



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

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 2 October



Contactless Giving

Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Boy - Assistant Priest: Fr Andrew Bowden

Deacons: Rev. Brendan Day and Rev. Steve Pickard (*Retired*)

Parish Administrator: Mrs Angela Gray - Catechetical Coordinator: Mrs Joan Egenes

Safeguarding Lead: Mary Harber / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Andrew writes...

Time flies when you're having fun! It's October already and therefore we begin the month of the Holy Rosary. October is traditionally dedicated to the rosary because the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary falls each year in October, this Friday in fact. During October we are encouraged to make a special effort to pray the rosary, to return to it if it's a habit we've fallen out of or to take it up if it's not something we've really tried before.

The rosary is a way of meditating on the mysteries of our salvation, firstly in the one *by whom* our salvation was accomplished, Jesus Christ, and then in the one *through whom* that salvation came to us, the Blessed Virgin Mary. One of the nice things about the rosary is that it has a structure and the rosary beads help us to follow that structure. As you may already know, each set of rosary beads has five sets of ten beads corresponding to the ten Hail Mary's which are recited for each of five mysteries of the rosary, each set of ten being preceded by an Our Father and followed by a Glory be to the Father.... There are five sorrowful, five joyful, five glorious and five luminous mysteries. So the rosary has a given structure and shape, but it is also very free, we can choose to focus on whatever aspect of the those mysteries that strikes us.

The word rosary comes from the Latin word 'rosarium' which means a rose garden or garland. We might think of a set of rosary beads as being like a garland of roses but even the rosary itself is a little like a rose garden. Just as a garden has a shape and structure within which we may wander at will and pause to focus on this or that plant or flower, so too the rosary with its repetition and structure creates a space where the mind and heart can be at peace, move freely to explore the mysteries of our salvation, rather like walking around a beautiful peaceful garden.

And a garden is a good image of salvation itself, because a garden is place where things flourish, where life abounds, a place of happiness, and all because of the efforts of the gardener. In the same way salvation is about having life to the full, a life which Jesus brings to us through his Church, a life which is nourished and protected by the sacraments. And a garden tells us something about the gardener who created it and who tends it. And in the same way the rose garden of the rosary leads us into a greater knowledge and love of Jesus and the salvation that he has won for us.

So this October why not take up this invitation to wander through the rose garden of the Holy Rosary to meditate on the mysteries of our salvation with Our Lady as a guide and to ask for her prayers as we continue to grow and to flourish in the garden of salvation which is the Church. Children love the rosary when they are introduced to it, especially because the rosary beads are tactile and serve as a visual aid. Why not try to make some time as a family to pray the rosary with your children during this month of October? And if you would like any help or advice on getting started with the Rosary just let myself or Fr Michael know and we'd be happy to help.

Primary, Secondary and Nursery School Certificates of Catholic Practice For those parents and guardians who need to obtain a certificate of Catholic Practice to accompany their child's application for a school or nursery place, Fr Michael will be available at the presbytery at the following times to sign school forms.

- Monday 10 October and Tuesday 25 October 7.30pm - 9.00pm
- Monday 21 November and Tuesday 13 December 3.30pm - 6.00pm
- Wednesday 11 January and Friday 3 February 7.30pm - 9pm

Please be conscious that upwards of 100 families could be looking for school forms and you endeavouring to make one of the following times would be much appreciated. No appointment is necessary and children need not attend.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) Lord, may Peace and Justice flow like a river, reaching barren lands and deserts, where people feel forgotten and hopeless.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation courses will be held on Saturday 29 October at 11.30am. Please see our [website](#) or [email](#) Fr Andrew at andrewbowden@rcdow.org.uk with any enquiries.

First Holy Communion 2022/23 Parents and guardians of children eligible to make their First Holy Communion in Summer 2023 (year 3 or above) are invited to register their child [online](#) via the parish website before 15 October. The programme will commence in January 2023 with a parent/guardian only meeting at 7.30pm on 2 December.

Confirmation 2022/23 Parents and guardians of teenagers eligible to make their Confirmation (year 10 and above) are invited to register them for the Confirmation programme [online](#) via the parish website before 31 October 2022. The programme will commence in January 2023 with a parent only meeting at the end of November.

Marriage Preparation If you are intending to get married, please note the Diocese requires at least six months' notice. Couples are expected to complete a marriage preparation course the next of which has been scheduled for the latter part of January 2023. If you hope to marry in 2023 please [email](#) Fr Michael at michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk.

