



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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 4 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 ...

Welcome back to the Parish Bulletin, our first following the summer break. I hope, like myself and Fr Andrew, you have had an opportunity for a relaxing break. Thank you to both Fr Peter Dwyer and Fr Michael Quaiocoe for supplying during August.

This coming week we look forward to welcoming Joan Egenes onto the Parish Team as she takes up her new role as Catechetical Coordinator, with particular responsibility for our First Communion and Confirmation programmes. The **First Communion Programme** is open to all those in year 3 and above and begins in January 2023. If you would like to register your son or daughter please visit our parish homepage at albanstephen.org click on 'Sacraments' then scroll down and click on 'Holy Communion'. You will find a tab labelled 'First Holy Communion 2023 Registration Form', select this and complete the registration form. The registration process for those young people wishing to join this year's **Confirmation Programme** will open in mid-September. Candidates for confirmation must be in Year 10 or above.

In addition to the First Communion and Confirmation Programmes we will also be relaunching our **Adult Enquiry or RCIA Programme** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) for those adults wishing to be baptised or received into full communion with the Catholic Church. For a good many years Deacon Steve Pickard has led this group ably and enthusiastically. Earlier in the year Deacon Steve asked the Cardinal's permission to step back from his particular parish responsibilities. Steve remains a deacon and will have a continuing presence, deaconing at parish masses much as retired priests continue to say public masses, but as a parish we will have no formal claim on Steve's time and energy. Later in the autumn there will be an opportunity to thank Steve and mark his retirement. With Deacon Steve's retirement, Fr Andrew will lead this year's Adult Enquiry Group. The group will begin meeting in October. If you are an adult and would like to explore what being baptised would mean, if you have been baptised and would like to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church, or if you are an adult Catholic yet to be confirmed our Adult Enquiry Group may well be for you. Please contact Fr Andrew at andrewbowden@rcdow.org.uk

Finally, with the departure of the MSCs in September 2019 and the downsizing in the number of resident priests it became clear that the staffing of the presbytery's domestic arrangements would need to be re-arranged. Now that we have come through the pandemic we have been able to finalise that restructuring. Regrettably, as part of that process, we have had to say farewell to a long standing member of staff. Sue Kiely has worked in the presbytery for a good many years and will be well known to many of you, especially our weekday parishioners. As she leaves, I would like to record our thanks to Sue for all that she has done to make the presbytery a place of home and welcome for successive priests and visitors.

Autumn Study Programme: Catholicism We have had a wonderful response from parishioners with over 70 people having signed up for this 8 week course. Further details, including details of how to collect study materials, will be sent shortly to those who have registered for the Catholicism course starting on 21/22 September. If you have registered for this course but have not yet paid your registration fee, please contact the presbytery for details of how to pay.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group (JPIC) Prayer Without forgiveness, life is governed by an endless cycle of resentment & retaliation (Roberto Assagioli)

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 18 September. If you would like to volunteer to run a session after the summer holiday break, please email yeadonmarta@gmail.com.

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.

Volunteers wanted There will be a lively "Celebrate" style faith event with mass this 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](#).

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.

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 has now restarted! 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, during term time, from 12 September, for toys, books, games and singing plus drinks and snacks. If able to help, please [email](#) David Markham or call 07543 400650.

Parish Friends Tea Party 4 September Parish Friends will be holding a Tea Party on Sunday 4 Sept from 3-5pm. Come along and be entertained by a great new band "Diamonds Forever" whilst enjoying tea and homemade cakes. Everyone is welcome. Parish Friends are now few in number so donations of cakes, drivers with a DBS offering lifts, and offers of help with setting up or serving on the day would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Helen 07860 830340 or email helen.bassill@ntlworld.com.

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

BINGO IS BACK! - Friday 9 September - by the Knights of St. Columba, at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall in aid of CAFOD - the Pakistan Floods Appeal. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

Traidcraft: after all Masses at Church on 10/11 September and at Marshalswick Mass Centre on Sunday 18 September. Buying fair trade goods is one practical way we have of living out our calling to live justly. For more details, or to place an order, contact Maureen on 765549, or by [email](#).

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 family fast day will be taken at the event. This has been arranged by the parish Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation group.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Mothers' Prayers Day of Renewal Saturday 10 September St Mary's church, Dunstable LU61NY. Talk by Maureen Goldsmith. Registration at 11am. Ends 5.30. Please bring packed lunch. Tel Pat 07871406310 for details

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 24 September You are warmly invited to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage. Coach departs St Bart's at 7.50am. Cost is £28 for adults. Children go free. Arrive in Walsingham for Mass at 12 noon, followed by picnic lunch. Programme for the afternoon includes the Holy Mile (on foot or by coach), Benediction and visit to the Priory, original site of the holy house. For more info or to book please [email](#) Margaret: or ring 01727 763832! (For those unable to walk far, there is not a lot of walking to do)

CTSA Autumn Prayer Walk, 2022: date for your diary 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.

Young Catholic Adults (YCA) Weekend 7 - 9 October Theme: "The Communion of Saints' prayer and the veneration of Holy Relics" During the weekend of the 7-9 October, YCA will be running a retreat at Douai Abbey with the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge who will be holding Gregorian Chant workshops. There will also be a Marian Procession, Rosaries, Sung Masses, Confession, talks (and socials). Prices start from £12 (come for the day) and £55 per person per night (residential). Please note to guarantee your place Douai Abbey has requested that everyone books by 16 Sept. For more information follow this [link](#). To book click [here](#).

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 next weekend. The recent retiring collection for the Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris) raised £616.68.

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 We are very grateful 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. Thank you for your help with this.

Offertory Promise Envelopes 2022/23 These are still available to those who requested them 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 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 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 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 3 September-VIGIL OF 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6pm Mass Deceased members of the Redbourn Murphy family

Sunday 4 September - 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the Parish

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

9.30am Mass Daniel Brudney (Ann)

11.30am Mass Eileen Aherne (RIP)

6pm Mass Eileen Bagge (RIP)

Reading 1, Wisdom 9:13-18, Psalm 89(90)

Reading 2, Philemon 9-10,12-17, Gospel, Luke 14:25-33

Monday 5 September - feria

10am Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

7pm Mass Pat Roache (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 5:1-8

Psalm 5, Gospel, Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday 6 September - feria

10am Mass Joan de Carle (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Psalm 149, Gospel, Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday 7 September- feria

10am Mass Private Intention

7pm Mass Liber Marzo (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 7:25-31

Psalm 44(45), Gospel, Luke 6:20-26

Thursday 8 September - THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10am Mass Maura Lynch and Sr Joan Ryan (RIP)

Reading 1, Romans 8:28-30

Psalm 12(13), Gospel, Matthew 1:18-23

Friday 9 September - feria

7pm Mass John Taylor (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27

Psalm 83(84), Gospel, Luke 6:39-42

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

Saturday 10 September - Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday

10am Mass Mary Murphy (RIP) and Elaine Murphy (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

Psalm 115(116), Gospel, Luke 6:43-49

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

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*) People of the Parish

9.30am Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

11.30am Mass Genaro & Giuseppe (RIP)

6pm Mass Friends of George Yurchak and Helen Brennan (late)

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the intentions of Racial Justice 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 Sr Annie Bromham IBVM, Rose Davin, Joseph McCann and John Robb.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Daniel Brudney, Joanna Hoscilowicz, Liber Marzo, John Paton, Fr Richard Scriven MSC, Emily Westbrook

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.