



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - 12 March 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 ...

This coming **Saturday 18 March** there will be a **Healing Mass at 1pm**. If you want to call on God for healing, for the conditions, wounds and sorrows of our lives or the lives of loved ones, then this mass is for you. For those who are struggling with illness the Sacrament of the anointing of the Sick will be available; for those who are not sick but who are facing challenges, or who would welcome the support of prayer, there will be an opportunity to have couples from the prayer team pray with you.

Live Simply - your views are sought This weekend 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 or can be accessed [here](#) from next week.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2023 Funds raised 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? 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. 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

Lent 2023 faith-sharing resource, 'Enlarging the Space of our Tent' The resource consists of five sessions: 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](#).

Pope Francis to make Apostolic Journey to Hungary in April Pope Francis will make an Apostolic Journey to Hungary from 28 to 30 April, visiting the city of Budapest." The papal visit will mark Pope Francis' 41st Apostolic Journey abroad and the 61st nation visited since the start of his pontificate. During his three-day journey, the Pope will visit refugees and poor people, as well as with children of the Blessed László Batthyány-Strattmann Institute. The Holy Father will address authorities, civil society and the diplomatic corps; young people; bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated persons, seminarians and pastoral workers; and representatives of the academic and cultural world.

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 God of peace and justice., renew in us your vision of wholeness, that the rich may restore wealth to the poor and the poor share blessings with the rich.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Easter Garden We will be 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 plant them around the rose garden in front of the presbytery. These 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 stalbans@rcdow.org.uk or by posting the details through the presbytery door.

Stations of the Cross during Lent Every Saturday morning during Lent at 9.30am, the Way of the Cross will be celebrated in Church before 10am Mass with a different emphasis each week. On 18 March, Mary's Way of the Cross will reflect upon Jesus' final journey through his mother's eyes. You can also view the Stations online ([LINK](#)) 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 to serve coffees, welcomers, flowers, offertory, microphones, music. All welcome

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

App Expertise Sought If anyone has expertise in App design, please could you contact Bridget from STAY (St Albans Youth) on 07870 620212. The STAY group are keen to develop this technology. Thanks!

Clothing Needed! Urgently requested Size 16 and size 18 ladies' clothing and footwear sizes 6-8, and hats and socks for newly arrived migrants who have virtually no clothing. Clothing should be clean and of a standard you would give to a family member (underwear is not required) Please leave

at the back of church under the table by the foodbank collection. Many thanks for your generosity. For information call Mary 07976 277 059.

St Alban & St Stephen Primary School seek to employ a part time temporary Caretaker asap. The role will be for 4 hours a day from 2- 6pm term time until 31 July 2023 (in the first instance). The Caretaker will be employed on a casual contract paid at an hourly rate of £13.50 per hour and work alongside an experienced contracted Premises Manager. For further information contact Ms Cosgrave by email sbm@ssas.herts.sch.uk or tel. on 01727 866668.

Cafod Big Lent Walk This Lent we are trying to raise desperately needed funds to help poor families in the Developing World survive against a backdrop of climate change e.g. teaching new farming methods or helping with using new drought resistant crops. At 6 March Maureen and Stan have walked 150km each. If you would like to see where they've been or support this vital fund-raiser, please click here. You can also give your donation to Maureen or Stan Grabecki or drop an envelope into the Presbytery marked "big lent walk". Do you fancy a relaxing walk? Why not join Maureen and Stan on their daily Lenten walk for Cafod? Meet at the free Batchwood free car park for a 10am start on Friday 17 March. We'll walk to Chidwickbury and back. Please bring sturdy footwear: the walk takes ~ 2hrs.

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.

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.

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 fair-trade stall will be available a 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. Profits go to help those communities around the world in most need of help.

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

Knit and Natter will meet 2.15-4pm on 14 and 28 March. Everyone welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340. Three members of the group visited Clare Lodge Care Home to start a group there. It was a huge success with residents and staff knitting and chatting with great enthusiasm. We will visit monthly and look forward to forming great friendships with the residents.

Mens Breakfast , Saturday 25 March We are continuing the Men's Breakfasts this winter on Saturday 25 March by looking at some of the most influential Catholic saints in the 20th century. This month we considering is Sister Faustina, a Polish nun who had apparitions of Jesus which have inspired devotion to the Divine Mercy. Parish Centre from 8.15 for coffee, croissants and conversation, followed by a video on St Faustina and discussion on her message. For more details please email d4dstalbans@gmail.com.

Parish Easter Market Stall Volunteers are asked to commit 30 minutes of your time on Wednesday 29 March to distribute parish Easter greetings in the market. Please call Mary on 07976 277 059 or email marytharber@gmail.com or give your name to us at mass if you can spare some time for this welcoming activity. Also, if you can help collect names of volunteers after masses on 18/19 & 25/26 March please call Mary.