Adult Enquiry Group Are you an adult interested in exploring the possibility of baptism? Have you been baptised already and would like to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church? Are you an adult Catholic yet to be confirmed? If so, this may well be for you. Please contact Fr Andrew at andrewbowden@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 being added to the bulletin.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Welcomers needed! It makes such a difference if there is a friendly face welcoming people to masses on Saturday evening and Sundays and helping with questions such as do I need a hymn book this week; where are the toilets; where can I get a glass of water; how can I find out when a mass for my friend is to be held. We need more volunteer welcomers to join the rotas, especially at 11.30am mass on Sundays. Can you spare the time to come 20 minutes before the mass time, say once a month to greet people? If so, please contact the parish office during office hours.

Altar Servers 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.

Call for Ministers of the Eucharist and Ministers of the Word If you would like more information please contact the Parish Office on stalbans@rcdow.org.uk with contact details and the 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

You Can Be Santa Voucher Scheme This year You Can Be Santa will run once again as a voucher scheme. As always the aim of YCBS is to help children/families who may not otherwise enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. The feedback from families who took part last year was very positive. They were very thankful for the generosity of the Parish. If you are aware of families within the Parish who may appreciate being a part of the scheme, please mention it to them. Encourage them to contact YCBS by emailing stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk with their full contact details. Assure them that all contact details will be kept in confidence and in accordance with data protection requirements. We will be appealing for voucher donations in October and will be asking for vouchers (in £5, £10 & £20 denominations) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos, Amazon & One4All. For more information please email stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk.

Coffee and Tea After Mass Coffee and tea is available in the Parish Centre coffee bar after 11.30am Mass on the first Sunday of the month. Coffee and is also available after every 6pm Saturday evening Mass. Coffee and tea is also available in the Parish Centre coffee bar after 10am Mass each Monday. All welcome.

Faith and Family Group The new 'Faith & Family group' meets in the parish hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 10.45am. Activities for under 5s. All welcome.

Toddlers' Playgroup - Monday 10.30am - midday For pre-school age children and their carers. Join us in the upstairs hall, during term time, for toys, books, games and singing plus drinks and snacks. If able to help, please contact David Markham on 07543 400650.

Knit and Natter Group We will be meeting on 11 October from 2.15-4pm in the Parish Centre. Even if you don't knit come for a cup of tea & a chat. Everyone welcome.

C.W.L. Thursday 6 October at 2.30pm "A Celebration Of Our 70th Anniversary". Cost £5.

CAFOD family fast day 7 October. If you are able, you are invited to fast on Friday 7 October; by giving up one meal you will be living in solidarity with the many millions of people currently starving as a result of climate change, COVID and the war in Ukraine. Any money saved could be donated to the CAFOD fast day retiring collection on the weekend of 8/9 October. Gift-aid envelopes will be

available, and it is also possible to use the QR code on the CAFOD posters in the porch to take you straight to the donation page of the CAFOD website.

Soup, bread and film lunch 8 October Everyone is invited to this FREE event from noon on Saturday 8 October. The Railway Children [1970, U] will be shown at 1pm. Donations to the CAFOD family fast day, in support of the East African famine, will be gratefully accepted.

BINGO - 7 October by the Knights of St. Columba, at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall in aid of Mary's Meals. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Many, many thanks for the support for our recent Bingo event. This helped to raise £245 for the CAFOD - Pakistan Floods Appeal.

Mothers' Prayers - Monday 10 October will be held in room 2 of the Parish Centre at 8pm. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Info from office@mothersprayers.org.

Traidcraft Traidcraft goods will be available at Marshalswick Mass Centre after Mass on 9 October and at all Masses at the church on 22 and 23 October when various seasonal items such as Advent Calendars and luxury biscuits and chocolates will also be on sale.

Carols by Candlelight Friday 23 December 7.30pm Singers, musicians and readers are invited to join us for this popular service. Practices will take place on the following dates:

- 26 November 2 to 4pm for singers
- 3 and 10 December 2 to 3.30pm for singers then 4 to 5.30pm for musicians
- 17 December 2 to 5.30pm for singers and musicians
- Dress rehearsal including readers 22 December 7.30pm.

Please register at cbcstalbins@rcdow.org.uk or CBC mobile 07934 092327 from 1 October.

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.

