



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 12 SEPTEMBER 2021**



VirginMoneyGiving

Parish Team: Fr Michael O'Boy (Parish Priest) Fr Jonathan Stogdon  
Rev. Steve Pickard (Deacon) Rev. Brendan Day (Deacon) Mrs Angela Gray (Parish Administrator)  
Safeguarding Lead: Mary Harber / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059  
*We are a Fairtrade parish*

*Fr Michael writes ...* In today's second reading from the Book of James we are told that if good works do not accompany our faith, then our faith is dead. There is, in other words, a reciprocity or direct relationship between what we profess (our faith) and our actions (how we live that faith). Simply put you cannot be or claim to be a person of faith if that faith is not realised in concrete actions.

The Eucharist stands at the centre of our faith and at the centre of the Eucharist is our reception of Holy Communion. Faith believes that in receiving communion we receive the body of Christ. In receiving communion therefore, we unite ourselves to Christ, but more than this, in uniting ourselves to Christ we unite ourselves to the Church and to one another, for taken together we are the body of Christ, the body of Christ which has Christ for its head and which we become part of in baptism.

During mass the communion which we have, our being part of one body, is symbolised in a number of ways. It is manifested in our praying for one another, in the sign of peace which we exchange, and in our receiving Holy Communion in one unified action. Oftentimes the church in her liturgy addresses us brothers and sisters, for so indeed we are, brothers and sisters who are related in Christ.

Far from being a collection of random individuals we are a community. God has entrusted us to each other and has a part to play in this family. When we dare to receive the Lord in the communion. We not only Amen to him, 'yes Lord I believe it is you, that I am receiving', we are implicitly saying yes to one another. James reminds us that the communion we celebrate in the Eucharist, in the mass, is something that is to be lived out. If faith believes that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, if the sign of peace really is to be a sign of our communion, if the Eucharist we receive and the mass we celebrate is to live in our lives, then in our day to day lives we must live as brothers and sisters, we must take the time to get to know one another and to be a community.

In today's gospel Christ asks a simple question. Who do people say I am? As a community, as a parish, we could ask others the same question of ourselves. Who do people say we are? A body of relative strangers who know little of one another, or a communion of believers who celebrate in the Eucharist, in the mass, what they are in everyday life?

**If you would like to enhance the opportunities for us to be a community that lives out what we celebrate in the Eucharist, please consider volunteering for our new Social Committee and be in touch with Fr Michael.**

### Primary School and Nursery 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 place (nursery, primary or secondary), Fr Michael will be making himself available at the Presbytery between 4pm and 6.30pm on Wednesday 20 October, and again on Saturday 23 October between 11.30am and 1.30pm. It is not necessary to make an appointment or for the child to attend with their parent or guardian.

### Welcoming all new parishioners!

Please see the new [page](#) on our website which we hope will welcome and provide useful information for those who are new to our parish. We also have a new online **New Parishioner Registration Form** which can be found on that webpage. Please complete this short online form if you have not already registered as a new parishioner at Ss Alban and Stephen 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 since the start of the pandemic. As soon as we are able, we look forward to being able to have an event to welcome you and your families properly into our parish community.

## SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY

**Mass Times - Sunday Evenings** Please note the new earlier time of 6pm for the Sunday evening Mass.

**Mass Times - Marshalswick Mass** We hope to resume the 9am Mass at Marshalswick/St John Fisher School from Sunday 26 September. Those attending are asked to wear a face mask, to sanitise their hands and to maintain social distancing. You may also be asked for your name and contact details. Some cleaning and sanitising will be necessary and stewards are needed to help. Please email the parish office if you are happy to help. The initial intention is to begin with reintroducing the Mass and once this is in place to re-introduce tea and coffee afterwards.

**Mass Times - Friday Mornings** From January 2022 the 10am Friday morning Mass will be discontinued. There will still be two public Masses parish every Friday. The Abbey Mass at noon and the 7pm in the Church. We will continue to have a 10am Mass on the First Friday of the month and where Funeral Masses require it.

