



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 15 January 2023**



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*

The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has launched an inquiry into assisted suicide and invited individuals and interested organisations to comment. The timeframe for answering the consultation is a short one. Submissions must be in by Friday 20 January however the format of the Inquiry is simple, and not time-consuming - just six questions.

Like his predecessors, Pope Francis has constantly taught against assisted suicide, euphemistically called, 'assisted dying'. 'All life', he reminds us, 'has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect'.

The teaching of the Catholic Church is clear. We can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it. All life is sacred from conception until natural death. Our call is for greater investment in high quality palliative care. It is a call for assistance in living and not assistance in committing suicide.

Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good. It is crucial that as many people as possible engage with the Parliamentary Inquiry and oppose the introduction of assisted suicide into UK law. If you would like to make a response visit <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6906/assisted-dyingassisted-suicide/>. In responding you are asked to bear in mind that a 'Citizens' Assembly' or referendum on this issue could be easily abused to try to legalise assisted suicide.

To assist with public engagement, the Anscombe Bioethics Centre has [produced a short Briefing](#). For the Bishops' Conference statements on assisted suicide, visit <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/life-issues/assisted-dying/> For the Anscombe Centre's statement and resources about the inquiry, visit <https://bioethics.org.uk/news-events/news-from-the-centre/anscombe-centre-statement-on-commons-hsc-committee-inquiry-into-assisted-suicide/>.

**Support for Refugees** The local charity StAR is supporting about 50 refugees who are living locally. The group consists of men, women and three babies. There is an urgent need for clean, warm clothing of a standard which you would be happy to use or give to family members. The list of clothing can be seen [here](#) and there is also a list and collecting box at the back of the church. Please check the list when dropping off goods to see what is still required as we have been asked to only supply what is required. If we have surplus clothes we will find a suitable home for them with a charity. Please mark the list with any item you deliver. We will be sorting clothes at 4 pm on Monday 16 January. If you can help please call Mary on 07976 277 059 for more details. If you wish to be added to a circulation list for future communications please let Mary have your email address.

**Peace Sunday** This Sunday, 15 January, is PEACE SUNDAY and this year the message from Pope Francis tells us: 'No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace'. He asks us: 'What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?' A vaccine has been found for Covid-19, says the Holy Father, but we still need to tackle the virus of war, and of inequality, and this can only be done together. In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which aims at working together to promote peace through parishes, schools and social media. Their website suggests ways we can all become better peacemakers. There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children, using this link: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023>. Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x>. Or send a cheque payable to 'Pax Christi' to: Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY . Tel: 0208 203 4884.

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Prayer** Lord, convert the hearts of those who commit violence and wage war. Turn them away from persecution towards peace. Send us the gift of peace.

## LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

**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](mailto: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. 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.

**Church Cleaning** A couple of parishioners have begun a

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friday Cleaning Group, meeting in Church between at 8.30am and 10.00am, and readying the church for the weekend Masses. If you would like to join them, sparing whatever time you can, you would be welcome to do so.

**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. Please [email](#) Fr Andrew at [andrewboeden@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:andrewboeden@rcdow.org.uk) for information.

**Call for Welcomers, Ministers of the Eucharist and Ministers of the Word** If you would like more information please contact the Parish Office on [stalbins@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbins@rcdow.org.uk).

## OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

**Food Bank** 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.

**Tinsel and Turkey Lunch** Parish Friends would like to thank all those who helped to make the lunch last Sunday such a wonderful success. A huge thank you to Joanna Roche our cook, and also to those who worked tirelessly in the kitchen alongside her, preparing the food, serving and washing up. We really appreciated all the vegetables and delicious deserts that parishioners brought along. The five Confirmation candidates who came to help did a magnificent job helping to serve food and drinks as well as chatting to our guests. We were grateful for the brilliant band "Saints Aloud" providing us with such enjoyable entertainment. They even had us doing the twist and performing a conga around the tables!! About 55 guests enjoyed a tasty lunch but in total Joanna fed around 80 of us. A great day all round.

