



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

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YouTube: youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 13 NOVEMBER 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

Lourdes 2023 The next Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will run from Friday 21 - Friday 28 July 2023. If you are interested in making the pilgrimage as part of a parish group from St Alban and St Stephen please contact the parish office, providing your name, a contact email address, and phone number. At this stage we are simply trying to gauge the level of interest and contacting the parish office does not represent a formal commitment. There are however a number of ways to get involved in the pilgrimage. In particular, the organisers are looking for doctors, nurses and helpers (aged 18+) to work in the St Frai, the pilgrims' hospital. They are also looking for younger volunteers or Redcaps (aged 15-20) to assist with more able pilgrims. For information on the pilgrimage and volunteering contact Katrina Lavery wldpyouth@rcdow.org.uk.

The Open Door Charity's Winter Beds Project (WBP) For the past 5 years Open Door has provided safe, warm beds for people who would otherwise be sleeping rough in St Albans over winter. The Open Door night shelter on Bricket Road accommodates 12 homeless people all year round, but over the bitter winter months extra bed spaces are needed to ensure no one has to sleep on the streets in St Albans. The WBP wants to prevent people dying on the streets when the temperatures plummet, providing them with self-contained accommodation and access to support services which can address their housing and support needs. Last year the project provided accommodation every night from December through to April and accommodated 17 people who would otherwise have slept rough.

The WBP is run entirely by a team of volunteers overseen by the Project Coordinator. Last year 77 volunteers helped run the service, by welcoming guests in the evening, checking them out in the morning or organising supplies and laundry. Guests have praised the "friendliness of all the volunteers and the kindness encountered". This year the WBP will run from December to March and all volunteers are given full training and ongoing support. We are looking for more volunteers, if you would like to be involved or find out more about the project please contact Lucy Gaygusuz (Project Coordinator) at winterbedsproject@opendoorstalban.org or Colin Hull at cchandco@btconnect.com to hear his experience of volunteering with the WBP. For more information visit www.opendoorstalban.org and see posters at the back of the Church.

Live Simply so that others may simply live: Should we as a parish commit to Living Simply? Come and explore this with speaker Ellen Teague in the parish hall 11am 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 in the parish centre & on the website.

Carols by Candlelight - Friday 23 December - 7.30pm Musicians, singers and readers invited to join us for this popular service. Please email cbstalban@rcdow.org.uk or text to 07840 367555. Practices will be: 26 November 2-4pm singers, 3 and 10 December 2-3.30pm singers then 4-5.30pm musicians, 17 December 2-5.30pm singers and musicians together, Dress rehearsal including readers 22 December 7.30pm.

Advent Talks During Advent we ponder again the mystery of the incarnation when our Lord humbled Himself, taking on our humanity, and entered our time and space to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness.

You are warmly invited and encouraged to attend two Advent talks being delivered by Father Andrew on Thursday 8 December at 7pm: The new Adam and Thursday 15 December at 7pm: The new Eve.

Tea and coffee will be served from 7pm in the parish hall. The talk will start promptly at 7.15pm and with questions should be approximately an hour. This talk is suitable for everyone but those who have just completed the Catholicism programme are especially encouraged to attend, as these topics complement and expand some of the discussions had.

JPIC Prayer Lord, help us to persevere with our difficulties; enable our hearts to be transformed & become alive with love.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

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 For those registered there is a parent/guardian only meeting at 7.30pm on Friday 2 December in the Hall. The programme begins on 14 January.

Confirmation 2022/23 For those registered there is a parent and candidate meeting at 7.30pm on Friday 18 November in the Hall. The programme begins on 15 January.

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.

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, which takes place at 4.30pm on Saturday afternoons in 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

Christmas Day Takeaway Lunch We hope to provide a takeaway lunch on Christmas Day for anyone in the parish who is in need. We already have a volunteer cook, but we need volunteer drivers to deliver the meals and people to help clear away after cooking at approx. 12.30pm to 1.15pm. If you would like to receive a takeaway Christmas Day lunch please contact the parish office, giving your name and address and how many meals are needed. If you can help deliver the meals or clear away after cooking on Christmas Day please contact the parish office.

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.

You Can Be Santa 'voucher scheme' Thank you very much to everyone who has generously donated vouchers and money so far. Our cut-off date this year for donations is 21 November which will ensure voucher gifts are received by all the children in time for Christmas. 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. As a reminder, we are collecting voucher donations (in £5, £10 & £20 denominations please as this will really help when we allocate the vouchers). If you would like to contribute, 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. 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 and after 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 hall for toys, books, games, singing, drinks & snacks. To help, please contact David Markham on 07543 400650.

Traidcraft Fairly traded goods will be available after all Masses at the church over the weekend of 19/20 November. Also, there will be a coffee morning and fair-trade sale from 9am to 1pm at 43 Avenue Road on Tuesday 15 November: all welcome. We will have plenty of Christmas cards and other Christmas related items, plus our usual range of goods. Please come and look at the stall; all sales directly help those in the developing world live a more dignified life.

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".

Mothers' Prayers - Room 2 8pm Monday November 14 Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from office@mothersprayers.org.

Inter Faith Week Event - God's justice in our world. St Albans Cathedral on Monday 14 November Refreshments from 6.45pm for 7.30pm start. Please book via this [link](#).

JPIC meeting Our team for Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) will meet in the Parish Centre on Thursday, 17 November at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

Knit and Natter The next meetings of the knit and natter group will be on 22 November and 6 and 20 December from 2.15-4pm. All welcome. We are making blankets for the Salvation Army and heart decorations to send to Care Homes. The hearts are part of the St Albans Anna Chaplaincy project delivering messages of love this Christmas to each care home resident in St Albans.

