



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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

**THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 6 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](mailto:stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07976 277059

*We are a Fairtrade parish*

### *Fr Michael writes ...*

Last week we celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints and the feast of All Souls. Together these celebrations focus our attention on the world and life hereafter; on the saints who are in heaven, and those who have gone before us. Our prayer in this month of November is for the Holy Souls, that with the Saints, they too might know the joy of heaven.

In today's gospel the Sadducees ask Jesus about heaven, but in particular which of her seven husbands a widow will be married to in heaven. Of course the Sadducees are out to ridicule Jesus and the whole notion of there being a resurrection, but in doing so they give Jesus the opportunity to say something very important about heaven; reminding us that the world to come does not operate in the way that this world does; 'The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those...in the other world...do not marry'. Heaven, if you like, is a place where life is lived differently. If we want to know what heaven is like then we must abandon so many of our preconceptions. Indeed in heaven, the 'eternal' city, there is no such thing as time; no clock to keep to, to put forward or back, no past or future, for all there is in heaven is forever - it is an eternal present where, to coin a phrase, we will live forever 'in the moment'.

For us, Heavenly life is not an easy thing to grasp or understand. In fact none of us will fully understand what it is until, in God's mercy, we reach it. Nonetheless, we are called to be witnesses of the Kingdom and to do all that we can to build heaven on earth. People will often ask why priests are celibate and do not marry. In part that not marrying is a matter of discipline; it is the custom in the Latin or Western Rite of the Catholic Church. More profoundly however the celibacy lived by so many priests and religious, men and women, is a witness, a sign to the world of the Kingdom which Christ speaks of in the gospel.

**Sick & Retired Priests' Fund Collection** Our second collection today will be in support of the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. Most priests offer their resignation as a parish priest at the age of 75, but many continue to serve their communities, working in our parishes, schools, hospitals and chaplaincies. We must ensure no priest is worried about meeting essential costs during their senior years and, as such, Cardinal Nichols and the Diocese of Westminster are committed to ensuring that no retired or sick priest is left without support. By giving a gift to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you will help ensure all of our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need, after years of service to God and their parishioners. The fund will be used to meet essential costs, like making a flat accessible to a disabled priest. It could ensure a priest has regular visits from a carer after undergoing surgery. Rest assured, the Diocese works closely with the NHS, local councils and social services, but there will nevertheless be gaps in funding and we need to ensure our priests have peace of mind in their senior years. If you took a donation envelope last weekend, please place it in the collection bag today. If you do not have an envelope, there are some available in the pews and at the back of the church. The envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. If you are able, please consider filling out a standing order form, meaning you become a Patron and make a regular gift to support our sick and retired priests. Please be generous and remember our clergy, in active ministry, retired or ill, in your prayers. Thank you.

**Holy Souls Lists** To include people in the List kept near the altar use one of the leaflets and envelopes available in the porch. 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 can be found on the parish website and the Holy Souls leaflet is also available there. Alternatively, please feel free to email your Holy Souls list to [stalbans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk).

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group Prayer** We pray for all those fleeing war and persecution, starvation and injustice. May they know your peace and shelter in safety.

## 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** 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** Online registration has now closed.. 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](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 and to the relevant training, to be held 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](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk).

## OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

**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.

**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.** 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](mailto:stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk).

**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.

**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. We have Advent calendars, Christmas tree chocolate angels, Christmas cards and various luxury chocolate items.. More information or to order - 765549 or [grabecki@hotmail.com](mailto:grabecki@hotmail.com).

**Blessing of Graves** Fr Kevin will be blessing graves on Sunday 6 November as follows:

12.30pm - London Road Cemetery

1.30pm - London Colney Cemetery

1.45pm - Shenley Cemetery

2.15pm - Radlett Cemetery

**Parish Friends meeting 10.30am Tuesday 8 November** We are desperately in need of some new members. Please come and find out about our activities and maybe join our group. For further details contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340

**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](mailto: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](#).

