



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN
 14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB
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TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 11 September



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 ...

In the wake of the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday it seems right to say a few words here about that. There will of course be very many eloquent tributes from all around the United Kingdom, and the world. Some of you may even have met the late Queen and I'm sure that you will all have your own memories. Some of you will remember her coronation but I doubt anyone reading this will remember her birth. For me, Queen Elizabeth is the only Queen I have known. She is one of those parts of life that has always been there. A reassuring constant in a changing world.

Her's was not an ordinary life and really it was a privileged life but it was also a life characterised by and devoted to faithful service. There are, of course, many such lives lived, and there are many lives of quiet faithful service which come to an end with much less acclaim but I don't think that should cause us to hesitate to pay tribute to the late Queen, still less to pray for the repose of her soul. On the contrary, as Monarch, the late Queen represented, not just the institution of the monarchy, not just the state of which she was head, but really those qualities that we most admire and cherish as a nation in one another, qualities displayed by the many, many people who over the last 70 years have served our country and our communities with humility and faithfulness. So in mourning the death of the late Queen we pay tribute to all that is best in our nation. And we pray for King Charles III, that by the grace of God and inspired by the example of his mother, he may come to embody all that we cherish most and to which we aspire. May God grant Queen Elizabeth eternal rest and may God save the King!

The Sisters of Mercy in St Albans The Sisters of Mercy first came to the city of St. Albans and this parish in 1899. Among many other works they were responsible for helping to set up SS Alban and Stephen and St. Adrian's primary schools ensuring access to a catholic education for many of us older parishioners and which is still continuing today. To commemorate this the Mercy Associates have reprinted "Sisters of Mercy. St. Albans " written and originally published by James Corbett in 1999. Deacon Steve Pickard has added some of his recollections of the Sisters and the convent at Maryland. We will be distributing copies of this booklet after each Mass over the weekend of the 17/18 September and asking for a donation of £1 from anyone who would like one. The proceeds will be used to plant a tree at each of the above primary schools as a permanent reminder of the great work of the Sisters.

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) The parish team for Justice ,Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC) will meet this Thursday, 15 September at 7.30pm in the Sacred Heart Centre. All welcome.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation courses will be held on Saturday 24 September 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 between 2 Sept and 15 Oct. 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 between 15 September and 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, our Adult Enquiry Group 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 we are able to include their name in the bulletin.

Little Lights - Children's Liturgy during 9.30am Sunday Mass We will be back on 11th September Please email Marta at yeadonmarta@gmail.com if you can help run a session,

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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 a Minister of the Word, please

contact the Parish Office on stalbins@rcdow.org.uk giving full name, 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

Thank You from the Parish Friends! Parish Friends would like to thank all those who helped to make the Tea Party last Sunday such an outstanding success. The band "The Diamond Years" were superb and had everyone clapping their hands, tapping their feet and dancing through the afternoon. The magnificent cakes brought in by parishioners were truly delicious. The many helpers who came to set up, clear up and wash up were greatly appreciated. They all worked so hard. Finally thanks to Frs. Michael and Andrew for plugging the event each week at all masses and for attending, dancing, singing, waving and clearing up at the end. It really was a wonderful afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

Thank you from SVP The Society of St Vincent de Paul is most grateful for the outstanding sum of £1,462 donated in memory of Tom Timmins. We are very thankful to Tom's wife, Breda and family for proffering the dedication, and to the donors for their great generosity. All the good this will enable is a fitting tribute to Tom's many years of work for those in need.

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' meets in the parish hall on the first Tuesday of each month from Sept 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 [email](#) David Markham or call 07543 400650.

C.W.L. Thursday 8 Sept at 2.30 pm Meeting for a general discussion and any interesting holiday reminiscences

Traidcraft: after all Masses at Church on 10/11 September and at Marshalswick Mass Centre on Sunday 18 September. For more details, or to place an order, contact Maureen on 765549, or by [email](#).

Knit and Natter Group We will be meeting on September 13 and 27 from 2.15-4pm in the Parish Centre. Even if you don't knit come for a cup of tea & a chat. Everyone welcome.

Mercy Associates Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 21 September in room 1 of the Parish centre from 5 until 7pm. Sr. Maura will be joining us.

