



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - 2 April 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 / [stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07976 277059

### *Fr Michael writes ...*

This weekend sees the start of Holy Week, probably the busiest week in the Church's year. Our celebration of Holy Week will depend on numerous volunteers; welcomers, musicians, singers, servers, readers, eucharistic ministers, cleaners, linen washers, flower arrangers, fire lighters, booklet folders ... to name some, but not all. There are different ways in which so many help. On Saturday evening, following the 8pm Easter Vigil, we hope to celebrate with a small reception of drinks and nibbles, but we can only do it with the help of volunteers. If you are able to help please contact the parish office at [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk) by Wednesday of this week. Similarly, we need 12 people to volunteer for the Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday. For this, all you need to do is take off a shoe and sock. Volunteering doesn't get much easier. Again, please contact the parish office at [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk).

**Ignatian Prayer** Between Easter and Pentecost we are fortunate to have Clare Bick, a member of the London Jesuit Centre Spirituality Team, leading a course on Ignatian prayer. We all pray in different ways; different ways, suit different people. Ignatian Prayer is one way of praying. In particular it draws on the use of imagination, inviting us to reflect on the scriptures by placing ourselves in them. There will be five sessions held on Thursdays: 20 and 27 April, 11, 18 and 25 May at 7.30pm in the parish hall. For further details, see the leaflet available in the church porch or contact the parish office on [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk).

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**Easter Offering** The priests of the parish do not receive a wage or salary, instead they receive a monthly stipend or allowance which is funded out of the offering received on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day, as well as for masses, baptisms, weddings and funerals. If you wish to use an envelope for this purpose these are available in the porch.

**Retiring collections during Holy Week** The retiring collection on Maundy Thursday is being held to support the work of the SVP in helping local families with their energy and food costs. The retiring collection on Good Friday is a special collection for the Holy Places of Palestine. This offering, called for by successive Popes, allows our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land to continue to live, hope and offer a living witness to the Word made flesh in the very places and streets that saw his presence.

**Easter Garden** We are commemorating our deceased loved ones in a special way in our Easter Garden again this year by writing their names on bamboo flower shapes and planting these around the rose garden in front of the presbytery. They will be close to the three crosses and will be a symbol of the new life with Christ promised by the resurrection. If you would like to remember your deceased family or friends in this way, please send their names into the office clearly marked 'Easter Garden' either by emailing the parish office at [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk) or by posting details through the presbytery door.

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**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. The current tax year ends on 5 April 2023 and we will be submitting our gift aid claim for 2022/23 shortly after that. Please phone or email the parish office with any queries or to notify us of any changes in circumstance.

### **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.

## LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

**Childrens Way of the Cross** Good Friday at 11am.

**Stations of the Cross - Good Friday** Every week during Lent, the Way of the Cross has been celebrated in Church with a different emphasis each week. On Good Friday, the Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm will focus on a Way of the Cross for our time. 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.

**Holy Week** Posters are available in the Porch. Please spread the true meaning of Holy Week. Take and display in a window. Easter cards are also available in the porch.

**Holy Week Services and Confessions in Lent** Details of our Holy Week Services and opportunities for confessions during Lent can be found in our Easter Services leaflet, copies of which are available in the Church Porch. Confession times this week are also list on the back page of the bulletin. An electronic version of the leaflet can be accessed via the Parish News section of our website or by following [this link](#).

**Sacrament of Baptism** The next baptism preparation course is on Saturday 29 April at 11.30am. To register or to arrange a date for baptism please collect a form From Fr Michael or Fr Andrew after any of the weekend masses.

**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.

**Little Lights (9.30am mass for under-fives)** The Little Lights group will be on an Easter break from 2 April, returning on 23 April.

**Children's Liturgy 9.30am** We encourage and welcome all children 5+ (up to 7-8 years old) to participate in this Liturgy of the Word aimed specifically at their age group. This liturgy will begin in church. The children will be led out and will return for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. All the catechists involved in the older Children's Liturgy will have completed safeguarding checks. Parents are not required to accompany their children. Next session is 23 April.

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

**Volunteers for 8am Mass** We are very fortunate to have a small group of volunteers who facilitate the smooth running of the 8am Mass. However, it would be very helpful to have a few more ministers. If you attend 8am Mass and would

like to welcome, collect, read, become an altar server or a Eucharistic Minister please send your name and contact details to the Parish Office.

