



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Tel: 01727 853 585

E-mail: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org

YouTube: youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 12 February 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

Fr Michael writes ... As announced at some masses last weekend, we hope to celebrate the 9.30am mass a little differently one Sunday each month. On these Sundays there will be no Children's Liturgy in the Main Hall. Instead the mass in church will be adapted to take account of the children's presence, fostering their full, conscious and active participation more directly. After each of these monthly masses there will be a social in the Sacred Heart Centre. This will include refreshments (last weekend's after mass hot-chocolate was particularly well received!) and sausage baps - meat and vegan options. Needless to say, the sausages will need cooking and the drinks will need serving. So, we are looking for volunteers to lend a hand; in particular, any frustrated barbecuers. Volunteers are welcome from across any of our masses. You don't have to 9.30am regular. In fact, if you are willing to help and happy to attend another mass, giving parents and children the chance to be together, all the better. If we have enough volunteers in place we will begin this new venture after Easter with the 9.30am mass on Sunday 30 April. If you want to volunteer please [email](#) your name and contact details to the parish office.

CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

Lourdes - There will be a meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 16 February in the parish hall for those who are interested in joining the parish group which will form part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes on 21 - 28 July.

Pope Francis: May hope and peace dwell in South Sudan In his final greetings at the conclusion of Mass on Sunday, Pope Francis thanked the people of South Sudan not only for their affection for him, "but also for your faith and patience, for the good you do and the hardships that you willingly offer to God without growing discouraged but continuing to move forward." Noting the close union between Christian communities in the country, the Pope recalled the Archbishop of Canterbury's reference to Saint Josephine Bakhita, "a great woman who by God's grace transformed into hope all the sufferings that she endured." Hope, said the Pope, "is the word I would leave with each of you, as a gift to share, a seed to bear fruit." The Holy Father then emphasized another word "that has echoed in these days [...] and in days yet to come: Peace." The Pope went on to say that he, along with Archbishop Justin Welby and Dr Iain Greenshields who had made the ecumenical journey with him, would continue to accompany the people of South Sudan, and do all they can to assist in the journey toward lasting peace. Pope Francis concluded his message with a word of encouragement: Never lose hope! And lose no opportunity to build peace."

Parish Day of Reflection - postponed A small number of people have expressed an interest in the Parish Retreat Day planned for 4 March at the Niland Centre, but not enough to make a retreat day viable. Mindful that late cancellations may incur a significant cost, I have decided to postpone the retreat day to later in the year. In doing so I am also conscious that, on the same day, we are due to celebrate First Confessions for this year's First Communion children and that a good many of the confirmation candidates are attending 'FLAME', a national gathering of young people.

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.

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 www.emmaus.org.uk/hertfordshire/support-us/volunteer.

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 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.

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.

Children's Liturgy - 9.30am Mass on Sundays Little lights will be on a half term break on 12 and 19 February.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Mary's Meals Retiring Collection - 25 / 26 February Please bring cash and support Mary's Meals, a truly cost effective way to help feed and educate children in some of the world's poorest countries. Costs have risen 20% this year, but it still costs just £19.15 to feed a child every school day FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR. Thank you.

CAFOD Lent family fast day Friday 3 March Everyone is invited to fast and pray in solidarity with the poor of the world. By eating a simple meal and donating any money saved to CAFOD you can help farmers cope with the effects of climate change. There will be a collection over the weekend of 4/5 March after all Masses. You can also donate at cafod.org.uk/give or by using the QR code on the posters and CAFOD gift-aid collection envelopes in the church. Please consider using the gift-aid envelopes if you are a UK taxpayer - CAFOD will receive 25% more for your donation.

Cafod Big Lent Walk Maureen & Stan Grabecki will walk 200km during Lent this year to raise awareness of poverty and the climate crisis. Any money raised will go to CAFOD who are offering people in the developing world the skills and tools they have asked for to fight the climate crisis. If you would like to donate, please give [here](#). If you are unable to donate online, please drop an envelope marked "Cafod Big Lent Walk" with your donation into the presbytery.

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.

Boys' clothing collection Thank you very much for your donations for the boys that needed warm clothing. Your generosity and care is greatly appreciated.

PARISH GROUPS AND EVENTS

Not to be missed! A number of additional opportunities for deepening our faith are planned for our parish in the early part of 2023 so 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
- Lent Talks: Parish Hall 7.45pm with refreshments from 7.30pm:
 - o Pope St John Paul II's Apostolic Letter 'Salvifici Doloris - On the Christian Understanding of Human Suffering': Thursday 16 March
 - o The Cross: Thursday 23 March
- Ignatian Prayer Course: Parish Hall 7.30pm: Thursdays, 20 and 27 April; 11, 18 and 25 May.

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 are 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.

Mothers' Prayers We will meet on Monday 13 February at 8pm in room 2. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information: office@mothersprayers.org

Knit and Natter Group The knit and natter group will be meeting from 2.15- 4pm on 14 and 28 February. Everyone welcome. For more details, please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340. We 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.

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.

Traidcraft Goods will be available 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.

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

Men's Breakfast Saturday 25 February We are continuing the Men's Breakfasts this winter on Saturday 25 February by looking at some of the most influential Catholic saints in the 20th century. This month we will be considering Saint Padre Pio, the Italian priest and mystic. We will meet in the Parish Centre from 8.15 for coffee, croissants and conversation, followed by a video on St Padre Pio and discussion on the themes emerging. If you would like more details please email d4dstalbans@gmail.com.