Men's Breakfast Saturday 1 October We are starting the Men's Breakfasts this autumn by looking at some of the most influential Catholic saints, starting with St Francis who gave up a wealthy family background to follow a life of poverty with the calling to "rebuild my church". We will meet in the Parish Centre from 8.15 for coffee, croissants and conversation, followed by a video on St Francis and discussion on the themes emerging. If you would like more details please email d4dstalbans@gmail.com

CAFOD bread, soup and film Harvest event 8 October, 12 to 3pm All are invited to our free lunch and film afternoon. Lunch is at noon and The Railway Children [U, 1970] will be shown at 1pm. Donations to CAFOD's fast day will be taken at the event. Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation group.

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.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Bikes, locks and football kit for asylum seekers Do you have spare adult bikes in good condition and any bike locks that could be given to local asylum seekers? We are also looking for football kit & boots. Teresa Clarke 01727 855026.

St Columba's College Open Morning - Saturday 24 September 2022 St Columba's College and Preparatory School is an independent Catholic day school for pupils aged 4 - 18 in St Albans. In 2021 girls joined the Lower Prep School (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2) and the Lower Sixth Form, and from this September, girls will join Form 1/Year 7. Prospective families are warmly invited to St Columba's Whole School Open Morning on Saturday 24 September from 9:00am - 12:30pm. There will be an opportunity to take tours of the school and hear from the Headmaster Mr David Shannon-Little, as well as other members of staff, and students. Families can register [here](#) or by going to the 'Visit Us' page on our website, clicking on the 'Whole School Open Morning' event and completing the form.

CTSA Autumn Prayer Walk Sunday 18 September Come and join other local Christians for all or any part of this relaxed walk around St Albans. Starting at 2pm at our own church, we will walk around St Albans, pausing at a number of churches for a short reading, hymn or prayer, for the people of St Albans. St Michael's church is once again kindly hosting us for a short break with tea and cakes before we complete our pilgrimage with prayers at the shrines of

St Alban and St Amphibalus at the Cathedral. See the poster on the church porch noticeboard for the route and timings.

Evening Pilgrimages at St Alban's Abbey The Abbey is holding a series of evening pilgrimages at the Abbey to which all are invited. The first will be held on 11 October 7.15-9.15pm. Details [here](#).

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.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Retiring Collection There will be a retiring collection to support the work of the Catholic Education Service at all masses this weekend. Next weekend there will be a collection for Home Mission Sunday.

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 Thank you 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.

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 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 January 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 10 September-VIGIL OF 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6pm Mass John Paton (Ann)

Sunday 11 September - 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Callum Gathard (RIP)

9am Mass (*St John Fisher School, M'wick*) HM Elizabeth II (RIP)

9.30am Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

11.30am Mass Genaro & Giuseppe (RIP)

6pm Mass Friends of George Xuereb and Helen Brennan (Ints)

Reading 1, Exodus 32:7-11,13-14, Psalm 50(51)

Reading 2, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Gospel, Luke 15:1-32

Monday 12 September - feria

10am Mass Callum Gathard (RIP)

7pm Mass Tony Berti (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 11:17-26,33

Psalm 39(40), Gospel, Luke 7:1-10

Tuesday 13 September - St John Chrysostom

10am Mass Jimmy & Tommy Murphy & Margaret Maloney (Ints)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14,27-31

Psalm 99(100), Gospel, Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday 14 September- THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

10am Mass Larry Hughes (RIP)

7pm Mass Michael Griffin (RIP)

Reading 1, Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 77(78), Gospel, John 3:13-17

Thursday 15 September - Our Lady of Sorrows

10am Mass Geoff Miller (Ints)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Psalm 117(118), Gospel, John 19:25-27

Friday 16 September - Ss Cornelius and Cyprian

7pm Mass Patrick and Mary Stones (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Psalm 16(17), Gospel, Luke 8:1-3

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

Saturday 17 September - Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday

10am Mass Alban and Peggy Brampton (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 15:35-37,42-49

Psalm 55(56), Gospel, Luke 8:4-15

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Saturday 17 September-VIGIL OF 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6pm Mass George Taites (RIP)

Sunday 18 September - 25TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

8am Mass Bridget Pakenham (RIP)

9am Mass Danny Onn (Ann) (*St John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Joyce Eastham (RIP)

11.30am Mass HM Elizabeth II (RIP)

6pm Mass Darren Browne (RIP)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the intentions of the intentions of Education Sunday

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 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Larry Hughes and Sr Catherine O'Carroll.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including John Paton and Danny Onn.

The funeral Mass for Joseph McCann (a former parishioner) will take place at Our Lady of Walsingham, Haseldine Road, London Colney, on Tuesday 13 September at 11am.

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. 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.