**Marshalswick Mass Centre Rota** The rota for 2023-24 is now available for download from the Parish [website](#). It can be found on the Groups/Liturgy Group webpage - scroll down to Parish Resources and click the appropriate button. Many thanks to all the volunteers. If you can help in any way please speak to Joe or Diane Tobin.

**Cardinal's Lenten Appeal supporting Marriage & Family Life, Youth & Evangelisation, The Education Service & Caritas Westminster.** For further information about the appeal and to contribute take a donation envelope from the back of the church and use the QR code. Thank you for your generosity.

## OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

**Clothing Collection for Migrants** Many thanks for your wonderful response to the recent request for ladies' clothes. The parish supplied a range of good quality clothing. The collection is now closed.

**Easter cards at the Market** Many thanks to everyone who helped with the market stall whether by coming to distribute cards, helping with ideas and planning or setting up. Also those who stopped for a chat. We had a very successful day and distributed at least 300 invitations to our Easter services.

**London Marathon Fundraising Request** Michael Roche, who many will know from his music making at the Sunday evening Mass, is running the London Marathon next month and would appreciate your help in his fundraising efforts. Raising money for the people of South Sudan via Jesuit Missions, your money goes directly towards keeping young people in the war-torn nation to be fed and stay in school, particularly in early-child development and girls' education. Education is vital for nation-building. Help provide quality education that will enable South Sudanese youth to thrive in this enormously challenging country! You can find out more by emailing [msroche98@gmail.com](mailto:msroche98@gmail.com) or via [this link](#). Thank you for your support!

**Sponsored Cafod 'Big Lent walk'** Maureen & Stan have 12 days walking left before Easter in their efforts to raise desperately needed funds for families in the developing world facing the effects of climate change. They've covered about 290km up to Sunday 26 March. Please click [here](#) to see their progress, support them or sponsor them. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement.

**Food Bank** in support of the foodbank run by the local Salvation Army. Donations of non-perishable food items (cans and dried goods) can be left in the cardboard box in the porch. There will also be a food bank collection box at Marshalswick Mass Centre the first Sunday of every month.

**Fairtrade** Regular customers will have noticed the stock on our fair-trade stall has been a little thin recently. This is because our usual supplier - Traidcraft - has gone into administration. There is some good news, however. Efforts are underway to take over Traidcraft and these have been progressing well over the last two months. Hopefully, by the summer, we may have a clearer picture of what is happening. In the meantime, we will continue to source fairly traded goods from other suppliers and keep the stall going to the best of our abilities. We are very grateful to all those who support the stall in any way. Please keep fair trade and those it benefits in your prayers.

## PARISH GROUPS AND EVENTS

**Parish Groups and Events** Please see our the '[Parish News](#)' webpage for details of our 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 9.30am Sunday Mass during school term time, 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.

**Traidcraft** Our monthly parish fair trade stall will be available at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 2 April, a week early due to the way Easter falls. We have plenty of 'Real Meaning of Easter' Easter eggs, a wide range of chocolate, plus teas and coffee, dried fruit, socks and household items.

**Catholic Women's League** will meet for coffee after 10am mass on Tuesday 4 April. Please note change of day and time.

**Knit and Natter Group** The next dates for the knit and natter group are Tuesdays 11 and 25 April. We meet in the Parish Centre and all are welcome to join us.

**BINGO - Friday 14 April** By the Knights of St.Columba, in Parish Hall at 8.00pm in aid of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. Admission is 50p, and includes refreshments. **Everybody is most welcome.**

**Mothers' Prayers** We will meet on Monday 17 April at 8pm in room 2. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from [office@mothersprayers.org](mailto:office@mothersprayers.org).

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group** The next JPIC meeting is Wednesday 19 April at 7.30pm.

**Ignatian Prayer Course** Parish Hall 7.30pm: Thursdays, 20 and 27 April; 11, 18 and 25 May.

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**Food Bank** As you will be aware we as a parish have been supporting the food bank run by our local Salvation Army. The local Salvation Army is led by a husband and wife team, Wang Gi Lee and Eun Ok Shin. Wang Gi will be running the London marathon to raise funds for the food bank and the other activities run by the local Salvation Army. To support Wang Gi's maration effort you can visit his [Just Giving page](#)

## 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 October 2023** and that intentions may have to be moved with little notice to accommodate funerals. The suggested diocesan donation is currently £10 per mass.