CELEBRATE : Parenting for Faith - A new online course starting for those with Babies and Toddlers Thursday 23 Feb for 5 weeks at 8pm for approximately 45 minutes. It's on zoom so no need for babysitters! It's never too early to teach our children about prayer. This bitesize course will inspire and equip parents, grandparents and carers of those with babies and toddlers through a short video, testimonies and small group chats. If you are expecting a baby, just had one, or are at the toddler group stage then sign up and bring some friends. If you are a Catechist who runs the parish baptism programme, the children's liturgy, or if you run a toddler group at church let everyone know as this will help families to grow in faith. To register follow [this link](#). There is a £5 fee to cover admin costs and then the opportunity to make a further optional donation during the course.

Calling on young bakers Please come along to bake and sell cakes after the 9:30am Mass on 26 February to raise money for Mary's Meals. Cupcakes, brownies, rice crispie cakes, whatever you fancy. Family fun for a great cause. Please contact David Markham on 07543 400650, or just bring your cakes on the day. Thank you

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

Wanted: Folding Table Tennis Table on Wheels for the use of local people seeking asylum. If you can help, please email fjrose@ntlworld.com Thank you.

Taizé Service Do you enjoy Taizé-style worship? You are very welcome to join us at St Mary's Church Marshalswick (Sherwood Avenue, opposite the Quadrant: ample parking) for our monthly short Taizé services, lasting about 30 minutes. Our next one is on Wednesday, February 15 at 7.30pm. We'd love to see you!

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.

Dagnall Street Baptist Church Lent 2023 Lent Course Starting on Shrove Tuesday running on Tuesdays at either 2.30pm or 7.30pm. Any of your congregation who would like to join us would be very welcome. See poster in porch.

'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)

Pilgrimage to Walsingham Come and celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation on Saturday 25 March on a Pilgrimage to Walsingham by coach from St Bart's, St Albans. Holy Mass in Walsingham at 12noon will be celebrated by the new Bishop of East Anglia, Peter Collins, followed by a visit to the Slipper Chapel and a walk along the Holy Mile to the Priory, the original site of the holy house requested by Our Lady in 1061. The cost is to be confirmed. To book or for further info please contact Margaret Leahy: margleahy@gmail.com/01727 763832 or Rosemary Roscoe: Rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com/07723 546642.

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/August 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 11 February - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass John and Emilia Collins (Ints)

Sunday 12 February- SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Ainsley Lambert (Ann) (*John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Diego Denaro (RIP)

11.30am Mass Kathleen Quinn (Ann)

6pm Mass James Smith (Ann)

Reading 1, Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21, Psalm 118(119)

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 2:6-10, Gospel, Matthew 5:17-37

Monday 13 February - feria

10am Mass Celia Dunne (Ann)

7pm Mass Lourdes Pons (Ann)

Reading 1, Genesis 4:1-15,25

Psalm 49(50), Gospel, Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday 14 February - SS CYRIL AND METHODIUS

10am Mass Lourdes Pons (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 13:46-49

Psalm 116(117), Gospel, Luke 10-1-9

Wednesday 15 February - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Maria Breg

7pm Mass Lidia Zobeli-Vassalli (Ints)

Reading 1, Genesis 8:6-13,20-22

Psalm 115(116), Gospel, Mark 8:22-26

Thursday 16 February - feria

10am Mass Mary Madden (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 9:1-13

Psalm 101(102), Gospel, Mark 8:27-33

Friday 17 February - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Anthony Spelman

7pm Mass Rita Anderson (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 11:1-9

Psalm 32(33), Gospel, Mark 8:34-9:1

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

Saturday 18 February- Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday

10am Mass Lucy Steele (RIP)

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Reading 1, Hebrews 11:1-7

Psalm 144(145), Gospel, Mark 9:2-13

Saturday 18 February - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

Sunday 19 February- SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Arthur & Catherine Ball (Ann) (*John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Conway and Mary Lee Berners-Lee (Ann)

11.30am Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

6pm Mass Harry Wooldridge (RIP)

Reading 1, Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18, Psalm 102(103)

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 3:16-23, Gospel, Matthew 5:38-48

PLEASE PRAY

Together with Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for the intentions of Racial Justice Sunday.

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 Maria Breg, Mary Corbett, Norman Gunn, Rob Golding, Chris (Cronan) Murphy, Sean Murphy, Anthony Spelman, Eileen Walsh (mother of Eileen Flavin) and Stephen Walsh.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Arthur & Catherine Ball, Mary Baxter, Conway & Mary Lee Berners-Lee, Celia Dunne, Harold Elliot, Antonio Gramegna, Jessie Harris, Ainsley Lambert, Bob Markham, Lourdes Pons, Kathleen Quinn and James Smith.

Forthcoming Funerals

Maria Bregg - 10am Wednesday 15 February

Anthony Spelman - 11am Friday 17 February

Stephen Walsh - 9.30am Monday 20 February
(Hatfield Road Cemetery Chapel)

Cronan 'Chris' Murphy - 10am Friday 24 February

Mary Corbett - 10am Friday 3 March. Remains being received into church at 4.30pm on Thursday 2 March

Norman Gunn - 10am Wednesday 22 March

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

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.

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 25 February at 2pm, with refreshments afterwards. All are warmly invited. Please email cantonmassea@gmail.com for details or see the flyer at the back of the church.