**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](mailto: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.

**New footbridge at St Albans Station** Network Rail is proceeding with its plans to install a new footbridge. This is a major piece of new equipment and its installation will involve significant disruption to both to motorists and pedestrians. All footpaths on the Victoria Street bridge will be shut from 4-7 November. During the rest of the work, the south side footpath on Victoria Street bridge will remain shut but the north side footpath will be open. Ridgmont Road car park will be closed from 31 October to 10 November. Closures and alternatives will be signposted.

## 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 7.30-9pm

No appointment is necessary and children need not attend.

**St. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic Primary School and Nursery** Please join us at our Open Morning on Wednesday 9 November from 9.30-11.00am. If you wish to book a place please email [admin@ssaas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ssaas.herts.sch.uk). Full details on how to apply can be found on our [website](#).

**St. Alban and St. Stephen Catholic Primary School and Nursery - School Governors needed** St. Alban and St. Stephen 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 some key questions, monitoring data, providing advice, support, and working with a committed leadership team. This provides a great opportunity to contribute to maintaining and developing Catholic education in the parish for just a few hours each month during term time. If you're ready to start asking the right questions you are ready to join the school governors. Please email [lrobertson@ssas.herts.sch.uk](mailto:lrobertson@ssas.herts.sch.uk) for more details.

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

**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](mailto:westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net).

**Watford Hospital Chaplaincy Weekly Advent Reflections on Zoom** Each Sunday evening in advent you are invited to join us for 30min of reflection on the weekly themes of Advent. For more information, please email Deacon Anthony - [revdeacon@mail.com](mailto:revdeacon@mail.com).

## PARISH ADMINISTRATION

**Retiring Collections** The recent retiring collection to support the work of Missio raised £1,298.48. Thank you for your generosity. Of the £1,531.21 raised by the recent CAFOD family fast day collection, £436.00 was raised during the Soup & Film Lunch, and £99.76 was contributed from tea and coffee after Mass.

**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 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 5 November -VIGIL 32<sup>ND</sup> SUN IN ORD. TIME**

6pm Mass Holy Souls – Remembering the victims of violence

### **Sunday 6 November – 32<sup>ND</sup> 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 our deceased benefactors

6pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, 2 Maccabees 7:1-2,9-14, Psalm 16(17)

Reading 2, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5, Gospel, Luke 20:27-38

### **Monday 7 November – feria**

10am Mass Holy Souls – Remembering deceased spouses

7pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Titus 1:1-9

Psalm 23(24), Gospel, Luke 17:1-6

### **Tuesday 8 November – feria**

10am Mass Holy Souls

7pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Titus 2:1-8,11-14,

Psalm 36(37), Gospel, Luke 17:7-10

### **Wednesday 9 November – DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA**

10am Funeral Mass for Kathleen Hughes

7pm Mass Holy Souls – Remembering deceased brothers & sisters

Reading 1, Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12

Psalm 45(46), Gospel, John 2:13-22

### **Thursday 10 November – St Leo the Great**

10am Mass Holy Souls – Remembering those who died in war

Reading 1, Philemon 7:20

Psalm 145(146), Gospel, Luke 17:20-25

### **Friday 11 November– St Martin of Tours**

7pm Mass Peter Michael Rowland (Ann)

Reading 1, 2 John 4-9

Psalm 118(119), Gospel, Luke 17:26-37

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

### **Saturday 12 November – St Josaphat**

10am Mass Elisabeth Page (RIP)

Reading 1, 3 John 5-8

Psalm 111(112), Gospel, Luke 18:1-8

10.30 – 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

### **Saturday 12 November -VIGIL 33<sup>RD</sup> SUN IN ORD. TIME**

6pm Mass Deceased members of the CWL (Ints)

### **Sunday 6 November – 33<sup>RD</sup> 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

## PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans we pray for the members of our own Marshalswick Mass Centre.

For those suffering with Coronavirus and for all the Sick

*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, Kathleen Hughes, Madeline Little, Sr Anne Joseph, Elvira Mazzone, Alice McCavera, Irene McGreevy, Michael O'Neill, Liam Walsh and Ann Whitehead.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fr Michael Buckley MSC, Maurice Egan, Patricia Pearce, Peter Michael Rowland and Ellen Mary Small.

The funeral Mass for Madeline Little (former teacher at St Alban & St Stephen infant school) will be at 11am 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 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** Little Lights is back this weekend after the half term break. 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.