



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 18 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 Michael writes.....

Over 70 people have signed up for the Catholicism programme which commences on 21 September and will run for 9 weeks. The course is a wonderful opportunity for the participants to deepen their understanding of what we believe, the church and their relationship with Christ. I am really heartened by the numbers that have opted to do the course and hope, in time to come, that we might run it again for those unable to participate this time round. That said, I would like to invite each and every one of us to pray for those participating in the course this time round, and in this way to manifest our communion, our being one, with them.

Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to proclaim the Gospel.

Guided by the Holy Spirit may we be worthy missionaries;

*May we be valiant witnesses, speaking the truth with love
and communicating the joy of faith.*

Permit us to be united, but not closed; humble, but not fearful;

simple, but not naive; thoughtful, but not overbearing;

contemporary, but not superficial; respectful of others, but boldly your disciples.

May we bear into the world the hope of God, which is Christ the Lord,

who rose from the dead and lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

God forever and ever. Amen

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 this weekend 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.

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.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) We pray, as we both mourn and celebrate, that we may become more aware of and sensitive to the beauty and vulnerability of all creation.

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 16 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, 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

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 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 stalbans@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.

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.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Coffee after Mass this Monday We will be watching the broadcast of the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on TV in the parish centre after 10am mass on 19 September with tea and coffee. All are welcome to join us.

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 David Markham or call 07543 400650.

Traidcraft At Marshalswick Mass Centre on Sunday 18 September. For more details, or to place an order, contact Maureen on 765549, or by [email](#).

Parish Friends Meeting 21 September at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome to join us to plan our next events.

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.

Knit and Natter Group We will be meeting on September 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.

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.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

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.

Churches Together in Marshalswick Please support Churches Together in Marshalswick Food collection for The Vineyard FEED initiative at Budgens, The Quadrant on Saturday 24 September 9.30-11.30am

St Columba's College Open Morning - Saturday 24 September 9:00am - 12:30pm 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 Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and the Lower Sixth Form, and from this September, girls will join Form 1/Year 7. Families can register [here](#) or via the 'Visit Us' page on our website.

Loreto College Open Evening (secondary transfer 2023) The Open Evening for prospective pupils applying to Loreto College for September 2022 will take place on Tuesday 27 September from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. Please use the entrance in Upper Lattimore Road. Guided tours will be organised from 6pm to 7.45pm. See poster in church porch for details.

Mass in Cantonese Mass in Cantonese will be held once a month at Our Lady of Lourdes in Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3HJ. The next mass will be celebrated on Saturday 15 October at 2pm, with refreshments afterwards. All are warmly invited. Please email cantonmassea@gmail.com for details or see the flyer at the back of the church.

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.

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

Home Mission Sunday This is a day of prayer for the spread of the gospel here in our own country, amongst our own communities, in our own parishes and families. This weekend there will be a retiring collection for the work of the Bishop's Conference in spreading the message of the gospel in the UK.

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 January/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 17 September - VIGIL 25TH SUNDAY IN ORD.

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)

Reading 1, Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 112(113)

Reading 2, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Gospel, Luke 16:1-13

Monday 19 September - feria

10am Mass Marion Miller (RIP)

7pm Mass Callum Gathard (RIP)

Reading 1, Proverbs 3:27-34

Psalm 14 (15), Gospel, Luke 8:16-18

Tuesday 20 September - St Andrew Kim Tae-gön

10am Mass Susanna Mole (RIP)

Reading 1, Proverbs 21:1-6,10-13

Psalm 118 (119), Gospel, Luke 8:19-21

Wednesday 21 September- ST MATTHEW

10am Mass Margaret Sweeney (RIP)

7pm Mass Patrick Kennedy (Ints)

Reading 1, Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13

Psalm 18(19), Gospel, Matthew 9:9-13

Thursday 22 September - feria

10am Mass Angela and daughter, Angela (Ints)

Reading 1, Ecclesiastes 1:2-11

Psalm 89(90), Gospel, Luke 9:7-9

Friday 23 September - St Pius of Pietrelcina

7pm Mass Eric Harber (RIP)

Reading 1, Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Psalm 143(144), Gospel, Luke 9:18-22

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

Saturday 24 September - Our Lady of Walsingham

10am Mass Helen Kennedy (RIP)

Reading 1, Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8

Psalm 89(90), Gospel, Luke 9:43-45

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Saturday 24 September-VIGIL 26TH SUNDAY IN ORD.

TIME

6pm Mass Nellie White (RIP)

Sunday 25 September - 26TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

8am Mass Bridie Byrne (RIP)

9am Mass Joyce Eastham (RIP) (*St John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Nigel Appleyard (Ann)

11.30am Mass Brendan Kearns (Ann)

6pm Mass People of the Parish

Reading 1, Amos 6:1,4-7, Psalm 145(146)

Reading 2, 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Gospel, Luke 16:19-31

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for everyone participating in the CTSA Prayer Walk this weekend.

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, Rita Anderson, Cathy Dalton, Larry Hughes, Hannah Moore, Susanna Mole and Sr Catherine O'Carroll.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Nigel Appleyard, Brendan Kearns, Danny Onn and Fr Pat Sullivan MSC.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace

Prayer for the Queen

Almighty God, You are the author and sustainer of all human life; grant that your servant, Elizabeth our Queen, whom you granted a long and happy reign as Monarch of these lands may be forgiven her sins and rewarded with that eternal life promised to all those born again in the water of baptism and power of your Spirit. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit God, forever and ever, Amen.

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.