**Heart to Heart Newsletter** The latest newsletter from the MSC Lay Associates of St Albans is now available in the porch and [online](#). This includes news of some of the former MSC priests from St Alban & St Stephen. They continue their mission to make God's love known wherever and whenever it is needed most. If you want to learn more about the Spirituality of the Heart and the Chevalier family check out our online resources on [www.hearttoheartstalbins.org](http://www.hearttoheartstalbins.org).

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Live Simply Update** At our meeting on 19 November it was agreed that letters would be sent to Bishop Hudson of Westminster Diocese re the Diocese's slow pace of disinvestment from fossil fuels and to Bishop John Arnold, who is the lead bishop on environmental matters for the Bishops' Conference, to note that the bishops have recently encouraged parishes to adopt Live Simply, and to thank him for his leadership. Both letters have been sent. We have received a very nice response from Bishop Arnold. If you wish to be included in the circulation list, please contact [Marytharber@gmail.com](mailto:Marytharber@gmail.com) using the heading 'Live Simply'.

**Hands Together Tiplyang Project** Do you have good computer & social media skills? Occasional voluntary help would be much appreciated by the three parishioner trustees of the charity Hands Together Tiplyang Project ([www.handstogether.org.uk](http://www.handstogether.org.uk)) Knowledge of Wordpress essential. Please [email](#) Michael Crawshaw on 07768 177634.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**JPIC Meeting 19 January** The parish Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation gathering this month is on Thursday, 19 January at 7.30 pm in the Sacred Heart Centre. All welcome.

**Men's Breakfast Saturday 28 January** We are continuing the Men's Breakfasts this winter on Saturday 28 January by looking at some of the most influential Catholic saints in the 20th century. The first one that we are considering is Father Maximilian Kolbe who volunteered to die the place of another prisoner in Auschwitz in WW2. We will meet in the Parish Centre from 8.15 for coffee, croissants and conversation, followed by a video on St Maximilian and discussion on the themes emerging. Please email [d4dstalbins@gmail.com](mailto:d4dstalbins@gmail.com) for more details.

**Lourdes 2023** The next Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will run from 21 - 28 July 2023. If you are interested in making the pilgrimage as part of a parish group (no commitment at this stage), please contact the parish office.

## 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 Friday 3 February 7.30-9.00pm. No appointment is necessary and children need not attend.

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**JUMBLE SALE - Saturday, 21 January 2023 - 10am - 12pm** St Bart's Parish Centre, Vesta Avenue, St Albans - proceeds to St Bart's HCPT Group 2023 Pilgrimage to Lourdes - donations welcome [no electrical or large items, thank you] - please leave in the parish centre entrance hall on Friday, 20 January 2023. Queries to Barbara Bliss 01717 873672.

**Charity Concert at Westminster Cathedral** Catenians, their families and friends are very significant supporters of Friends of the Holy Land and our mission to preserve a Christian Community in the Land where Our Lord was born, ministered, died and was resurrected. With an increasing need among families in the Holy Land, FHL are holding our largest fundraising event to date, a Charity Concert featuring the London Welsh Male Voice Choir and the 'Three Priests,' at Westminster Cathedral on Thursday 16th February at 7.30pm - 10.00pm. Tickets, from just £20, can be bought through Eventbrite, *search LWMVC Concert at Westminster Cathedral*, go to <http://bit.ly/3i0ath2> or call the FHL office 01926 512980.

**Week of prayer for Christian Unity is 18 - 25 January** There will be a special Service of Prayer for Christian Unity at 4pm on Sunday 22 January at the United Reformed Church Homewood Road. We are delighted to have as our preacher The Very Reverend Jo Kelly-Moore, Dean of St Albans. Please come, pray and support this event, so close to Jesus's heart as he prayed, "May they be one" John 17:20. <https://ctstalbans.org.uk/>

**Synod 2021 - 2024** The Synod Working Document Summary prepared by the Agency for Evangelization is now available to [download](#). A summary of the Working Document for the Continental Stage (DCS), which came from the Synod Office in the Vatican, can also be [downloaded](#). This summary is a third of the length of the original! The Diocesan Discernment Group will now hold a series of meetings in which they will discern the 2-3 page response that Bishops are asked to make to the Working Document for the Continental Stage. This group -made up of lay men and women, religious, a deacon, two priests and a bishop - discerned the [Diocesan Synthesis](#) that was presented in the

Cathedral last February and forwarded by our Bishops as the Diocese's contribution to the National Synthesis. The Working Document for the Continental Stage is a Global Synthesis gleaned from 112 such National Syntheses.

