(93), Gospel, Matthew 10:24-33

10.30am Confessions (No Exposition & Benediction)

**Saturday 9 July - VIGIL OF 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME**

6pm Mass Jimmy Flavin (Ann)

**Sunday 10 July - 15<sup>TH</sup> 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

## 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 Byrne, Margery Davies (Fr Julian's mother), David Eldred, Denise Kearns, Jean Lawley-Yorke and Raul Pujol.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Andrew Burke, Louis Fernandes, Jimmy Flavin, Edna McCarthy, Domenica Merlino and Fr Jerome O'Hanlon 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.