



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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Contactless Giving

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - For 18 DECEMBER 2022 to 8 JANUARY 2023

Parish Team: Fr Michael O'Boy (Parish Priest) Fr Andrew Bowden (Assistant Priest)

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... This Christmas will be my fourth here at St Alban & St Stephen. Thanks largely to Covid no two have been quite the same. However there have been some constants. Not least among these has been our annual *Carols by Candlelight*. For sure, we have had to do it differently, with limited numbers, as with last year, or by means of a virtual service, as in 2020, but this year marks a return to *Carols by Candlelight* with no restrictions. There is an open and unreserved invitation to all. That it takes place so close to Christmas on Friday 23rd at 7.30pm makes it all the more special. Come along, invite a neighbour!

At the heart of our Christmas Celebration stands the incarnation. We celebrate a God who, in the person of his Son Jesus Christ, chooses to share in our humanity, that we might come to know and share in his divinity. This is the true joy of Christmas. A child whose living and dying redeems us, who raises us up, to be more than we can be by ourselves. Christmas is an opportunity to be more - to be more joyful, to be more generous, to be all that Christ calls us to be. It is this joy that I wish for each and every one of us - a joy that is rooted in self-giving, in our reaching out to and for others, just as God in Christ reaches out to and for us.

May the Christ child whose birth we celebrate enlighten your hearts and minds. May his coming ease your burdens and sooth your sorrows and may I, on behalf of Fr Andrew, Deacon Brendan, Deacon Steve, Angela, Joan, Mark & Tracy, wish you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year ahead.

Christmas Services Leaflet For details of our Christmas Services use [this link](#). Copies also available in the Church porch.

Advent Talks For those who could not make the advent talk by Father Andrew - Christ the new Adam; Hope for Humanity - a voice recording with slides has been added to the website. Please follow this [link](#) to access the talk or go to the following webpage <https://www.albanstephen.org/advent-2022-talks/>. The second talk - Our Lady as the New Eve - will be added after the weekend. Please do take the time to listen.

Helping others at Christmas - Thank you for your Generosity A huge thank you to all those who have made gifts to the Foodbank collection on 10 & 11 December at the church or the mass centre. Your generosity filled the church porch and two large carloads of groceries were delivered to our friends at the Salvation Army. These groceries have now been consolidated into Christmas food parcels for over 150 families across St Albans and will help them to experience the love of God in a very practical way this Christmas. This is in addition to the strong support that you have already shown with the "You can be Santa" scheme so doubly appreciated.

Christmas Offering Traditionally the collection on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is your offering to the priests of the parish. It is used to fund their monthly allowance. A collection will be taken at each mass. If you would like to give electronically, the best way to do this is by bank transfer, giving 'Christmas Offering' as a reference. The banks details are: HSBC-69 Pall Mall, Account name: WRC DT St Albans, Sort Code: 40-05-20, Account No: 21094696.

Fr Charles Golden Jubilee Fr Charles Sweeney MSC, our Parish Priest between 2006 and 2015, celebrates 50 years as a priest on 23 December. He continues his mission of service in his current parish in Salthill, County Galway. Fr Charles has many treasured memories of his ministry here and would welcome your prayers on this special occasion. The MSCs in Ireland held a celebration in the summer to mark this significant event. A congratulatory message and card is being sent on behalf of the parish and Mass will be offered here in St Albans on 23 April at 11.30am for Fr Charles' Jubilee intentions.

JPIC Group Prayer Lord, as COP 15 is taking place now, in Montreal, guide the leaders to respond appropriately to the scale of the biodiversity and climate change crisis.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Christmas Masses There will be three Masses on Christmas Eve at 5pm, 7pm, 10pm and four Masses on Christmas Morning at 8am, 9am (Marshalswick), 9.30am and 11.30am. This year there will be no particular Children's Mass, but the first two Masses on Christmas Eve will be designated as 'family' friendly.

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation courses will be held on Saturday 28 January 2023 at 11.30am. Please see our [website](#) or [email](#) Fr Andrew at andrewbowden@rcdow.org.uk with any enquiries.

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 will take place in 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.

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 on Wednesday 11 January and Friday 3 February from 7.30 to 9.00pm. No appointment is necessary, and children need not attend.

Nicholas Breakspear School are consulting on proposed changes to their admissions arrangements for 2024/2025 Among the proposed changes is the requirement of a Certificate of Catholic Practice. Responses to the revised arrangements, the detail of which can be found [here](#), are invited, and should be submitted to the Student Transition Coordinator by email at westerdalea@nbs.herts.sch.uk or by post to the school address Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School, Student Transition Coordinator, Colney Heath Lane, St Albans, AL4 0TT by Friday 6 January 2023.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Next Bulletin Our first bulletin of the New Year will be available on the weekend of 14/15 January 2023.

