



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 29 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](mailto:stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07976 277059

**Not to be missed!** A number of additional opportunities for deepening our faith are planned for our parish in the early part of 2023. You may like to make a note of these in your diary. More information will follow in due course and all are welcome:

- Sharing the Light: Church, 7pm Thursday, 2 March
- Parish Day of Reflection: Niland Centre, Bushey, Saturday, 4 March (See below for more details)
- Lent Talks: Parish Hall 7.45pm with refreshments from 7.30pm:
  - Pope St John Paul II's Apostolic Letter 'Salvifici Doloris': Thursday 16 March
  - The Cross: Thursday 23 March
- Ignatian Prayer Course: Parish Hall 7.30pm: Thursdays, 20 and 27 April; 11, 18 and 25 May

**Retiring Collection** This Sunday there will be a retiring collection after each mass in support of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

**Building an inclusive society** Pope Francis urges people to 'seize the occasion of World Leprosy Day (the last Sunday in January) to review our models of development and to seek to correct the discrimination they cause'. He adds, 'This is a propitious occasion to renew our commitment to building an inclusive society that leaves no one on the margins'. Returning to the specific question of Hansen's disease (leprosy), the Pope says we must ask ourselves 'how best to work with people with leprosy, treating them fully as persons and recognizing them as the main players in their struggle to participate in basic human rights and live as full members of the community'.

**You Can Be Santa 2022** The YCBS team recently met to review the 2022 scheme. It was another hugely successful initiative; over 200 children enjoyed the gift of a Christmas voucher this year. The children are all known to us through our Parish schools, the SVP, the Life House and individual parishioners. We also supported children from the St Albans Refuge, Home Start and the Intensive Family Support Team. In addition, 16 adults with either special needs or living in a refuge, along with residents of the Catholic Workers' Farm also received a Christmas voucher. In total, over £5,000 worth of vouchers were donated throughout our community. Please follow [this link](#) to read some feedback from the families we have helped. Thank you everyone for your tremendous generosity and support in making the YCBS scheme such a success. We will look forward to launching the 2023 YCBS scheme later in the year. The Santa Team.

**Warm clothing needed** There is a new urgent need for winter clothing for boys. Please see the list at the back of church and by using [this link](#). Please donate warm clothing that is clean and suitable, as for your own family, and tick the list on the table when you have left something in the box. Thank you for your help.

**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.

**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.

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Prayer** We pray for religious tolerance, and especially for the millions of Christians suffering persecution in the world for their faith. Help us to become more loving and inclusive in a world where so many threaten and destroy.

## LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

**Sacrament of Baptism** The next baptism preparation courses will be held on Saturday 25 February 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.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Call for Welcomers, 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

**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.

## PARISH GROUPS AND EVENTS

**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.

**Knit and Natter Group** The knit and natter group will be meeting from 2.15- 4pm on 31 January and 14 and 28 February. Everyone welcome. For more details please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340. The knit and natter group are currently making bright orange baby hats for new born babies who require special attention, vests for babies in Africa and also blankets of varying sizes. Four of our blankets are going to babies of refugees in St Albans.

**C.W.L. meeting on Thursday 2 February 2pm** For discussion and coffee. Ladies interested in joining a friendly group are all welcome. Annual Subscriptions are now due.

**Traidcraft Goods** will be available after all Masses at the church over the weekend of 4/5 February, and at John Fisher Mass centre on 12 February. Sadly, Traidcraft plc has gone into administration and consequently obtaining stock may be a problem. We still have a good range of items on sale and hope to source some popular items elsewhere for the time being. Fairtrade is a wonderful way of helping poorer farmers and producers earn a decent income. Please try and buy fair traded items whenever you can, in supermarket for instance.

**Parish Friends meeting** We will be meeting on Thursday 9 February at 7.45 in Room 1 of the Parish Centre. New members would be very welcome. Please come along and find out what we do and maybe suggest some new activities for our more senior parishioners to enjoy. For further information contact Helen at [helen.bassill@ntlworld.com](mailto:helen.bassill@ntlworld.com) or phone 07860 830340.

**Bingo 10 February by the Knights of St. Columba** At 8.00pm in the Parish Hall in aid of "The Friends of the Holy Land". Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

**Soup and film lunch in support of CAFOD Lenten fast day Saturday 18 February** Lunch at noon, Hidden Figures [PG] at 1pm in the Church hall - the story of African-American female mathematicians in the 1960s space programme. All welcome. Free and donations to CAFOD taken on the day. Please come and support our annual Lenten appeal. Please park in Loreto car park as there is a wedding at the Church. Organised by the parish Justice & Peace group.

**Parish Day of Reflection - Saturday 4 March, Niland Centre in Bushey** This is open to everyone 18+ and will be an opportunity to stop and reflect on Lent and our journey to Holy Week and Easter. With Covid there have been relatively few opportunities like this, but spaces are limited. So, if you want to do something positive about Lent, if you want to 'live' Lent rather than its happening to you, why not block out the day and sign up for our Day of Reflection? We will be asking people to make their own way to the Niland Centre (there is ample parking) and to bring a packed lunch. We will be asking people for donations rather than making a specific charge.

## 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 at the presbytery on Friday 3 February 7.30-9.00pm. Children need not attend and no appointment needed.

