



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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

**CHRIST THE KING - 20 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 / [stalbensg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbensg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07976 277059

*We are a Fairtrade parish*

**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.

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**Carols by Candlelight - Friday 23 December 7.30pm - Musicians and Singers Needed!** Musicians, singers and readers are warmly invited to join us for this popular service. Please email [cbcstalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cbcstalbens@rcdow.org.uk) or text to 07840 367555 if you would like to be involved. Practices: 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.

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**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@opendoorstalbens.org](mailto:winterbedsproject@opendoorstalbens.org) or Colin Hull at [cchandco@btconnect.com](mailto:cchandco@btconnect.com) to hear his experience of volunteering with the WBP. For more information visit [www.opendoorstalbens.org](http://www.opendoorstalbens.org) and see posters at the back of the Church.

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**A Christmas Celebration - Music and Readings for Christmas** Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 December 7.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. An event in aid of Westminster Cathedral. For tickets go to [www.westminstercathedral.org.uk](http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk).

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**CHRISTMAS CARDS** - This weekend we are invited to write our first name only on Christmas cards for people in prison. The cards are available in the Church porch.

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**Financial Results and Report for the year ended 31 December 2021** A summary of our parish income and expenditure for 2021 is now available in the Church porch and on the '[Your Donations](#)' page of our website.

**JPIC Prayer** For children who suffer: We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

## 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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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. Training takes place at 4.30pm on Saturday afternoons. Those over 18 will need to complete the necessary safeguarding checks. If you or your child 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](mailto: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 emailed to [stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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.

**Knit and Natter** The next meetings of the knit and natter group will be on 22 November, 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](mailto: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](mailto:helenbassill@ntlworld.com) to attend or help.

**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 [wdlpyouth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:wdlpyouth@rcdow.org.uk).

## 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. 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](mailto:lrobertson@ssas.herts.sch.uk).

**Ss Alban and Stephen Schools' PTA Fundraising Event - Wreath Making Workshop** 7.30pm Thursday 1 December in the parish centre hall. Cost £25 a ticket including all materials, tuition, a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie! Email [ssaspta@gmail.com](mailto:ssaspta@gmail.com) to book your place.

**Nicholas Breakspear Sixth Form Open Evening** 6-8pm Monday 28 November [nbs.herts.sch.uk](http://nbs.herts.sch.uk)

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas** In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue in church. World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.

**Churches Together in Marshalswick Christmas Food Bank Collection** Saturday 3 December 9.30-11.30 at Budgens, The Quadrant. To volunteer contact Maureen or Christine 07900 260190 /07788 968654St

**Albans Salvation Army Seasonal Fayre Saturday 26 November 10.30am - 1.30pm.** 16-18 Victoria Street. Please come along! Email [stalbans@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@salvationarmy.org.uk) or phone 01727 855395 for more information.

**School governors wanted** St Elizabeth's School & College in Much Hadham are looking for governors. If anyone wishes to be considered as a prospective governor please email Bishop Paul McAleenan at [paulmcaleenan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:paulmcaleenan@rcdow.org.uk) For information visit <https://www.stelizabeths.org.uk/>.

**Searchandstudy.org** A website that will help you to find just about all the important church documents: scripture, the catechism, Vatican II, the popes, the saints, the catholic encyclopaedia and more. You can find documents from the menu or by reference, such as CCC 1416, Jn3 or LG12. It is there to help everyone to grow in their faith, please try it!

## 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 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

### **Monday 21 November - The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

10am Mass Mary Miskell (RIP)

7pm Mass Richard Field (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 14:1-5

Psalm 23(24), Gospel, Luke 21:1-4

### **Tuesday 22 November - St Cecilia**

10am Mass Catriona McLoughlan (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 14:14-19

Psalm 95(96), Gospel, Luke 21:5-11

### **Wednesday 23 November - feria**

10am Funeral Mass for Alice McCavera

7pm Mass Holy Souls - Remembering especially deceased priests and religious

Reading 1, Apocalypse 15:1-4

Psalm 97(98), Gospel, Luke 21:12-19

### **Thursday 24 November - St Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions**

10am Mass John Sweeney (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 18:1-2,21-23,19:1-3,9

Psalm 99 (100), Gospel, Luke 21:20-28

### **Friday 25 November- feria**

7pm Mass Terry Rivers (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 20:1-4,11-21:2

Psalm 83(84), Gospel, Luke 21:29-33 (*On Friday Mass is celebrated at St Albans Cathedral at Noon*)

### **Saturday 26 November - Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday**

10am Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Apocalypse 22:1-7

Psalm 94(95), Gospel, Luke 21:34-36

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

### **Saturday 26 November - VIGIL 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

6pm Mass Pauline, Bella & Johnny Taites (RIP)

### **Sunday 27 November - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8am Mass Bridie Byrne (RIP)

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

9.30am Mass Holy Souls - Remembering especially deceased parents and grandparents

11.30am Mass Deceased family & friends of Sieglinde Wilson

6pm Mass Michael Walsh (RIP)

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

Reading 2, Romans 13:11-14, Gospel, Matthew 24:37-44

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for the ministers and members of the New Testament Church of God.

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), Alice McCavera, Mary Miskell, Sr Denise SSCJ.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Vera Doherty, Mark Gomm, Bunty Henegan, Patrick Mannion, Ken Minton, Cliff Staniforth.

*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](mailto: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.