



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 19 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

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Fr Andrew writes ... I have always thought that hibernation during winter is an under-explored evolutionary option for us human beings. As the tiniest hints of approaching spring begin to be detected, we all find ourselves slowly coming back to life, as if emerging from the sleep of winter. We all look forward to the Spring, but funnily enough you don't often hear people say that they are looking forward to Lent. And that is a shame because, although some people might think about Lent as a kind of spiritual crash-diet or boot-camp, Lent has much more in common with the Spring. In fact, the word Lent comes from the Old English word Lencten which is the word for Spring and refers to the lengthening of the days.

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday when we will mark the beginning of Lent by reminding ourselves of our mortality, 'Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return'. At first, that might not sound very Spring-like, but we remind ourselves of our mortality precisely in order to rouse us from our spiritual slumber. Lent is an annual second chance, a time to come back to life, a season of grace and hope. The disciplines of Lent are designed to help us to ask ourselves this question: 'Am I sleep walking through this life as if it will go on forever, or am I living now in the light of the eternal life which Christ, by his death and resurrection, has won for me?' Lent is the time to begin to come to life in Christ. I hope you all have a holy and even a happy Lent!

Live Simply : 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be too' (Matthew 6:21). The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has called on us to reflect on how our habits of life may have become excessive and wasteful, and how they affect the wellbeing of others. As part of that reflection parishioners will be asked to consider committing to CAFOD's Live Simply scheme at Masses on 11/12 March. More details [here](#) and on Cafod [website](#).

SPUC Retiring Collection The recent retiring collection to support the work of SPUC raised £775.34. Thank you for your generosity.

Mary's Meals Retiring Collection 25 / 26 February Please bring cash, including all foreign and obsolete currency, to 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.

Bishops around the world condemn unjust persecution of the Church in Nicaragua Pope Francis on Sunday issued an appeal to political leaders in Nicaragua to open their hearts to the sincere search for peace and engage in dialogue. His appeal follows news of the sentencing to imprisonment for 26 years of the Bishop of Matagalpa, Rolando Alvarez, and the expulsion of 222 people who were detained for political reasons. These include several priests and seminarians accused of conspiring against the government. The Holy Father said he is praying for him, for those who have been deported to the United States, and for all those who suffer in the beloved nation of Nicaragua. He invited the faithful to join him in prayers to the Lord asking for the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

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.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Prayer Compassionate and loving God, you created the world for us all to share, a world of beauty and plenty. Create in us a desire to live simply, so that our lives may reflect your generosity.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Stations of the Cross Every Saturday in Lent at 9.30am we will walk the Way of the Cross in Church before 10am Mass. Each week will have a different emphasis. On 25 February, the theme will be Stations of the Cross for compassion. You can join the Stations via the parish Youtube channel. A link as well as the text for each week will be made available on the parish website.

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.

Family Mass 9.30am 30 April - volunteers needed to serve refreshments after mass. Please contact the parish office if you are able to help.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13 May at 2:30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address, email and telephone number.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

King Charles' Coronation We hope to put on a simple event to mark the Coronation after 11.30am Mass on Sunday 7 May. If you would like to help with the planning, please email Maureen/St Stan grabecki@hotmail.com by 28 February

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. If you would like to donate, please give [here](#). Alternatively, 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.

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 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.

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:

- **Lent Talks** Parish Hall 7.45pm refreshments 7.30pm
 - **Thursday 16 March** Pope St John Paul II's Apostolic Letter 'Salvifici Doloris - On the Christian Understanding of Human Suffering'
 - **Thursday 23 March** The Cross
- **Ignatian Prayer Course** Parish Hall 7.30pm: Thursdays, 20 and 27 April; 11, 18 and 25 May.

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 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.

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 park in Loreto car park as there is a wedding at the Church. Organised by the parish Justice & Peace group

A Concert for Ukraine 23 February 7pm at St Alban and St Stephen church. Free entrance with a retiring collection for Ukrainian Aid. All are welcome to come along and support.

