



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - 5 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

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*Fr Michael writes* ... The Parish Pastoral Council met during the week for its monthly meeting. For me the meetings of the PPC are an important opportunity to reflect and consult on our pastoral priorities, the challenges we face and how we might go about them. It is also an opportunity for members of the PPC to raise any questions or concerns they may have; questions and concerns they may have for themselves or which members of the parish have raised with them. The membership of the PPC is made up of representatives from various parish groups, such as the Adult Faith Formation group, our Justice Peace & Integrity of Creation group and STAY (St Albans Youth - our youth strategy group). It also includes representatives from the different masses (we are still looking for representatives from the Saturday & Sunday evening masses). At our next meeting in March we shall be taking photos of each of the members of the PPC so that these can be displayed and parishioners can know who is on the PPC and who they can approach.

In recent times I have used the PPC to consult on a number of topics. The proposed 'Family Mass' at 9.30am in the main church, & 9am at Marshalswick on the last Sunday of the month are the result of reflections initiated at our PPC meetings. Again, it is a good many years since we had a planned giving drive, asking parishioners to reflect on how they support the parish, in particular, what they give. I asked the members of the PPC about the appropriateness of a planned giving drive at this time and then shared their advice with our Finance Committee. More on this in time to come.

At this week's meeting I shared with the PPC the costings we have received for the re-development of the parish complex (Phase 1: the refurbishment of the church, porch & forecourt. Phase 2: the relocation of the parish offices to beneath the parish hall. Phase 3: the redevelopment of the presbytery). These costings have come in at considerably more than we expected. Nothing surprising given the current economic climate. I wanted this discussion with the PPC so that its voice - particularly on how the works might be prioritised - could be heard by the parishioners working with me in our development group. As yet, no firm decisions have been made, but it is very likely that the hoped for works will be divided up into several more phases.

**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.

**Pope Francis: Our Lenten journey is Synodal** Personal and ecclesial 'transfiguration' is the goal of the ascetical journey of Lent, and similarly of the synodal process, writes Pope Francis in his Message for Lent 2023. He takes his inspiration from the Gospel account of the Transfiguration we hear this coming Sunday. During Lent Jesus 'takes us with Him to a place apart', just as he took some of his disciples up the mountain to witness his Transfiguration. 'Lenten penance', he writes, 'is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross'. This requires effort, sacrifice, and concentration, qualities which are also required for the Synodal Journey; and therefore we can say that 'our Lenten journey is "synodal" since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master'. 'Both in the liturgical journey and in the journey of the Synod, the Church does nothing other than enter ever more deeply and fully into the mystery of Christ the Saviour.'

### 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, You give us the capacity to change, to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom. Create in us a desire to act in solidarity, so that the pillars of injustice crumble and those now crushed are set free.

## 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 10am Mass with a different emphasis each week. On 11 March, the Stations of the Cross are led by our Parish Friends Group and reflect upon our need for care in the community. 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 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 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.

## OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

**Thank you from the SVP** Thank you to all the parishioners who, through collections and personal donations, have given so generously to help those struggling in these difficult economic times. All you have given has enabled us to bring considerably more relief than we expected to families with really pressing concerns, at Christmas, and more recently with financial help with their winter fuel costs. At Christmas we assisted with the distribution of food hampers arranged by the staff and students of Loreto College, and helped fund the parish's senior citizens meal. We want you to know of the sincere

gratitude that all these you have helped have expressed for your great kindnesses. Thank you.

**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 2pm until 6pm term time until 31st 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.

**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](#).

**Cafod Big Lent Walk** is raising funds to fight poverty and climate change, which disproportionately affects those in the developing world. Maureen and Stan have started their 40 day challenge. Up to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> they'd covered 32.2Km of the 200 Km target. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored them. To support them on their walk, please donate [here](#). You can also give them a donation directly or drop an envelope marked 'Cafod big Lent walk' into the presbytery.

## PARISH GROUPS AND EVENTS

**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.

**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.

**Knit and Natter** will meet 2.15-4pm on 14th and 28th March. Everyone welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

**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
  - o **Thursday 16 March** Pope St John Paul II's Apostolic Letter 'Salvifici Doloris - On the Christian Understanding of Human Suffering'
  - o **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

**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 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.

**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.

**BINGO** Friday, 10th March, by the Knights of St.Columba, in the Parish Hall at 8.00pm in aid of **CAFOD - Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal**. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

**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

**Dagnall Street Baptist Church Lent Course** running on Tuesdays at either 2.30pm or 7.30pm. All welcome. For further details see poster in porch.

**Walking The Way of the Cross** Churches Together in Marshalswick are organising a series of reflections for Lent. The next will be on Sunday 5 March at 7pm at the Baptist Church, Sherwood Avenue. Fr Michael and parishioners from the Mass Centre will be leading this service.

**Pilgrimage to Walsingham** Saturday 25 March by coach from St Bart's, St Albans. Mass in Walsingham at noon will be celebrated by Bishop Peter Collins, visit the Slipper Chapel and walk the Holy Mile to the Priory. Cost to be confirmed. Please contact Margaret Leahy: margleahy@gmail.com/01727 763832 or Rosemary Roscoe: Rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com/07723 546642.

**Mary's Meals** Thank you for your very generous donations. You can still donate foreign coin/notes & obsolete currency via the presbytery in envelopes marked 'Mary's Meals'.

## 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 (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 4 March - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

6pm Mass Deceased members 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

**Monday 6 March - Lent feria**

10am Mass Maureen Huckle (RIP)

7pm Mass John Feeney (RIP)

Reading 1, Daniel 9:4-10

Psalm 78(79), Gospel, Luke 6:36-38

**Tuesday 7 March - Lent feria**

10am Mass Bridget and Patrick Scully (Ann)

Reading 1, Isaiah 1:10,16-20

Psalm 49(50), Gospel, Matthew 23:1-12

**Wednesday 8 March - Lent feria**

10am Mass Tom Timmins (RIP)

7pm Mass Michael Theanne & Jean-Yves Theanne (Ann)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 18:18-20

Psalm 30(31), Gospel, Matthew 20:17-28

**Thursday 9 March - Lent feria**

10am Mass Michael O'Neill (RIP)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1, Gospel, Luke 16:19-31

**Friday 10 March - Lent feria**

7pm Mass Sean Screene (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 37:3-4,12-13,17-28

Psalm 104(105), Gospel, Matthew 21:33-46

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

**Saturday 11 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, Micah 7:14-15,18-20

Psalm 102(103), Gospel, Luke 15:1-3,11-32

**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

**PLEASE PRAY**

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for the intentions of Churches Together in Marshalswick.

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 Richard Doherty, Norman Gunn, Maureen Huckle, Guiseppe Ialeggio, Teresa Moller, Denis Munnelly, Sean Murphy, Clare Whitehead and Daria Wynnyczuk.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Noreen Carolan, Patricia McCarthy, William Miller, Fr Sandy Murray MSC, Pat Roache, William Rigg, Bridget and Patrick Scully, Jean-Yves Theanne and Michael Theanne.

**Forthcoming Funerals**

**Sean Murphy** - 10am Tuesday 14 March

**Norman Gunn** - 10am Wednesday 22 March

**Maureen Huckle** - 10am Friday 24 March

**Daria Wynnyczuk** - 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](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. Please email [cantonmassea@gmail.com](mailto:cantonmassea@gmail.com) for details or see the flyer at the back of the church.