



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Tel: 01727 853 585

E-mail: stalban@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - 23 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 / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Priests Training Fund Next Sunday is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is a special day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. It is also the day on which the annual collection for the Priest Training Fund is taken up. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. It also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests.

There are currently 48 seminarians studying at Allen Hall, the Westminster Diocesan Seminary in Chelsea. Fourteen of these are training for our Diocese, the remainder for other dioceses and religious orders. In addition to those at Allen Hall Westminster has two seminarians studying in Rome. Last year eight Allen Hall seminarians were ordained to the priesthood.

Your generous donation helps ensure we can support those discerning their call to priesthood. Donation envelopes are available at the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and if you can contribute return it next weekend with your donation. Alternatively, you can use the QR code provided or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations to make a donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. Thank you for your generosity.

Loving the Stranger The Bishops of England and Wales have published a Catholic response to the question of refugees and migrants. Called 'Loving the Stranger' it can be found at www.cbcew.org.uk From 26 April - 2 May a prayerful display including a Lampedusa Cross and Pilgrim staff will be housed on the sanctuary, reminding us of the difficult journey that many, especially refugees and migrants, undertake in order to improve their lives. It may be that you are one of those who have had to uproot yourself from all that is familiar out of choice or circumstance. There will be an opportunity to add your own pebble or stone at the base of the display, remembering your own journey? Please also note that the Annual Mass for Migrants, hosted this year by the Diocese of Brentwood, at St Antony of Padua Church in Forest Gate (E7 9QB) at 12 pm on the Feast of St Joseph the Worker (Monday 1 May). This celebration of the contributions of migrant people begins with a vibrant banner procession (YouTube StAnthonyFG UK).

Celebrating the Coronation The Presidents of Churches Together in England have issued a statement encouraging Christians to join in praying for the King and the nation. Here at St Alban & St Stephen in the days leading up to the Coronation we will pray the prayer for the King at the end of all our masses. The 7pm mass on Friday 5 May will be said for the King's intentions and we will use the prayers and readings provided for this mass. At the Sunday masses over the Coronation weekend we will pray for the King during the intercessions and say the prayer for the King at the end of each Mass. At the 11.30 Mass we will also sing the National Anthem.

On Sunday 7 May (assuming the weather is good) we will suspend parking immediately in front of the church before the 11.30am mass. After this mass everyone is invited to celebrate the King's Coronation. Please bring some drinks and cold finger foods to share. Depending on the weather, the table picnic will be held outside the front of the church or in the cafe area and rooms 1 and 2. If required, food can be left in the cafe area during mass. Parking will be available in Loreto school.

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

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](mailto:michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk) 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.

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.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Recent Retiring Collections The retiring collection for SVP on Maundy Thursday raised £755.19 and the retiring collection on Good Friday for the Holy Places of Palestine raised £591.69. The Lenten Collection to support the Cardinal's Appeal raised £60.00. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

BINGO Many, many thanks for the support and generosity for our last Bingo evening. £320.00 was raised for the

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday, 12 May at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall.

Big Lent Walk Maureen and Stan walked 436km during Lent, further than a walk to Sheffield and back, or to Gretna Green in Scotland. There is still time to look at their walks and travel diary or to [donate](#). Or please drop your donation in to the presbytery. All donations will go towards Cafod's work in the developing world. Many thanks for all the prayers and support we received on the way.

PARISH GROUPS AND EVENTS

Parish Groups and Events Please our the '[Parish News](#)' webpage for details of our parish groups and events.

Ignatian Prayer Talks Led by Clare Brick, a married mother of 3 adult children and member of the Spirituality Team at the London Jesuit Centre, this series is an introduction to ways of prayer based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola. Each week participants will be introduced to a new prayer tool and invited to use it in the week ahead. Even if you cannot make this week's session you are welcome to any and all of the sessions to follow:

- 27 April - Lectio Divina, how to pray with Scripture
- 11 May - Imaginative Contemplation, being with Jesus in a Gospel story
- 18 May - Praying with art / images
- 25 May - Prayer and sharing around one of the Sunday readings / or praying with nature

There is no need to book or register in advance and talks will take place in the Parish Centre. For further details, please see the leaflet available in the church porch or contact the parish office on stalbins@rcdow.org.uk.

Fairtrade Our monthly fair-trade stall will be available after all Masses at church over the weekend of 29/30 April and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on Sunday 14 May. Please try to come and look at the stall; all purchases, however small, will make a difference to people in the developing world. There are still supply issues following the closure of our usual supplier, but we are managing to obtain stock from several new sources.

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.

Parish Friends Parish Friends are having a meeting in the Parish centre on Tuesday 25 April at 8pm. All welcome to join us to help plan future events. Further details contact Helen 07860 830340

Catholic Women's League Wednesday 3 May After 10am mass we will meet for coffee and a talk from Peter Graham formerly chairman of Centre 33. Please note change of time and date. Visitors welcome.