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 8-8.45pm Thursday 23 Feb for 5 weeks on Zoom. 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. 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 to bake at home, 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

Traidcraft It will be Fairtrade fortnight between 27 February and 12 March. Please join us in sharing one simple message: making the small switch to Fairtrade supports producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet. Our parish Fairtrade stall has supported farmers and producers for 30 years. In that time we have also raised over £23,000 for CAFOD. Our next stall will be held after all Masses at church over the weekend of 4/5 March.

BINGO Many, many thanks for the support for last Friday's Bingo. £300-00 was raised for The Friends of the Holy Land. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 10 March, and everyone is welcome to come.

Parish Friends Irish night after 6pm mass on Saturday 11 March - from 7.30pm onwards. Peter and Damian Fahy and friends will be providing the entertainment. All are welcome. Please bring your own drink and nibbles. Tea, coffee, soft drinks and light refreshments will be available. We are hoping that Loreto car park will be open to provide extra parking space. Please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340 for further information.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Veritas Catholic Lecture series 10am - 3pm To attend please [register](#) here. For details, see [Hemel West Website](#).
18 February Early Church History, Fr Peter Dwyer
22 April Later Church History, Fr Peter Dwyer
29 April New Testament, Fr John Deehan (Kentish Town)
20 May Old Testament, Fr John Hemer (Mill Hill)

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.

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.

SVP Membership Support Officer (MSO) The St Vincent de Paul Society would like to recruit an MSO for the Westminster diocese, with a particular focus on the northern half of the diocese. This is a part time role (15 hours pw) working as part of the SVP Membership Team to support member recruitment and development, provide general support for members and be the link between conferences and National Office. The role is home based but requires the ability to travel around the diocese to make appeals, work with conferences, attend meetings and meet with people where appropriate. Travel expenses are paid. For further information and details how to apply contact Lance Philpott, Head of Membership, at lancep@svp.org.uk Closing date for applications is Tuesday 28 February.

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 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

Monday 20 February - feria

10am Mass Marcella McGee (RIP)

7pm Mass Frank Keogh (RIP)

Reading 1, Ecclesiasticus 1:1-10

Psalm 92(93), Gospel, Mark 9:14-29

Tuesday 21 February - feria

10am Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Ecclesiasticus 2:1-11

Psalm 36(37), Gospel, Mark 9:30-37

Wednesday 22 February - ASH WEDNESDAY

10am Mass People of the parish

7pm Mass Thomas Kiely (Ann)

Reading 1, Joel 2:12-18, Psalm 50(51)

Reading 2, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Gospel, Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Thursday 23 February - Lent feria

10am Mass Sadie Godfrey (RIP)

Reading 1, Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 1, Gospel, Luke 9:22-25

Friday 24 February - Lent feria

10am Funeral Mass for Chris (Cronin) Murphy

7pm Mass Maurice Pegg (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 58:1-9

Psalm 50(51), Gospel, Matthew 9:14-15

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

Saturday 25 February- Lent feria

9.30am Stations of the Cross

10am Mass Frank Donohue (Ann)

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Isaiah 58:9-14

Psalm 85(86), Gospel, Luke 5:27-32

Saturday 25 February - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Annie Goodman (First Ann)

Sunday 26 February- FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

8am Mass Mary and Paul Watkins (Ints)

9am Mass Kieran Kelly (RIP) (*John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Maria Luisa Robertini RIP)

11.30am Mass Rita Anderson (RIP)

6pm Mass People of the parish

Reading 1, Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7, Psalm 50(51)

Reading 2, Romans 5:12-19, Gospel, Matthew 4:1-11

PLEASE PRAY

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for the officers and members of the Salvation Army.

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 Mary Corbett, Richard Doherty, Norman Gunn, Rob Golding, Teresa Moller, Denia Munnely, Chris (Cronin) Murphy, Sean Murphy, Anthony Spelman, Eileen Walsh (mother of Eileen Flavin), Stephen Walsh and Daria Wywnyczuk.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Arthur & Catherine Ball, Mary Baxter, John Baxter, Conway & Mary Lee Berners-Lee, Frank Donoghue, Ernest Gaufroid, Hermina Gaufroid, Annie Goodman, Elizabeth Harding, Thomas Kiely, Bob Markham, William Miller and William Rigg.

Forthcoming Funerals

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

Daria Wywnyczuk - 10am Monday 27 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.