



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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YouTube: [youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch)

TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 25 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...

The rich man spoken of in today's Gospel parable (Luke 16:19-31) was not a 'bad' person. Witness the real concern he has for his brothers. However he was firmly rooted in the joys, pleasures and accolades of this world. These were his security, his touchstone. He sought after his own gratification and was blind to the suffering of the poor man sat at his gate. We may not be particularly wealthy, but all of us are capable of blinkered vision; of living our lives in such a determined, self-motivated and organised way, that we ignore the blindingly obvious opportunity of serving Christ in others. Like the rich man we can take the plight of others for granted; as if that plight is somebody else's problem.

At the end of today's parable, and in his own life, death and resurrection, Christ challenges us to look beyond 'gratification' in this world. In the parable there is no point in sending someone back from the dead to speak to the rich man's brothers, because they are too blinkered, too immersed in this world.

Over and over again society will tell us that this world is your only life, so make the best of it...and in a certain sense it is sound advice...we must always make the best use of the gifts that God has given to us, but in another sense society is profoundly wrong; for a Christian perspective, an unblinkered vision, must place this world in its proper context. This life and world isn't the point of the journey, it's part of a journey, and as with any pilgrimage, travelling well and travelling safely, has everything to do with keeping your eyes open.

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 together.
- Dress rehearsal including readers 22 December 7.30pm.

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

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) With the sadness of the Queen's death still fresh in our minds, let us pray for all those who have suffered the loss of a loved one and who may have no one to walk with them at this time.

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 David Markham or call 07543 400650.

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.

Traidcraft goods will be available after all Masses over the weekend of 1/2 October and on 9 October after 9.30 Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre.

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

CAFOD family fast day. If you are able, you are invited to fast on Friday 7 October. By giving up a meal you will be living in solidarity with so many millions around the world who regularly go hungry. Any money saved could be donated to the Family Fast Day collection over the weekend of 8/9 October. You may also consider coming to the Soup, bread and film lunch in the Hall on Saturday 8 October, from midday. Lunch is at noon and The Railway Children [U, 1970] will be shown at 1pm. All are welcome.

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.

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.

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.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

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.

The London Jesuit Centre - Courses for September 2022 We offer people in the London area an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Faith. Please see their website www.londonjesuitcentre.org for courses available

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Retiring Collections The retiring collection for Home Missions Sunday raised £423.31 and the recent collection for the Catholic Education Service raised £109.95. Thank you for your generosity.

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 24 September-VIGIL 26TH SUN. 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 8:4-7, Psalm 112(113)

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

Monday 26 September - feria

10am Mass Sheila O'Sullivan and family (Ints)

7pm Mass Mary Margaret Kiely (Ann)

Reading 1, Job 1:6-22

Psalm 16(17), Gospel, Luke 9:46-50

Tuesday 27 September - St Vincent de Paul

10am Mass Gioconda Chowdry (RIP)

Reading 1, Job 3:1-3

Psalm 87(88), Gospel, Luke 9:51-56

Wednesday 28 September- feria

10am Mass Larry Hughes (RIP)

7pm Mass Nuala Costello (RIP)

Reading 1, Job: 9:1-12,14-16

Psalm 87(88), Gospel, Luke 9:57-62

Thursday 29 September - SS Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

10am Mass Cathy and Richard West (Ints)

Reading 1, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 137(138), Gospel, John 1:47-51

Friday 30 September - St Jerome

7pm Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Reading 1, Job 38:1,12-21;40:3-5

Psalm 138(139), Gospel, Luke 10:13-16

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

Saturday 1 October - St Thérèse of the child Jesus

10am Mass Mary Madigan (Ints)

Reading 1, Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm 130(131), Gospel, Matthew 18:1-5

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

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)

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

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for members of the Lutheran Congregation at St Albans Cathedral.

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 and Susanna Mole.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Nigel Appleyard, George Xuereb Brennan, Fr Liam O'Callaghan MSC, Brendan Kearns, Hannah Moore and Mary Margaret Kiely.

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

Prayer for the King

O God, to whom every human power is subject, Grant to your servant His Majesty the King wisdom in the exercise of his high office, so that, always revering to you and striving to please you, he may constantly secure and preserve for the people entrusted to his care the freedom that comes from unity and peace. 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.