**Sacraments of Baptism** The next baptism preparation course is to held on Saturday 30 October at 11.30 am. For initial enquiries please email Fr Jonathan at [jonstogdon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jonstogdon@rcdow.org.uk) Fr Jonathan arrives in mid-September. If your enquiry is more urgent please contact the parish office.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** Confessions are currently available on Saturday mornings between 10.30am and 11.30am. You are also welcome to ring or call at the Presbytery door to arrange another time.

**First Holy Communion 2019/20** If your child received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in July, August or October 2020 or July 2021 commemorative certificates will be presented at the 9.30am masses during October. Please email the parish office to let us know which of the October 9.30am masses you and your child will attend.

**First Holy Communion 2020/21** Parents and guardians of children currently preparing for their First Holy Communion in November should have received emails confirming the dates and times of their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Mass. If you have not had either email, please contact the parish office.

There will be a meeting for all parents and guardians in the church at 8pm on Wednesday 22 September.

**First Holy Communion 2021/22** Parents and guardians of children eligible to make their First Holy Communion in 2022 (Year 3 or above) will be invited to register their child online via the parish website between 1 November and 31 December. The programme will commence in January 2022.

**Confirmation 2019/20** Certificates will be presented to those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation in May 2021 at the Sunday evening masses at 6pm in October.

If you can't make your scheduled mass, please email Fr Jonathan at [jonstogdon@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jonstogdon@rcdow.org.uk) and another date can be offered.

**Confirmation 2020/21** The entry for this year's delayed confirmation course for 2021 is now closed. The enrolment mass will be on 26 September at 6pm. If candidates were not baptised in the parish, please ensure that a copy of your baptismal certificate has been emailed to the parish office.

**Confirmation 2021/22** Parents and guardians of those due to celebrate their Confirmation next May/June (currently Year 10 and above) are invited to register online. Please go to the 'Sacraments' tab of the parish website and click on 'Confirmation' where you will find the form.

**Marriage Preparation** If you are intending to get married, please note the Diocese requires at least six months' notice and couples are expected to complete a preparation course. We hope to run the next preparation course in November 2021. If you hope to marry in 2022 please email Fr Michael on [michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk) to register for this course

**Prayers for the Sick** If you would like to include someone in the prayers for the sick, please contact the presbytery.

## PARISH NEWS

**Thanks from Eric's family** Mary and her daughter would like to thank everyone who has supported them following Eric's death and all who worked with and supported Eric in his endeavours in the parish. A mass will be offered for your intentions.

**Men's breakfasts to restart on 2 October** As we continue to return to a more normal pattern of life, we have decided to re-start the Men's breakfasts on Saturday 2 October. We will meet in the parish centre from 8.15am for coffee, croissants and banter. At about 9am we will watch the first episode in a new series on the Nicene Creed, narrated by Bishop Robert Barron, and we will aim to finish at 10am. This is a great opportunity to learn more about this prayer which is central to the Sunday mass and to the key parts of our catholic beliefs. Please contact Richard & Brendan on email ([d4dstalbans@gmail.com](mailto:d4dstalbans@gmail.com)) if you have any questions or would like more information.

**Players and Manager wanted - St Albans Romans FC** The parish football club, St Albans Romans FC, has two 11-a-side men's teams playing locally in the Herts Christian Football League on Saturday mornings, with training on Tuesday evenings. We are looking for someone to manage the 2nd team and also keen for more players to join the club. If you are interested please contact us via our website, [www.stalbansromans.com](http://www.stalbansromans.com) or ring Richard on 07976 252309.

**Knit and Natter** The Parish Friends Knit and Natter Group is resuming from 2-4pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month commencing 14 September. Everyone welcome. For queries contact Helen on 07860 830340.

