



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - 26 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

We are a Fairtrade parish

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2023 Funds raised this year will be shared across four areas: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The ongoing impact of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis is making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And the crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. The Cardinal has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. For those unable to give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – perhaps you could volunteer for a project aimed at those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information. A QR code is available to facilitate online donations. Thank you for your generosity.

Mary's Meals Retiring Collection 25/26 February In addition to the retiring collection Mary's Meals are also collecting all foreign and obsolete currency. Please bag up any foreign coins and obsolete currency you want to contribute. Mary's Meals is 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 on Friday 3 March We are invited to fast in solidarity with the many millions of the poor in this world. There will be a retiring collection after all Masses over the weekend of 4/5 March towards CAFOD's vital work in the developing world. Any money saved by fasting could be donated to this appeal. gift-aid envelopes will be available. You can also donate to CAFOD via their website [here](#) or by using the QR code on the posters in the porch. Please see [this](#) link for more information about CAFOD's work.

Live Simply - your views are sought Over the weekend of 11/12 March we will be seeking your views on whether the parish should seek to register for a CAFOD Live Simply award. The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have said: 'We must respond as Christians to the cry of creation and think hard about how we live our lives so that we are good stewards of our fragile planet and live in solidarity with the world's poorest communities.' Is this something we want to do as a parish? Is the CAFOD scheme a way to do it? Questionnaires will be handed out at all masses or can be accessed [here](#).

Retiring Collection for the Turkish/Syrian Earthquake A total of £1,783.34 was raised as a result of the retiring collection over the weekend of 11/12 February and subsequent donations received. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Lent 2023 faith-sharing resource, 'Enlarging the Space of our Tent', by Fr Dominic Robinson SJ and Colette Joyce from the Westminster Justice and Peace Commission. The resource consists of five sessions, each focusing on a theme covered by Justice and Peace, including poverty and homelessness, racial justice, care of creation, migrants and refugees, and peace. Each session will explore the theme in the light of a piece of Scripture from the coming Sunday (beginning with the Second Sunday of Lent and finishing with Palm Sunday), prayer, a reflection on experience from a local example here in our diocese, and questions to aid group sharing. A PDF version of "Enlarging the Space of Our Tent" can be downloaded [here](#).

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 Creator God, you gave us responsibility for the earth, a world of riches & delight. Create in us a desire to live sustainably & simply so that those who follow after us may enjoy the fruits of your creation.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Stations of the Cross Every Saturday morning during Lent at 9.30am, the Way of the Cross will be celebrated in Church before the 10am Mass. Each week will have a different emphasis. On 4 March, the Stations of the Cross are traditional reflections composed by St Alphonsus Liguori and will be led by our Adult Faith Formation Group. You can also view the Stations online and the text will be available to help you reflect upon this prayerful journey through our Lord's passion and death.

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

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

Marshalswick Mass Centre We are currently recruiting volunteers for the next year. We need Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, help with serving coffees, welcoming, flowers, offertory, microphones, music. All are welcome to join our happy team.

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

St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Nursery and Primary School Nursery Admissions The application window for nursery admissions 2023-24 closes on 25 February. Forms are available [here](#) or can be obtained by [emailing](#) the school office. Tours and visits are available on request.

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

Soup and film event The J&P group would like to thank all those who supported and helped put on this event. £290 was raised to help fight food poverty and climate change through the work CAFOD does in the developing world.

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 every 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.
- **Sharing the Light:** Church, 7pm Thursday 30 March

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.

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

Catholic Women's League Thursday 2 March at 2.15pm for A.G.M. and a talk on the Easter customs of Eastern Europe. Coffee and biscuits provided and all welcome.

Traidcraft Our monthly fair-trade stall will be available after all Masses over the weekend of 4/5 March, and after Mass at John Fisher Mass Centre on Sunday 12 March. We have a good range of fairly traded goods and some lovely Easter eggs. Please try to make time to look at the stall; all sales and profits go to help those communities around the world in most need of help in these times of rising prices and climate change difficulty.

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

Walking The Way of the Cross Churches Together in Marshalswick are organising a series of reflections for Lent. The first will be on Sunday 26 February 7pm at the Baptist Church, Sherwood Avenue. The speaker will be the Revd Jo Kelly-Moore, Dean of St Albans Cathedral & Abbey Church.

Thinking Lunch Marlborough Rd Methodist Church 12.30-1.30pm Thursday 2 March. 'Physics and Faith—Uncertainty and Meaning: Physics is weird but it isn't mad. Understanding it and what it means for all of us' by Peter Berners-Lee. Please bring your own lunch and drinks. Half hour talk and then discussion. Donations gratefully received to cover expenses and any profits to the Salvation Army.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 25 March by coach from St Bart's. 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. Cost tbc. For booking & further book info 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 are recruiting an MSO for the northern half of the Westminster 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. For further info and details how to apply contact Lance Philpott, Head of Membership, at lancep@svp.org.uk Closing date 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 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 aid (25p in every pound). If you do not pay tax and gift aid is claimed on what you give, then HMRC may seek reimbursement from us. 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 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

Monday 27 February - Lent feria

10am Mass Teresa Burke (RIP)

7pm Mass Chris (Cronan) Murphy (RIP)

Reading 1, Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18

Psalm 18(19), Gospel, Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday 28 February - Lent feria

10am Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalm 33(34), Gospel, Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday 1 March - ST DAVID

10am Mass Rita Anderson (RIP)

7pm Mass Peter Celestino Okoro (Ann)

Reading 1, Philippians 3:8-14,

Psalm 1, Gospel, Matthew 5:13-16

Thursday 2 March - Lent feria

10am Mass Terry Rivers (RIP)

Reading 1, Esther 4:17,

Psalm 137(138), Gospel, Matthew 7:7-12

Friday 3 March - Lent feria

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Mary Corbett

7pm Mass Teri Pickard (Ints)

Reading 1, Ezekiel 18:21-28

Psalm 129(130), Gospel, Matthew 5:20-26

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

Saturday 4 March - Lent feria

9.30am Stations of the Cross

10am Mass Liam Walsh (RIP)

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Deuteronomy 26:16-19

Psalm 118(119), Gospel, Matthew 5:43-48

Saturday 4 March - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Deceased members of the Sheehan & Guinnelly families

Sunday 5 March - SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Derek Alexander (RIP) (*John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Elvira Mazzone (RIP)

11.30am Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

6pm Mass Noreen Carolan (Ann)

Reading 1, Genesis 12:1-4, Psalm 32(33)

Reading 2, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Gospel, Matthew 17:1-9

PLEASE PRAY

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for the intentions of the World Day of Prayer on 3 March.

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, Maureen Huckle, Teresa Moller, Denis Munnelly, Sean Murphy, Clare Whitehead and Daria Wywnyczuk.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including John Baxter, Noreen Carolan, Frank Donoghue, Annie Goodman, Elizabeth Harding and Peter Celestino Okoro.

Forthcoming Funerals

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

Sean Murphy - 10am Tuesday 14 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 cantonmasea@gmail.com for details or see the flyer at the back of the church.