**Synod of Bishops extended** Pope Francis has announced that the Synod on Synodality will be extended to 2024. The two sessions of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will take place from 4 to 29 October 2023, and in October 2024, bringing together bishops from across the world to discuss and prepare a document to counsel the Pope. Pope Francis explained that he made the decision "in order to have a more relaxed period of discernment."

## 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.

**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 June 2023 and that intentions may have to be moved with little notice to accommodate funerals. The suggested diocesan donation is currently £10 per mass.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Planned Giving Envelopes** We are now looking to order offertory promise envelopes for the tax year 2023/24, beginning in April 2023. To ensure that we only order envelopes for those parishioners who still wish to use them, please could you contact the parish office by emailing [stalbans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk) or by phoning 01727 853585 (9am to 1pm, weekdays) to confirm that you still wish to use weekly planned giving envelopes.

**MASS INTENTIONS  
& READINGS**

**Saturday 14 January - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

6pm Mass Terry Rivers (RIP)

**Sunday 15 January - SECOND SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME**

8am Mass People of the Parish

9am Mass Ken & Mary Neal (Ann) (*John Fisher School, M'wick*)

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

**Monday 16 January - Feria**

10am Mass Ray Ingman (Ann)

7pm Mass Alfreda (Dorrie) Humphries (RIP)

Reading 1, Hebrews 5:1-10

Psalm 109(110), Gospel, Mark 2:18-20

**Tuesday 17 January - St Anthony**

10am Funeral Mass for Lucia Case

Reading 1 Hebrews 6:10-20

Psalm 110(111), Gospel, Mark 2:23-28

**Wednesday 18 January - Feria**

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Therese Bardouillet

7pm Mass Maureen Crowley (RIP)

Reading 1, Hebrews 7:1-3,15-17

Psalm 109(110), Gospel, Mark 3:1-6

**Thursday 19 January - Feria**

10am Mass Vito La Monica (Ann)

Reading 1, Hebrews 7:25-8:6

Psalm 39(40), Gospel, Mark 3:7-12

**Friday 20 January - Feria**

7pm Mass Angela McCann (RIP)

Reading 1, Hebrews 8:6-13

Psalm 84(85), Gospel, Mark 3:13-19

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

**Saturday 21 January - St Agnes**

10am Mass Pat Bambury (RIP)

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Hebrews 4:12-16,

Psalm 46(47), Gospel, Mark 3:20-21

**Saturday 21 January - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

6pm Mass Paddy Hough (RIP)

**Sunday 22 January - THIRD SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME**

8am Mass People of the Parish

9am Mass Tom Timmins (RIP) (*St John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Zbigniew Frosztega (Ann)

11.30am Mass Holy Souls

6pm Mass Peggy Rankin (Ann)

Reading 1, Isaiah 8:23-9:3, Psalm 26(27)

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17, Gospel, Matthew 4:12-23

**PLEASE PRAY**

Together with Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for all the members of the City Churches of St Albans.

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 Therese Bardouillet, Lavina Brown, Lucia Case, June Corry, Chris (Cronin) Murphy and Patrick (Packie) Sweeney.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Cynthia Chrimes, Zbigniew Frosztega, Margaret Fitzsimons, Ray Ingman, Vito La Monica, Mgr. Mark Langham, Angela Maher, Roy McGoohan, Ken and Mary Neal, Peggy Rankin and Harry Vasey.

*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 - 9.30am Mass (Sun)**

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 10 December at 2pm, with refreshments afterwards. All are warmly invited. Please email [cantonmassea@gmail.com](mailto:cantonmassea@gmail.com) for details or see the flyer at the back of the church.