**Home Mission Appeal** Each year, on the third Sunday in September (19<sup>th</sup> September this year), we celebrate Home Mission Sunday – a day when the Bishops invite parishes to pray for the mission of the Church in England and Wales and there is a second collection to support the Bishops’ work of evangelisation.

## VOLUNTEERING

**Fire Marshals** We need to recruit fire marshals. A deanery training session will be hosted at the parish centre at 7pm on 15 September. To date, our Fire Marshals have been rarely called upon, apart from for occasional fire drills. It should not be an onerous responsibility, but the more who are trained and aware, the better able we are to deliver a safe environment. If you would be willing to act as a fire marshall please email the parish office. Please also indicate whether or not you can attend the training session.

**YouTube Diarist** Each week the services to be streamed need to be published on our YouTube account. The whole process takes a maximum of forty-five minutes. If you wish to volunteer your time, please contact the parish office. We are looking for 2 or 3 volunteers.

**Streaming** All our masses are streamed. Would you be willing to help by operating the camera system? It sounds way more complicated than it actually is. All you need know is how to operate a remote control and have some fairly basic laptop skills. Initially, we would like to recruit a couple of volunteers for each Sunday mass. Please contact the parish office if you are interested.

**Lifts to Mass** Parish Friends are resuming organising lifts to masses at the weekend – either the Saturday Vigil mass or Sunday morning. If you would like to return to mass but require a lift, please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340 stating the mass you would prefer to attend. If you can offer a lift to mass, are happy to complete the necessary safeguarding checks, and would like to join a rota giving a lift once every month please contact the Parish Office. Unless we have sufficient volunteers it may be difficult to arrange for everyone to return to mass.

**Hospital Volunteers need to support the work of the Watford hospital chaplaincy.** If you would be willing to consider offering an hour or two a week to visit our patients in hospital and would like more information please email: [westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net](mailto:westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net)

## LOCAL COMMUNITY

**Thinking Lunches - Marlborough Road Methodist Church 2021/22** All welcome. First Thursday of the month 12.30pm -1.30pm. Half hour talk followed by discussion. Refreshments provided but please bring your own sandwiches. Please see the attached [flyer](#) for details of individual talks from September to May 2022.

**Churches Together in St Albans Autumn Prayer Walk - 19 September 2 - 6pm.** Please join Christians for a relaxed but prayerful walk around St Albans. For more information about the walk, please see the parish news page of our website or click this [link](#) for an event poster. You can join for whole or part of the walk.

**St Columba’s College Open Morning - Saturday 2 October 2021 9:00am-12:00pm** St Columba’s College and Preparatory School is an independent Catholic day school for pupils aged 4 - 18 in St Albans. This year, girls have joined the Lower Prep School ( Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) and the Sixth Form. From September 2022, girls will be welcomed into Form 1/Year 7. Prospective families are warmly invited to attend this event during which there will be an opportunity to take tours of the school and hear from the Headmaster, as well as other members of staff, and students. Families can register by going to the [‘Visit Us’](#) page on our website, clicking on the [‘Whole School Open Morning’](#) event and completing the online registration form.

## FURTHER AFIELD

**Annual Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers - 2021** The Archconfraternity of St Stephen invites all Servers to the annual Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 2 October 2021 at 2:30pm The principal celebrant will be the Rt. Rev. Nicholas Hudson Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster.

**Pilgrimage to Walsingham** This year the Pilgrimage to Walsingham is taking place on Saturday, 23rd October 2021. Click [here](#) for more details.

## PARISH ADMINISTRATION

**Parish Centre** - We have now re-commenced use of the Parish Centre. Please email the parish office with booking requests or queries.

**Gift Aid** We will shortly be submitting our gift aid claim for the year to 5 April 2021. If you have previously gift aided your standing order or envelope donations but are not longer able to gift aid your contributions, please contact the parish office so that we can amend our records.

**Envelope Offertory Donors** Parishioners who currently give using planned giving envelopes will have received a letter asking them to confirm that they still wish to donate in this way. If you have not had a letter, please contact the parish office. Please ensure to reply by the end of September in order to confirm that you still wish to receive offertory envelopes in the future.

