



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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YouTube: [youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch](https://youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch)

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 19 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 / [stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07976 277059

### *Fr Michael writes ...*

We are over half way through Lent. Maybe you are flagging in your resolve, maybe you have already given up and the best of intentions have become just that; intentions, hopes, aspirations rather than fact. Remember, it's never too late to dust yourself down and begin again. Here in the presbytery we are turning our minds very concretely to the celebration of Holy Week. Holy Week is full of liturgy, liturgy in which all of us are called to take an active part; primarily through our prayer - a prayer that involves every aspect of our being; our bodies through our joining in the action (standing, sitting, kneeling, processing), our minds by engaging with and listening attentively to the Word of God, our hearts by opening them to God's presence, and our voices by making the responses and singing. Holy Week isn't something to be got through, still less is it something to be endured, where we are the consumers of something which is done to us. Rather, it is an invitation, an opportunity, to walk with Christ and to enter into his living, dying and rising again.

One of the ways in which our celebration of Holy Week is greatly enhanced is through music and song. Here at St Alban & St Stephen we are greatly blessed with several music groups, each with its particular style. For the celebration of the Triduum I have asked the various musicians and singers to come together and form a single parish music group for the liturgy on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. If you are a musician or a singer and would like to be a part of this parish music group please email [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk) to let us know. There will be three rehearsals in the church: Saturday 1 April at 11.00am, Tuesday 4 April at 7.30 pm and Saturday 8 April at 10.00 am.

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**Children's Liturgy** The 9.30am Children's Liturgy for those who are 5+ (up to 7-8 years old) will re-commence on Sunday 26 March. We encourage and welcome all children 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.

**Love The Stranger** In 2023, people making dangerous journeys across the Channel to reach the UK are called by various names: 'refugees', 'asylum seekers', 'migrants', and often by more derogatory terms. '[Love the Stranger](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger/)' (<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger/>) is a new publication by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales's Department for International Affairs which articulates our Christian duty to look beyond labels and see the person who has left their homeland in search of a better life.

**Cardinal's Lenten Appeal** supporting Marriage & Family Life, Youth & Evangelisation, The Education Service & Caritas Westminster. The ongoing impact of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis is making daily life harder for all. 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 perhaps you could volunteer for a project aimed at those in need. 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.

### **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.

**Mentoring skills needed** Emmaus is looking for people who can offer mentoring & skills to their companions rebuilding their lives after being homeless. It will not be onerous but will be deeply rewarding. To find out more, go to [www.emmaus.org.uk/hertfordshire/support-us/volunteer](http://www.emmaus.org.uk/hertfordshire/support-us/volunteer).

## 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 [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk) or by posting the details through the presbytery door.

**EASTER CARDS** Easter cards for 2023 are available this weekend, please take a few home to give to your friends and family. They will also be distributed at our market stall on 29 March. Please note that, although there is no Penitential Service this year, there are many other opportunities for confessions during the weeks leading up to Easter.

**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 25 March, Stations will focus on the Live Simply message. 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](mailto: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](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.

**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 277059.

**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](mailto:sbm@ssas.herts.sch.uk) or tel. on 01727 866668.

**CAFOD - Big Lent Walk** Maureen and Stan have walked over 160km up to 11 March. Thursday 16 was half way through the 40 days of Lent. All the money raised is going to CAFOD and will be used to offset the devastating effects of climate change in the developing world. If you would like to sponsor Maureen and Stan, or look at their progress, please click [here](#) - or post an envelope with your donation into the presbytery. Many thanks for your prayers, interest and support.

**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.

**Thank You from the Walsh family** Rita Walsh and family would like to express their thanks for the masses and condolences offered following the recent death of Rita's husband, Stephen. Mass will be offered for your intentions.

## PARISH GROUPS AND EVENTS

**Parish Groups and Events** Please see the '[Parish News](#)' page of our website for details of our parish groups and forthcoming 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 after all Masses at the Church over the weekend of 25/66 March and at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 2 April, both 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 some household items. There have been supply difficulties, but these are resolving themselves and we hope for a wider range of products into the future.

**Knit and Natter** will meet 2.15-4pm on 28 March. Everyone welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340. Three members of the group visited Clare Lodge Care Home recently 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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

**BINGO** Many, many thanks for the support and donations at our recent Bingo evening. A total of £440.00 was raised for CAFOD - Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 14 April.

**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 Talk** Parish Hall 7.45pm refreshments 7.30pm - 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

**Walking The Way of the Cross Lent series of talks** Churches Together in Marshalswick at the Baptist Church

Sherwood Avenue. Sunday 19 March 7pm. Speaker: Rev Richard Watson St Saviour's Church.

**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](mailto:nigeldharvey@gmail.com).

**Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony** Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13 May at 2:30pm. The Cardinal invites 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.

## 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 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 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

### **Monday 20 March - ST JOSEPH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Patron of the Diocese**

10am Mass Holy Souls

7pm Mass John Taylor (RIP)

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

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

### **Tuesday 21 March - Lent feria**

10am Mass Sadie Godfrey (RIP)

Reading 1, Ezekiel 47:1-9,12

Psalm 45(46), Gospel, John 5:1-3,5-16

### **Wednesday 22 March - Lent feria**

10am Funeral mass for Norman Gunn

7pm Mass Philip Westbury (Ann)

Reading 1, Isaiah 49:8-15

Psalm 144 (145), Gospel, John 5:17-30

### **Thursday 23 March - Lent feria**

10am Mass Terry Rivers (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm 105(106), Gospel, John 5:31-47

### **Friday 24 March - Lent feria**

10am Funeral Mass for Maureen Huckle

7pm Mass Patrick and Eileen Taylor (Ints)

Reading 1, Wisdom 2:1,12-22

Psalm 33(34), Gospel, John 7:1-2,10,25-30

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

### **Saturday 25 March - THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

9.30am Stations of the Cross

10am Mass Marie Noella Amadis (Ann) and Marie Aline Rangasamy (Ann)

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10, Psalm 39(40),

Reading 2, Hebrews 10:4-10, Gospel, Luke 1:26-38

### **Saturday 25 March - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

6pm Mass Rita Anderson (RIP)

### **Sunday 26 March - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

8am Mass People of the parish

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

9.30am Mass Patrick Taylor (Ints)

11.30am John Garrick (RIP)

6pm Mass Jean and David Eldred (RIP)

Reading 1, Ezekiel 37:12-14, Psalm 129(130)

Reading 2, Romans 8:8-11, Gospel, John 11:1-45

## PLEASE PRAY

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for the Minister and members of Marshalswick Baptist Free 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, Anna Whittle and Daria Wynnyczuk.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Marie Noella Amadis, Mary Baxter, Mary Curran, Tracey Griffin, Marie Aline Rangasamy, Edward Sumner, Elizabeth Tharakan, Philip Westbury and Milly Yarwood.

### **Forthcoming Funerals**

**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](mailto: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. In 2023 masses are on 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](mailto:cantonmassea@gmail.com) for more details or see the flyer at the back of the church.