



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 30 October 2022



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 ...

On Monday of this week we had the inaugural meeting of our new Parish Pastoral Council. At the parish Assembly it was agreed that the PPC would be made up of representatives from the Adult Faith Formation Group, the Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation group, a Youth Committee, a Social Committee, Parish Friends and a Communications Group. It was also agreed that the various Sunday masses should be represented on the PPC.

As it stands we have representatives from the Adult Faith Formation, JPIC and Youth group as well as representatives from the 9am & 9.30am masses. We have had an initial meeting of a communications group and have yet to establish a social committee, so there are still interest groups to establish and places to fill on the new PPC. In particular we need representatives from the Saturday evening mass as well as the 8am, 11.30am & 6pm masses on Sunday.

The PPC is a crucial sounding board, there to advise and to challenge, whose principle purpose is the growth and development of the life and mission of parish. It is important for the PPC to be as representative as possible; so, if you regularly attend the 6pm on a Saturday, or the 8am, 11.30am or 6pm on a Sunday and feel you could strengthen our PPC please speak with me.

Those of you living closer to the church may have heard the church bell ringing a little more this past week. Thanks to the generosity of two donors we have been able to replace the clapper and automated system which rings the bell. Going forward, the bell will be rung during mass, at the elevation of the host and chalice, and will sound the Angelus at 12 Noon and 6pm. We will also ring it for a minute or so before the 10am weekday masses, the Saturday vigil mass, as well as the 11.30am and 6pm on Sundays. Once again, thank you to those who have made this possible.

Sick & Retired Priests' Fund Collection Next weekend is the annual collection for sick and retired priests in the Diocese of Westminster. There are more than 66 sick and retired priests who receive support after a lifetime of service to their parishes. By 2025 the number of priests in retirement is set to double.

Most priests offer their resignation as a parish priest at the age of 75, but many continue to serve in our parishes, schools, hospices, and hospitals. At this time, they are dependent on the Diocese for their care – for essentials like housing, any health needs and other essentials.

These priests have baptised us. They have welcomed us, and our families, into the Church. They have counselled us at times of crisis, sat with us through grief and sorrow, and shared in times of joy. They have given to us all and now, in their old age or sickness, they need us to give back.

By giving to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can ensure our priests are cared for. You can take a donation envelope as you leave Church this weekend. Please note that the envelopes and posters also feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online, to make donating more succinct. Please continue to pray for all our clergy: active, retired or ill. Thank you.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group Prayer Loving Father, we thank you for our gifts of food & clothes. Help us to be aware of the provenance of what we buy so that, when possible for us, we may try to reduce our carbon footprint.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Holy Souls Masses During November several of the Holy Souls masses will be offered for a particular intention, as listed below:

- Fri 4 Nov 7.00pm - For all who have died in the past year
- Sat 5 Nov 6.00pm - For deceased victims of violence
- Sun 6 Nov 11.30am - For deceased benefactors
- Mon 7 Nov 10.00am - For deceased spouses
- Wed 9 Nov 7.00pm - For deceased brothers & sisters
- Thu 10 Nov 10.00am - For those who have died in war
- Wed 16 Nov 7.00pm - For deceased sons & daughters
- Wed 23 Nov 7.00pm - For deceased priests & religious
- Sun 27 Nov 9.30am - For deceased parents & grandparents

Holy Souls Lists To include people in the Holy Souls List kept near the altar use one of the leaflets and envelopes available in the porch and return it to the Presbytery. Any offering you wish to make towards our 'Holy Souls' masses should be included in these envelopes or in a plain envelope marked 'Holy Souls' and posted through the Presbytery door.

The Novena Prayer will be posted on the parish website and the Holy Souls leaflet will also be available on the parish website. If easier please feel free to email your Holy Souls list to stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation courses will be held on Saturday 26 November at 11.30am. Please see our [website](#) or [email](#) Fr Andrew at andrewbowden@rcdow.org.uk with any enquiries.

First Holy Communion 2022/23 Online registration has now closed. 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.

Little Lights Children's Liturgy Group Little Lights will be on a half term break on Sunday 23 and 30 October. We will be back on Sunday 6 November during the 9.30am Mass.

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! Can you spare the time to come 20 minutes before the mass time, 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 October/November. 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.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

You Can Be Santa 'voucher scheme' The YCBS team has identified over 160 children this year and we would really like to be able to help all of them enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. **We are appealing for voucher donations (in £5, £10 & £20 denominations please, this will really help when we allocate the vouchers) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos, Amazon & One4All.** Thank you very much to everyone who has donated vouchers so far. If you would like to contribute to the YCBS scheme, please post your voucher/s through the Presbytery door in a clearly marked envelope (YCBS Vouchers). If you are unable to obtain vouchers but would still like to contribute, any monetary donation would be gratefully received and vouchers can be purchased by the YCBS team on your behalf. Vouchers can also be purchased online and sent to the YCBS email address below. Vouchers can be donated until 21 November at which point they will be distributed to the families identified by the YCBS team in time for Christmas. 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 '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, termtime only. 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.