Herts Circle the Newman Association Talk 15 October We will be hosting a talk about Walsingham: its history and mission today, to be given by the author Edmund Matyjeszek in the parish hall on Saturday 15 October at 11am. The talk is free; donations welcomed.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Brass and Ukes Concert Saturday 8 October 7.30pm At Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Avenue, St Albans AL4 9RH. Free entry with a retiring collection for Headway Hertfordshire. Please come along to this event supported by Churches Together in Marshalswick.

Churches Together Homewood Road URC 15 October 7pm Live Music, Food and Fun Musical entertainment, pizza and salad supper £10pp, bring own drink and glasses For tickets contact 07900 260290.

LIVING WITH LOSS - a retreat at Worth Abbey for those who have been bereaved: 14-17 November Aimed at people who have suffered a bereavement, both recent and not so recent, the retreat is designed to give retreatants space to understand and process their loss within a safe Christian framework. The idea is to explore grief and to find helpful ways to manage and process it. The mornings will contain a framework for this, and the afternoon will provide individual space for reflection. Individual counselling will not be offered as such, but there will be an opportunity to talk to someone. The retreat will be led by Fr Peter Williams OSB and Simon Holland-Brown a professional bereavement counsellor. Cost includes all meals: £330 per person, single occupancy or £315 per person, sharing. To book go to <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/retreat-programme-2022/>. Once booked, it may be possible to coordinate lifts. If you would be happy to offer a lift or you would appreciate one, please contact the parish office.

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 If you do register as a gift aiding donor on one of our two 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.

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. If you have signed a gift aid form, your offertory donations need to come 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 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 February 2023 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 1 October -VIGIL 27TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME
6pm Mass People of the Parish

Sunday 2 October - 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8am Mass Callum Gathard (RIP)
9am Mass Peter Allen (RIP) and daughter, Nicola Allen (RIP)
(*St John Fisher School, M'wick*)
9.30am Mass Patrick and Mary Curran (RIP)
11.30am Mass George Xuereb Brennan (First Anniversary)
and Don Crowley (RIP)
6pm Mass Andy Finch (Ints)
Reading 1, Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4, Psalm 94(95)
Reading 2, 2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14, Gospel, Luke 17:5-10

Monday 3 October - feria
10am Mass Margaret Liddy (RIP)
7pm Mass Mary Kiely (RIP)
Reading 1, Galatians 1:6-12
Psalm 110(111), Gospel, Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday 4 October - St Francis of Assisi
10am Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)
Reading 1, Galatians 6:14-18
Psalm 15(16), Gospel, Matthew 11:28-30

Wednesday 5 October - feria
10am Mass Lavelle family (Ints)
7pm Mass All Infertile Couples (Ints)
Reading 1, Galatians 2:1-2,7-14
Psalm 116(117), Gospel, Luke 11:1-4

Thursday 6 October - feria
10am Mass Funeral Mass for Susanna Mole
Reading 1, Galatians 3:1-5
Psalm Luke 1:69-75, Gospel, Luke 11:5-13

Friday 7 October - Our Lady of the Rosary
10am Mass Alec Anderson (RIP)
7pm Mass Mary Clohessy (RIP)
Reading 1, Acts 1:12-14
Psalm Luke 1:46-55, Gospel, Luke 1:26-38
(*On Friday Mass is celebrated at St Albans Cathedral at Noon*)

Saturday 8 October - Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday
10am Mass Helen Kennedy (RIP)
Reading 1, Galatians 3:22-29
Psalm 104(105), Gospel, Luke 11:27-28
10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession
Saturday 8 October -VIGIL 28TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME
6pm Mass Joyce Eastham (RIP)

Sunday 9 October - 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8am Mass People of the Parish
9am Mass Bridie Byrne (RIP) (*St John Fisher School, M'wick*)
9.30am Mass Martin Brosnan (Ann)
11.30am Mass James Ladley (RIP)
6pm Mass Douglas Keen (RIP)
Reading 1, 2 Kings 5:14-17, Psalm 97(98)
Reading 2, 2 Timothy 2:8-13, Gospel, Luke 17:11-19

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the minister and members of London Colney 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 Rita Anderson, Ricardo Marset and Susanna Mole.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Martin Brosnan, George Xuereb Brennan, Fr Liam O'Callaghan MSC, Fr John Roche 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

Little Lights - Children's Liturgy during 9.30am Sunday Mass Now back on. Please come and join us for Bible study and arts and crafts session in the upper hall. If you can help, please get in touch with Marta via yeadonmarta@gmail.com

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. Click [here](#) for the link to register.