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** 7pm Church Thursday 30 March

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Dates for the Pilgrimage diary in 2023:

- Lourdes Quarterly Reunion Mass on 7 March 6:30pm in the Cathedral Crypt, followed by a social.
- Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 21- 28 July.
- Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham: 23 September.
- Annual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 19-27 November.

Please consider fundraising and sponsoring to raise £1,000 for your Parish Priest or a less able pilgrim or a nominated volunteer in your parish to take part in next year's Westminster Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Contact the Pilgrimage Office if you want to volunteer as a helper with the Diocese of Westminster in Lourdes. Committed to a culture of Safeguarding. See [here](#) for details.

Fratelli Tutti The Westminster cathedral interfaith group will study chapter 3 "Envisaging and engendering an open world" of Fratelli Tutti (the encyclical by Pope Francis on

Human fraternity) on Wednesday 15 March from 2 to 3.30 p.m. in the Hinsley room Morpeth Terrace. The document is available online and from St Paul's bookshop. All welcome and no charge to attend.

Delightful Ukrainian family requires accommodation in St Albans Tamara (mother), Lisa (16) and Arina (nearly 14). The girls have settled well at Samuel Ryder School. The family is quiet, respectful, and helpful around the house. The host family will receive £500 / month under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. They buy / prepare their own meals etc. Please ring Clare & Nigel Harvey 01727 835 729, or email nigeldharvey@gmail.com.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Mary's Meals Thank you for your very generous donations. To date £2,306.71 has been donated by parishioners. You can still donate foreign coin/notes & obsolete currency via the presbytery in envelopes marked 'Mary's Meals'.

CAFOD The recent retiring collection for CAFOD raised £859.45. Thank you for your generosity.

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 September 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 March - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Rita Walsh (Ints)

Sunday 12 March - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8am Mass Martin Cooke (RIP)

9am Mass People of the parish (*John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass Deceased members Logan & Fitzsimons families

11.30am Mass Eamon Scanlan (RIP)

6pm Mass Pat Roache (Ann)

Reading 1, Exodus 17:3-7, Psalm 94(95)

Reading 2, Romans 5:1-2,5-8, Gospel, John 4:5-42

Monday 13 March - Lent feria

10am Mass Francesco Ciaccio (First Anniversary)

7pm Mass Kathleen Hughes (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Kings 5:1-15

Psalm 41(42), Gospel, Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday 14 March - Lent feria

10am Funeral Mass for Sean Murphy

Reading 1, Daniel 3:25,34-43

Psalm 24(25), Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday 15 March - Lent feria

10am Mass Michael O'Connell (RIP)

7pm Mass Rose and George Watkins (Ann)

Reading 1, Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9

Psalm 147, Gospel, Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday 16 March - Lent feria

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Guiseppe Ialeggio

Reading 1, Jeremiah 7:23-28

Psalm 94(95), Gospel, Luke 11:14-23

Friday 17 March - ST PATRICK

7pm Mass People of the parish

Reading 1, Jeremiah 1:4-9, Psalm 116(117)

Reading 2, Acts 13:46-49, Gospel, Luke 10:1-12,17-20 (*On*

Fridays Mass is celebrated at St Albans Cathedral at Noon)

Saturday 18 March - Lent feria

9.30am Stations of the Cross

10am Mass Kathleen Hughes (RIP)

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Hosea 5:15-6:6

Psalm 50(51), Gospel, Luke 18:9-14

Saturday 18 March - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Michael Keating (RIP)

Sunday 19 March - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8am Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

9am Mass Martin Cooke (RIP) (*John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass People of the parish

11.30am Mary Curran (Ann)

6pm Mass Deceased members of the Conefrey family

Reading 1, 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13, Psalm 22(23)

Reading 2, Ephesians 5:8-14, Gospel, John 9:1-41

PLEASE PRAY

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for the Minister and members of Hatfield Road Methodist Church.

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 Margaret Arrowsmith, Carol Coggins (nee Bagge), Caroline Cull, Andrew Cussen, Mario Di Filippo, Norman Gunn, Sheila Henry, Maureen Huckle, Guiseppe Ialeggio, John Lurshay, Teresa Moller, Sean Murphy and Daria Wynnyczuk.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Baxter, Francesco Ciaccio, Mary Curran, Tracey Griffin, Patricia McCarthy, Fr Sandy Murray MSC, Pat Roache, Edward Sumner, Rose and George Watkins, Milly Yarwood.

Forthcoming Funerals

Sean Murphy - 10am Tuesday 14 March

Guiseppe Ialeggio - 10am Thursday 16 March

Norman Gunn - 10am Wednesday 22 March

Maureen Huckle - 10am Friday 24 March

Daria Wynnyczuk - 10am Monday 27 March

Caroline Cull - 1pm Monday 27 March

Mario Di Filippo - 10am Wednesday 29 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 All are warmly invited. The next masses are 18 March, 15 April, 20 May, 10 June, 15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 14 October, 18 November and 16 December. Please email cantonmassea@gmail.com for more details or see the flyer at the back of the church.