Men's Breakfast Saturday 26 November We are continuing to consider some of the most influential Catholic Saints in our Men's Breakfasts this autumn. Our next session will be on Saturday 26 November when we will meet in the Parish Centre from 8.15 for coffee, croissants and conversation, followed by a video on St Benedict and discussion on the themes emerging and sharing experiences of visiting Benedictine communities such as Worth Abbey. For more details please email d4dstalbans@gmail.com.

Parish Film Event Parish Friends will be showing the film "Paddington 2" on Sunday 11 December in the Parish Hall. Light refreshments will be served at 2.30pm and the film will start at 3pm. Popcorn will be provided for children.. An afternoon for all the family and everyone is welcome. If you require a lift please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Turkey and Tinsel Lunch Parish Friends will be hosting a Turkey and Tinsel lunch for senior parishioners on Sunday 8 January 12.30-3pm. Lifts can be arranged. Helpers and drivers (with DBS) appreciated. Contact Helen on 07860 830340 or helenbassill@ntlworld.com to attend or help.

Sick & Retired Priests' Fund Collection Thank you for so generously supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection last weekend. Our priests give us years of dedicated service and it is only right that, together, we ensure they live out their days with the care they need. Envelopes are still available in the back of the church and you can give online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Please keep our sick and retired priests in your prayers

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:

- Monday 21 November/Tuesday 13 December 3.30-6.00pm
 - Wednesday 11 January/Friday 3 February 7.30-9.00pm
- No appointment is necessary and children need not attend.

St. Alban and St. Stephen Catholic Primary School and Nursery - School Governors needed SSAS Catholic Primary School and Nursery is a great school and is now seeking candidates who do not have children at the school to fulfil voluntary governor roles across a range of areas. Governors

can help the school improve performance by asking key questions, monitoring data, providing advice, support, and working with a committed leadership team. This is a great opportunity to contribute to maintaining and developing Catholic education in the parish for just a few hours each month during term time. For more information please email lrobertson@ssas.herts.sch.uk.

Ss Alban and Stephen Schools' PTA Event - Wreath Making Workshop 7.30pm Thursday 1 December in the parish centre hall £25. Email ssaspta@gmail.com to book.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Memories Café - bereavement and loss drop-in support sessions Every Monday 11am to 1pm at Watford Hospital Chaplaincy. Memories Café offers a chance to meet with others who understand the experience of loss. It is a space to talk about the pain of bereavement and find mutual support and encouragement when you need it most. For more information please email: westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net.

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 register as a gift aiding donor on one of our two contactless devices, please ensure 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 March / April 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 12 November -VIGIL 33RD SUN IN ORD. TIME

6pm Mass Deceased members of the CWL (Ints)

Sunday 13 November - 33RD SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

8am Mass Ellen Mary Small (Ann)

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

9.30am Mass Patricia Pearce (Ann)

11.30am Mass Tom Timmins (RIP)

6pm Mass Mary Fidelis Rainforth (RIP)

Reading 1, Malachi 3:19-20, Psalm 97(98)

Reading 2, 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12, Gospel, Luke 21:5-19

Monday 14 November - feria

10am Mass Rita Walsh (Ints)

7pm Mass Callum Gathard (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 1:1-4,2:1-5

Psalm 1, Gospel, Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday 15 November - feria

10am Mass Mike Clarke (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 3:1-6,14-22

Psalm 14(15), Gospel, Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday 16 November - St Edmund of Abingdon

10am Mass Rosa and Pietro La Monica (RIP) and Concetta and Nicolo Lobue (RIP)

7pm Mass Holy Souls - Remembering deceased sons and daughters

Reading 1, Apocalypse 5:1-10

Psalm 149 Gospel, Luke 19:41-44

Thursday 17 November - feria

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Teresa Burke

Reading 1, Apocalypse 5:1-10

Psalm 149 Gospel, Luke 19:41-44

Friday 18 November- feria

11.30am Funeral Mass for Madeline Little

7pm Mass May Flavin (Ann)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 10:8-11

Psalm 118(119), Gospel, Luke 19:45-48

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

Saturday 19 November - Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday

10am Mass Jack Curley (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 11:4-12

Psalm 143(144), Gospel, Luke 20:27-40

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Saturday 19 November - VIGIL of CHRIST THE KING

6pm Mass Holy Souls

Sunday 20 November - CHRIST THE KING

8am Mass Davie Cotter (RIP)

9am Mass Cliff Staniforth (Ann) (*St John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Vito La Monica (RIP)

11.30am Mass Antonio & Giuseppe (RIP)

6pm Mass People of the Parish

Reading 1, 2 Samuel 5:1-3, Psalm 121(122)

Reading 2, Colossians 1:12-20, Gospel, Luke 23:35-43

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the Elders and members of Forest Town Church.

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 Derek Alexander (brother of Diane Tobin), Teresa Burke, Madeline Little, Alice McCavera, Irene McGreivvy, Michael O'Neill, Liam Walsh and Ann Whitehead.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including May Flavin, Patricia Pearce, Patrick Mannion, Ellen Mary Small, Cliff Staniforth.

The funeral Mass for Madeline Little (former teacher at St Alban & St Stephen infant school) will be at 11.30am on Friday 18 November.

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.

Little Lights - Children's Liturgy during 9.30am Sunday Mass

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.

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](#) for details or see the flyer in the Church porch.