Thank you Thanks to everyone for your cards and kind wishes. A mass will be offered for your intentions. Rita Walsh.

Christmas Day Takeaway Lunch 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.

Knit and Natter 20 December, 3 and 17 January 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. For queries, please contact Helen on helen.bassill@ntlworld.com or 07860 830340

Turkey and Tinsel Lunch Parish Friends are organising a Turkey and Tinsel lunch for all Senior Parishioners on Sunday 8 January 12.30-3pm. Lifts can be arranged. If you would like to attend, please let us know stating if you have any special dietary requirements or if you require a lift. If you can attend, offer help on the day or wish to request or offer a lift contact Helen Bassill -phone 07860 830340 or email helen.bassill@ntlworld.com. Offers of help with food will also be appreciated. Could you prepare vegetables for us to cook? (Potatoes, carrots, parsnips, red cabbage, or Brussel sprouts etc.) or could you donate a pudding for us to serve? If so, please email Joanna.roche1@gmail.com and let her know.

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans for the next few weeks, we pray for all the members of Churches Together in St Albans.

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 Jay Chitnis, Ita Major and Monika Radecka.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Pascale Al-Basri, Raymond Bagge, Laurie and Mary Blythman, Carol Cahill, John Darby, Thomas Doyle, Margaret Fitzsimons, Fr Tom Hewitt (MSc), Christopher Hinton, Angela Maher, Mary Micallef, Marion Miller, Sandra Moseley, Ken and Mary Neal, Agnes O'Boy, Maureen and John Rowland, Molly Screene, Carmela Sellecchia, Reza Tanha, Harry Vasey and Alexander Vengler.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 17 December VIGIL 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6pm Mass Matthew and Ellie Kiely (Ints)

Sunday 18 December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am Mass Graham Smith (RIP)

9am Mass People of the Parish

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Francesca Yeadon (Ints)

11.30am Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

6pm Mass Mike Lyons (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 7:10-14, Psalm 23(24)

Reading 2, Romans 1:1-7, Gospel, Matthew 1:18-24

Monday 19 December – Advent Feria

10am Mass Ita Major (RIP)

Confessions 10.30 - 11.30am

7pm Mass Agnes O'Boy (Ann)

Reading 1, Judges 13:2-7,24-25,

Psalm 70(71), Gospel, Luke 1:5-25

Tuesday 20 December – Advent Feria

10am Mass Laurie and Mary Blythman (Ann)

Reading 1, Isaiah 7:10-14, Psalm 23(24),

Gospel, Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday 21 December – Advent Feria

10am Mass Margaret Sweeney (RIP)

7pm Mass Pascale Al-Basri (Ann)

Confessions 7.30 - 8.30pm

Reading 1, Song of Songs 2:8-14

Psalm 32(33), Gospel, Luke 1:39-45

Thursday 22 December – Advent Feria

10am Mass Brian Page (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Samuel 1:24-28,

Psalm 1 Samuel 2, Gospel, Luke 1:46-56

Friday 23 December – Advent Feria

10am Mass Carmen Diaz (Ints)

7.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Reading 1, Malachi 3:1-4,23-24

Psalm 24(25), Gospel, Luke 1:57-66

Saturday 24 December – Advent feria

10am Mass Sumner family (Ints)

Reading 1, 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Psalm 88(89), Gospel, Luke 1:67-79

Confessions 10.30 - 11.30am (No Exposition or Benediction)

Saturday 24 December-VIGIL MASSES OF CHRISTMAS

5pm Mass Priest's Intention

7pm Mass Priest's Intention

Reading 1, Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm88(89)

Reading 2, Acts 13:16-17. 22-25, Gospel, Matthew1:18-25

10pm Mass For the People of the Parish

Reading 1, Isaiah 9:1-7, Psalm 95(96)

Reading 2, Titus 2:11-14, Gospel, Luke 2:1-14

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 25 December – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8am Mass Nicholas Breakspear School Community

9am Mass St John Fisher School Community

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass St Alban & St Stephen School Community

Reading 1, Isaiah 62:11-12, Psalm 96(97)

Reading 2, Titus 3:4-7, Gospel, Luke 2:15-20

11.30am Mass Loreto College School Community

Reading 1 Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 97(98)

Reading 2, Hebrews 1:1-6, Gospel, John 1:1-5,9-14

6pm No evening mass

Monday 26 December – ST STEPHEN

10am Mass Carmela Sellecchia (Ann)

7pm No Evening Mass

Reading 1, Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59

Psalm 30(31), Gospel, Matthew 10:17-22

Tuesday 27 December – ST JOHN

10am Mass Reza Tanha (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 John 1:1-4

Psalm 96(97), Gospel, John 20:2-8

Wednesday 28 December – THE HOLY INNOCENTS

10am Alec Anderson (RIP)