C.W.L. Thursday 3 November 2.30 pm A talk to be given by Father Andrew. All are welcome. Cost £2 to include coffee

and biscuits. On Saturday 12 November the 6pm mass will be offered for deceased members of the C.W.L.

Traidcraft Traidcraft goods will be available after all Masses over the weekend of 5/6 November and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 13 November. Buying fairly traded goods not only gives the customer a great product but also helps the producer families live a more dignified life. Please consider looking at our parish stall to see if there is something you might like to buy. We still have Advent calendars, Christmas tree chocolate angels, Christmas cards and various luxury chocolate items to tempt you. All the income goes to support the disadvantaged of the world. More information or to place an order - 765549 or grabecki@hotmail.com.

Blessing of Graves Please note that, as is tradition, Fr Kevin will be blessing the graves on Sunday 6 November. Please see below for the venues and times that this will take place:
12.30pm - London Road Cemetery
1.30pm - London Colney Cemetery
1.45pm - Shenley Cemetery
2.15pm - Radlett Cemetery

BINGO 11 November In aid of the Knights of St. Columba. at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. Admission is 50p, and refreshments are included. Everyone is most welcome. Thank you for the support for our last Bingo event. This helped to raise £150.00 for "Mary's Meals".

Live Simply so that others may simply live: Should we as a parish commit to Living Simply? What would Living Simply look like for us as individuals and as a parish? We need your ideas. Come and explore this with speaker Ellen Teague in the parish hall 11 am Saturday 19 November. You are invited (but not required) to bring a plate to share while we stay and discuss the possibilities. Please share your images of Living Simply; photos, up to 1 MB, should be sent to b.bolgiano@btinternet.com by 14 November, for display on the day and also on the website and in the Parish Centre.

Parish Film Event Parish Friends will be showing the film "Paddington 2" at 3pm on Sunday 11 December in the Parish Hall. Popcorn and mince pies will be served. An afternoon for all the family and everyone is welcome. If you require a lift please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

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 21 November 3.30-6.00pm
 - Tuesday 13 December 3.30-6.00pm
 - Wednesday 11 January and Friday 3 February 7.30-9pm
- 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.

St. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic Primary School and Nursery The application process for Reception and Nursery admissions in 2023-24 is now open. Please join us at our Open Morning on Wednesday 9 November from 9.30-11.00am to find out more. If you wish to book a place please email admin@ssaas.herts.sch.uk. Full details on how to apply can be found on our [website](#).

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Mass in Cantonese this will be held once a month at Our Lady of Lourdes in Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3HJ. The next mass will be celebrated on Saturday 12 November 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.

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/March 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 29 October -VIGIL 31ST SUN IN ORD. TIME

6pm Mass Perry Taites (Ann)

Sunday 30 October – 31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Anthony O'Shea (RIP)

9am Mass People of the Parish (*St John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Eileen Bagge (RIP)

11.30am Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

6pm Mass Jacinta Clerkin (RIP)

Reading 1, Wisdom 11:22-12:2, Psalm 144(145)

Reading 2, 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2, Gospel, Luke 19:1-10

Monday 31 October – feria

10am Mass Michael O'Neill (RIP)

7pm Mass Jim Greahan (RIP)

Reading 1, Philippians 2:1-4

Psalm 130(131), Gospel, Luke 14:12-14

Tuesday 1 November – ALL SAINTS

10am Mass People of the Parish

7pm Holy Souls

Reading 1, Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14, Psalm 23(24),

Reading 2, 1 John 3:1-3, Gospel, Matthew 5: 1-12

Wednesday 2 November – THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)

10am Mass Holy Souls

7pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 26(27),

Reading 2, Romans 5:5-11, Gospel, Luke 7:11-17

Thursday 3 November – feria

10am Funeral Mass for John Garrick

Reading 1, Philippians 3:3-8

Psalm 104(105), Gospel, Luke 15:1-10

Friday 4 November – St Charles Borromeo

10am Holy Souls

7pm Mass Holy Souls - Remembering especially those who have died in the past twelve months

Reading 1, Philippians 3:17-41

Psalm 121(122), Gospel, Luke 16:1-8

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

Saturday 5 November – Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday

10am Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Philippians 4:10-19

Psalm 111(112), Gospel, Luke 16:9-15

10.30 – 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Saturday 5 November -VIGIL 32ND SUN IN ORD. TIME

6pm Mass Holy Souls - Remembering especially the victims of violence

Sunday 6 November – 32ND SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

8am Mass Holy Souls

9am Mass Holy Souls (*St John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am Holy Souls - Remembering especially our deceased benefactors

6pm Mass Holy Souls

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the members of the Society of Friends (Quakers).

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 Teresa Burke, Sr Mary Conlon, John Garrick, Kathleen Hughes, Madeline Little, Sr Anne Joseph, Elvira Mazzone, Michael O'Neill and Ann Whitehead.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fr Michael Buckley MSC, Mary Comer, Maurice Egan, Brian Freeney and Perry Taites.

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 During the half-term weekends of Sunday 23rd and Sunday 30th October there will be no Children's Liturgy. If you can help with the Children's Liturgy 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 CAFOD currently offer a virtual Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10am on Sundays as a webinar. Click [here](#) for the link to register.