**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.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Sunday 12 September – 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

6pm Vigil Mass John Paton (Ann)

8am Mass Kathleen & Michael Burke (RIP)

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am Mass Daniel Brudney (RIP)

6pm Mass John Taylor (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 50:5-9, Responsorial Psalm, 116

Reading 2, James 2:14-18, Gospel, Mark 8:27-35

### Monday 13 September – St John Chrysostom

10am Mass Mira Murawski (RIP) & Janusz Murawski (RIP)

7pm Mass Sean Beggan (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 2:1-18, Responsorial Psalm, 28

Gospel, Luke 7:1-10

### Tuesday 14 September – THE EXHALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

10am Mass Ken Liversidge (RIP)

Reading 1, Numbers 21:4-9, Responsorial Psalm, 78

Gospel, John 3:13-17

### Wednesday 15 September – Our Lady of Sorrows

10am Funeral Mass for Margaret “Maggie” Walsh

7pm Mass Private intention

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Responsorial Psalm, 111

Gospel, Luke 2:33-35

### Thursday 16 September – Ss Cornelius and Cyprian

10am Mass Dennis Kennedy (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Responsorial Psalm, 111

Gospel, Luke 7:36-50

### Friday 17 September – feria

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Margaret “Peggy” Shaw

7pm Mass Kenneth Green (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 6:2-12, Responsorial Psalm, 49

Gospel, Luke 8:1-3

### Saturday 18 September – Memoria of Blessed Virgin Mary

10am Mass Elaine Gatta (RIP)

10.30-11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, 1: Timothy 6:13-16, Responsorial Psalm, 100

Gospel, Luke 8:4-15

### Sunday 19 September – 25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORD TIME

#### Home Mission Sunday

6pm Vigil Mass Catherine Mannion (RIP)

8am Mass Margery Davies (Ints)

9.30am Mass People of the Parish

11.30am Mass Danny Onn (Ann)

6pm Mass Ngozi Ibeh (Ints)

## PLEASE PRAY

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

For those suffering with Coronavirus and 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 Thomasina Fitzpatrick, Margaret Roberts, Peggy Shaw, Maggie Walsh and Elifa Vetere.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Kenneth Green, Joanna Hoscilowicz, Danny Onn, John Paton and Fr Richard Scriven MSC (St Albans 1958-65)

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

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Please click [here](#) for this week's 'Liturgy of the Word' for Children leaflet and the latest worksheet from the Diocese of Westminster.

**Virtual Children's Liturgy from CAFOD** in addition to their downloadable weekly children's liturgy resources, CAFOD are currently also offering a virtual Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10am on Sunday as a webinar. Parents and children are encouraged to join online for prayers and reflection on Sunday's Gospel. The liturgy is led by catechists who usually lead children's liturgy in their parish and will be based on CAFOD children's liturgy resources. Click [here](#) for the link to register.

**Right to Life** For all going through difficult pregnancies, we pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be given by their family, friends and local communities. Lord hear us

**Recycling** As part of our efforts to live simply you may wish to recycle the goods you no longer want or need. To help you, why not visit [www.ilovefreecycle.org](http://www.ilovefreecycle.org).

**The Bible Timeline Course** The next Bible Timeline Course will be delivered by Mauro Iannicelli LIVE via YouTube, completely FREE OF CHARGE, starting on Wed 29 September and ending on Wed 17 November (8 consecutive Wednesdays 7pm - 8:40pm UK Time). The response to this course has been incredible - Mauro had 2,500 participants in the last two courses he delivered online. You can find over 650 testimonials from former course participants [here](#). Mauro delivers the course under the umbrella of his Come & See Catholic Evangelisation Ministries ([www.comeandsee.org](http://www.comeandsee.org)) and with the endorsement of Jeff Cavins (who originally devised the course).