Knit and Natter Group The next dates for the knit and natter group are Tuesdays 9 and 23 May. We meet in the Parish Centre and all are welcome to join us.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Veritas Catholic Lecture series 29 April, New Testament, Fr John Deehan (Kentish Town Parish) 20 May, Old Testament, lecturer, Fr John Hemer (Mill Hill Missionary) 10am start, 3pm end (approx) To attend please register [here](#). For more details, please see Hemel West [Website](#).

A Spectrum of Sound - A Concert for Christian Aid on Sunday 13 May 7.30pm at Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Avenue, St Albans AL4 9QL. With music ranging from classical to Jazz and Folk to Musical Theatre there should be something for everyone to enjoy. Entry free with donations going to Christian Aid.

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.

Thinking of Priesthood? On Wednesday 17 May, there will be an open evening at St James, Spanish Place, for any men interested in learning about or discerning a vocation to priesthood. The regular evening Mass will be at 6.00pm, followed by a gathering downstairs in the Social Centre for a short presentation and informal conversations and refreshments. Do come and join us if you can. The nearest tube stations are Bond Street and Baker Street.

Churches Together in Hertfordshire Annual General Meeting 7.30pm Thursday 25 May at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JG. Keynote speaker: The Bishop of Hertford, The Rt Revd Dr Jane Mainwaring. Refreshments from 7pm.

Jesuit Centre Courses The mission of the London Jesuit Centre is to accompany the people of London on the path to spiritual maturity. They do this by running events, courses and retreats, particularly on their three focuses: social and environmental justice, spirituality and theology. Please see their website www.londonjesuitcentre.org for more details.

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.

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 2022/23 tax year ended on 5 April 2023 and we are hoping to submit our gift aid claim for 2022/23 shortly. Please phone or email the parish office with any queries or to notify us of any changes in circumstance.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Prayer

We pray for the people of South Sudan, for an end to violence, fear and hatred, that they may find peace, healing, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation.

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: 20 May, 10 June, 15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 14 October, 18 November and 16 December. For more details, please see the flyer at the back of the church or email cantonmassea@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 22 April - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Maureen and John Rowland (RIP)

Sunday 23 April - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Alicia and Alexander Kuczmierczyk (Ints)

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

9.30am Mass Andrew Fernandes (Ann)

11.30am Mass Fr Charles Sweeney MSC - Golden Jubilee (Ints)

6pm Mass Stella Kitching (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 2:14,22-23, Psalm 15(16)

Reading 2, 1 Peter 1:17-21, Gospel Luke 24:13-35

Monday 24 April - ST GEORGE

10am Mass Holy Souls

7pm Mass Patrick Bagge (RIP) and Tom Bagge (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 12:10-12, Psalm 125(126)

Reading 2, John 15:1-8, Gospel, John 6:22-29

Tuesday 25 April - ST MARK

10am Mass Eileen Vasey (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 Peter 5:5-14

Psalm 88(89), Gospel, Mark 16:15-20

Wednesday 26 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Enid Dobson (RIP)

7pm Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 8:1-8

Psalm 65(66), Gospel, John 6:35-40

Thursday 27 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Sadie Godfrey (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 65(66), Gospel John 6:44-51

Friday 28 April - Easter feria

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

10am Funeral Mass for Carol Coggins

7pm Mass Jack and Ita O'Mahoney (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 116(117), Gospel John 6:52-59

Saturday 29 April - ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

10am Mass Kennedy family (Ints)

10.30 - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, 1 John 1:5-2:2

Psalm 102(103), Gospel, Matthew 25-30

Saturday 29 April - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Callum Gathard (First anniversary)

Sunday 30 April - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Tessa Taylor (Ints)

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

9.30am Mass Mary Miskell (RIP)

11.30am Mass Kate Moran (RIP)

6pm Mass Nickolo Di Bella (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 2:14,36-41, Psalm 22(23)

Reading 2, 1 Peter 2:20-25, Gospel John 10:1-10

PLEASE PRAY

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for the priest and congregation of St Bartholomew's 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 Carol Coggins (nee Bagge), Jan Pollard and Silvano Zambardi.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fr Joe Colbert, Andrew Fernandes, Callum Gathard, Elaine Gatta, Margaret Markham, Jack and Ita O'Mahoney, Alvaro Ponce-de-Leon and Eileen Vasey.

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

FORTHCOMING FUNERALS

Carol Coggins - 10am Friday 28 April

Silvano Zambardi - 10am Friday 5 May

FAMILY RESOURCES

Please join us at 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 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.

The Wednesday Word www.wednesdayword.org/ is another excellent resource that can be used by families to reflect on the issues and messages present in Sunday Liturgy each week. Cardinal Vincent Nichols recommends using these materials saying they bring "remarkable graces to many."