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**Bikes & equipment** Do you have adult men's bikes in good condition and helmets, bike locks or lights that can be given to local asylum seekers? Thanks. Teresa Clarke 01727 855026

**CAFOD Volunteers needed - Meeting Wednesday 1 February** CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking people join us as volunteers here in the Westminster diocese. Could you help us raise awareness about our work across the developing world tackling poverty and injustice. Find out by joining our meeting this Wednesday 1 February from 2.30-4.30pm in Oakwood, North London, N14 4HE. Please contact Tony for further details. [westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:westminster@cafod.org.uk) or 0208 449 6970.

**Mentoring skills needed** Emmaus is looking for people who can offer mentoring & skills to their companions rebuilding their lives after being homeless. It will not be onerous but will be deeply rewarding. To find out more, go to [emmaus.org.uk/hertfordshire/support-us/volunteer](http://emmaus.org.uk/hertfordshire/support-us/volunteer)

**St Albans Choral Society - Hymns and Anthems, Marlborough Methodist Church, Sunday 5 February at 5pm** An hour long programme of much loved choral anthems by Byrd, Tallis, Purcell, Stainer, Stanford, Howells and Vaughan Williams interspersed with favourite hymns for audience, choir and organ. Tickets £13 in advance, £14 on the door, £1 children and students. Buy on line at [www.choralsociety.com](http://www.choralsociety.com).

**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 16 February at 7.30-10.00pm. Tickets, from £20, can be bought through Eventbrite (*LW MVC Concert at Westminster Cathedral*) <http://bit.ly/3i0ath2> or FHL office 01926 512980.

**Friends in Tune** There will be a concert at Dagnall Street Baptist Church on Saturday 18 February at 7.30 pm with a retiring collection for Christian Aid.

**'Faces of the Cross' - A Retreat & Quiet Day** 10.00am - 4.00pm Saturday 18 February at St. Stephen's Church, St. Albans. To Book: Tel 01727 854211 (Cost £5)

**Veritas Catholic Lecture series, Roman Catholic Parish of Hemel West (St Mary & St Joseph Church HP1 1NR)** We will be hosting the Catholic Theology lecture series starting in February. We are inviting expert theologians as lecturers to look at Catholicism holistically. Let's know God so we can truly love Him! The lecture is free to attend but we would appreciate a pot of food to share and a donation for the lecturers. Any help on the day will be received gratefully. All lectures are held at the parish hall at St Mary & St Joseph, on Saturdays starting from 10:00. We will share lunch then end the lectures by 15:00. The program is organised so that each lecture interlinks; therefore it is recommended you attend as many lectures as possible. Registration will be

available shortly. For more details, please visit the Hemel West Parish [website](#).

The first four lectures are:

- 18 February Early Church History, lecturer Fr Peter Dwyer
- 22 April Later Church History, lecturer Fr Peter Dwyer
- 29 April New Testament, Fr John Deehan (Kentish Town Parish)
- 20 May Old Testament, lecturer, Fr John Hemer (Mill Hill Missionary)

**Thank you from St Barts HCPT Group** We would like to thank all those generous parishioners who donated /supported/helped at last weekend's jumble sale - a magnificent £577.50 was raised towards its 2023 pilgrimage, taking children with special needs to Lourdes next Easter.

**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.

**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 July 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.

**MASS INTENTIONS  
& READINGS**

**Saturday 28 January - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

6pm Mass Frank Clegg (RIP)

**Sunday 29 January - FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

8am Mass Susanna Mole (RIP)

9am Mass Stan Phillips (Ann) (*St John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Thomas McGovern (Ann) & Gretta McGovern (RIP)

11.30am Mass Rita Anderson (RIP)

6pm Mass People of the Parish

Reading 1, Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13, Psalm 145(146)

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12

**Monday 30 January - Feria**

10am Mass Roy McGoohan (Ann)

7pm Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

Reading 1, Hebrews 11:32-40

Psalm 30(31), Gospel, Mark 5:1-20

**Tuesday 31 January - St John Bosco**

10am Mass Maureen Huckle (Ints)

Reading 1, Hebrews 12:1-4

Psalm 21(22), Gospel, Mark 5:21-43

**Wednesday 1 February - feria**

10am Mass John Feeney (RIP)

7pm Mass Elaine Gatta nee Bagge (RIP)

Reading 1, Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15

Psalm 102(103), Gospel, Mark 6:1-6

**Thursday 2 February - THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

10am Mass Tom Browne (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 23(24), Gospel, Luke 2:22-40

**Friday 3 February - Ss Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore**

10am Mass Larry Hughes (RIP)

7pm Mass Teresa Maloney (RIP)

Reading 1, Hebrews 13:1-8

Psalm 26(27), Gospel, Mark 6:14-29

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

**Saturday 4 February - Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday**

10am Mass Mary Madden (RIP)

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Hebrews 13:15-17,20-21,

Psalm 22(23), Gospel, Mark 6:30-34

**Saturday 4 February - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

6pm Mass Tony Hayward (RIP)

**Sunday 5 February - FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

8am Mass John Feeney (RIP)

9am Mass Sheila Aylward (Ann) (*John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am Mass Evelio Azcona (Ann)

6pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Isaiah 58:7-10, Psalm 111(112)

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Gospel, Matthew 5:13-16

**PLEASE PRAY**

Together with Churches Together in St Albans this week we remember in prayer Holocaust Memorial Day.

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 Gioconda Brando, Maria Breg, Gretta McGovern, Chris (Cronan) Murphy, Sarah Louise Smith, Anthony Spelman, Czeslawa Tuczynska and Stephen Walsh.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Sheila Aylward, Evelio Azcona, Fr Pat Courtney MSC, Harold Elliot, Roy McGoohan, Jessie Harris, Thomas McGovern, Lily Nicholson and Stan Phillips.

*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.