7pm Mass Sandra Moseley (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 John 1:5-2:2

Psalm 123(124), Gospel, Matthew 2:13-18

Thursday 29 December – ST THOMAS BECKET

10am Mass Edward Sumner (RIP)

Reading 1, Colossians 1:24-29

Psalm 22(23), Gospel, Matthew 10:28-33

Friday 30 December – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

10am Jacqueline and Anthony Sumner (RIP)

7pm No evening mass

Reading 1, Ecclesiasticus 3:3-7,14-17, Psalm 127(128)

Reading 2, Colossians 3:12-21,

Gospel, Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Saturday 31 December – 7TH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

10am Mass Joseph McCann (RIP)

(No Confessions, Exposition or Benediction)

Reading 1, 1 John 2:18-21

Psalm 95(96), Gospel, John:1:1-18

Saturday 31 December VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Maureen and John Rowland (Ann)

Reading 1, Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 66(67)

Reading 2, Galatians 4:4-7, Gospel, Luke 2:16-21

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 1 January - MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

8am Mass Margaret Fitzgibbon (RIP)

9am Mass Terry Rivers (RIP)

(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am Mass Alexander Vengler (Ann)

6pm Mass Deceased members of the Moore family

Reading 1, Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 66(67)

Reading 2, Galatians 4:4-7, Gospel, Luke 2:16-21

Monday 2 January - St Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

10am Mass Holy Souls

7pm No evening mass

Reading 1, 1 John 2:22-28

Psalm 97(98), Gospel, John 1:19-25

Tuesday 3 Jan - Christmas feria

10am Mass Johnny Power (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 John 2:29-36

Psalm 97(98), Gospel, John 1:29-34

Wednesday 4 January - Christmas feria

10am No morning mass

7pm Mass Molly Screene (Ann) and Thomas Doyle (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 John 3:7-10

Psalm 97(98), Gospel, John 1:35-42

Thursday 5 January - Christmas feria

10am No morning mass

Thursday 5 January - VIGIL OF THE EPIPHANY

7pm Mass Teresa 'Terry' Rivers (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 John 3:11-21

Psalm 99(100), Gospel, John 1:43-51

Friday 6 January - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

10am Mass Moira Boyle (RIP)

7pm Mass People of the Parish

Reading 1, Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 71(72)

Reading 2, Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6, Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12

Saturday 7 January - Christmas feria

10am Mass Deceased members of the MSCs

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, 1 John 3:22-4:6

Psalm 2, Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Saturday 7 January - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Marion Miller (Ann)

Reading 1, Isaiah 42: 1-7, Psalm 28(29)

Reading 2, Acts 10:34-38, Gospel, Matthew 3:13-17

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 8 January - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8am Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

9am Mass People of the Parish (*SJF, Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass Anna Yeadon (Ints)

11.30am Mass Concettina, Joe (Giuseppe) and Vittorio Giubba (RIP)

6pm Mass John Darby (Ann)

Reading 1, Isaiah 42: 1-7, Psalm 28(29)

Reading 2, Acts 10:34-38, Gospel, Matthew 3:13-17

Monday 9 January - feria

10am Mass Priests' Intention

7pm Mass Christopher Hinton (Ann)

Reading 1, Hebrews 1:1-6

Psalm 96(97), Gospel, Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday 10 Jan - feria

10am Mass Priests' Intention

Reading 1, Hebrews 2:5-12

Psalm 8, Gospel, Gospel, Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday 11 January - feria

10am Mass Harry Vasey (Ann)

7pm Mass Carol Cahill (Ann)

Reading 1, Hebrews 2:14-18

Psalm 104(105), Gospel, Mark 1:29-39

Thursday 12 January - feria

10am Mass John Gildea (RIP)

Reading 1, Hebrews 3:7-14,

Psalm 94(95), Gospel, Mark 1:40-45

Friday 13 January - feria

7pm Mass Raymond Bagge (Ann)

Reading 1, Hebrews 4:1-5,11

Psalm 77(78), Gospel, Mark 2:1-12

Saturday 14 January - Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday

10am Mass Tony Silvester (Ints)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Hebrews 4:12-16

Psalm 18(19), Gospel, Mark 2:13-17

Saturday 14 January - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Terry Rivers (RIP)

Sunday 15 January - 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the Parish

9am Mass Ken and Mary Neal (Ann)

(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass Pat Maloney (RIP)

11.30am Mass Angela Maher (Ann)

6pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 49:3,5-6, Psalm 39(40)

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, Gospel, John 1:29-34

Little Lights - Children's Liturgy during 9.30am Sunday Mass The last session of Little Lights is on Sunday 18 December and we will be back on 8 January. If you can help with the Children's Liturgy email Marta at yeadonmarta@gmail.com.

Please click [here](#) for this week's 'Liturgy of the Word' for Children leaflet from the Diocese of Westminster.