**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.

### Little Lights (under fives) and Children's Liturgy (5-8 years old) during 9.30am Mass on Sundays (term time)

If you can help with Little Lights please get in touch with Marta via [yeardonmarta@gmail.com](mailto:yeardonmarta@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 All are warmly invited. 2023 mass dates: 15 April, 20 May, 10 June, 15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 14 October, 18 November and 16 December. Please email [cantonmassea@gmail.com](mailto:cantonmassea@gmail.com) for more details or see the flyer at the back of the church.

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Prayer** Holy Spirit, guide all people to seek peace. We pray for all those who are persecuted for their faith. We pray for mutual respect for different religious beliefs.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### **Saturday 1 April - VIGIL OF PALM SUNDAY**

6pm Mass Mary Miskell (RIP)

### **Sunday 2 April - PALM SUNDAY**

8am Mass Sister Denise SSCJ (RIP)

9am Mass Teresa Burke (RIP) (*John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Helena Cuneen (Ann)

11.30am Kate Dolan (RIP)

6pm Mass People of the parish

Gospel 1, Matthew 21:1-11

Reading 1, Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm 21(22)

Reading 2, Philippians 2:6-11, Gospel, Matthew 26:14-27:66

### **Monday 3 April - MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK**

10am Mass Nigel Tait (RIP)

7pm Mass Patrick Harte (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 42:1-7, Psalm 26(27),

Gospel, John 12:1-11

### **Tuesday 4 April - TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK**

*Owing to the Mass of Chrism at Westminster Cathedral there is no morning mass today.*

7pm Mass Gary Cartwright (Ints)

Reading 1, Isaiah 49:1-6

Psalm 70(71), Gospel, John 13:21-33,36-38

### **Wednesday 5 April - WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK**

10am Mass Kath and Patrick (Joe) Moran (Ann)

7pm Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 50:4-9

Psalm 68(69), Gospel, Matthew 26:14-25

## THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

### **Thursday 6 April - MAUNDY THURSDAY**

*There is no morning mass today.*

#### **8pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Reading 1, Exodus 12:1-8,11-14, Psalm 115(116),

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Gospel, John 13:1-15

### **Friday 7 April - GOOD FRIDAY**

*No masses are celebrated today*

11am Children's Way of the Cross

#### **3pm The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord**

Reading 1, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 30(31),

Reading 2, Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9,

Passion John 18:1-19:42

6.30pm Stations of the Cross

7.20pm Walk of Witness to St Albans Abbey

### **Saturday 8 April - HOLY SATURDAY**

*There is no morning mass or devotions this morning.*

#### **8pm Mass The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night**

Reading 1, Genesis 1:1-2:2, Psalm 103

Reading 2, Exodus 14:15-15:1, Psalm 15

Reading 3, Isaiah 55: 1-11, Psalm Isaiah 12

Reading 4, Ezekiel 36:16-28, Psalm 41

Reading 5, Roman 6:3-11, Psalm 117(118)

Gospel, Matthew 28:1-10

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### **Sunday 9 April - EASTER SUNDAY**

8am Mass Betty O'Connor (RIP)

9am Mass Mary Miskell (RIP) (*John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Peter Celestino Okoro (RIP)

11.30am Liam Walsh (RIP)

6pm Mass Ben Vaz (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 10:34,37-43, Psalm 117(118)

Reading 2, Colossians 3:1-4, Gospel, John 20:1-9

## CONFESSIONS DURING HOLY WEEK

**Saturday 1 April** - 10.30am - 11.30am, 5.30pm - 6.30pm

**Sunday 2 April** - 12.30pm - 1.30pm, 5.30pm - 6.30p

**Monday 3 April** - 10.30am, 6.30pm

**Wednesday 5 April** - 6.30pm

**Thursday 6 April** - 10.30am

## PLEASE PRAY

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray we pray for the intentions of everyone participating in the Holy Week ecumenical events.

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 Carol Coggins (nee Bagge), Fr Joe Falloon MSC (parish priest here from 1978 to 1984) and Mary Smith.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Cleary, Peter Cleary Helena Cuneen, Mary Curran, Kath and Patrick (Joe) Moran, Elizabeth Tharakan, Ben Vaz and Anna Whittle.

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