



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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YouTube: <https://youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch>

**13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 2 July 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

*We are a Fairtrade parish*

*Fr Michael writes...* 'Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me'. In the gospel that we listen to this Sunday Jesus does not promise us a carefree existence. On the contrary he invites us to put everything on the line, even parents and children, and to set our hearts and minds on him.

In setting our hearts on Christ, in following him, Christ challenges us to take up our cross. Why? Because this is what he himself did. Indeed, in asking us to take up our cross Jesus is asking no more of us than he asked of himself. For Christ taking up his cross meant the giving of his life, but it is in the giving of his life that he accomplishes his life's work, giving it its fullest meaning; that he opens up the way to the Father – the one he came to show or reveal to the world.

For Christ taking up his cross and giving everything of himself is a moment of accomplishment and self-realisation. We may not be asked to give up our lives, but what is true for Christ is also true for us. When we give of ourselves, when we sacrifice ourselves, living as Christ did, rather than the life we might choose for ourselves, its then – and only then – that we come close to being the best versions of ourselves.

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**CAFOD's Fix the Food System Campaign:** Ahead of important World Bank meetings this Autumn, CAFOD is urging parishioners to ask the World Bank to support small farmers by protecting their ability to save, use, exchange and sell their own varieties of seeds and put an end to all policies that limit small farmers' choice over which seeds they can access. Information is available at <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign> where there is a letter to the Head of the World Bank which can be easily sent by email. We invite you to support this campaign either by sending the online email or by signing a letter in this parish after all masses on Sundays 2 and 9 July.

**Retiring Collections** The 'Day for Life' collection in June raised £401.49. The retiring collection this weekend is for Peter's Pence. This collection is taken across the world in support of the administrative and charitable works of the Holy See.

**Stella Maris Sea Sunday 2023** Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure on board. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health. Sea Sunday is next Sunday 9 July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate to the retiring collection in church, by visiting [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate), or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) to continue its important work - so please give generously. Thank you.

**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 July 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. Our next course will begin in September. If you hope to marry later in 2023 or 2024 please [email](mailto:michaelboy@rcdow.org.uk) Fr Michael at [michaelboy@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:michaelboy@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.

**Monthly Youth Mass, first Sunday of the month at 6pm** Calling all young people year 7 to year 12 who would like to participate in any capacity (musicians, singers, readers, collecting, welcoming, offertory) at the monthly youth mass. Please email [stalbanscc@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbanscc@rcdow.org.uk) with your name and parents' email address to contact going forward. If a musician please state your instrument and approximate grade. The next masses are 2 July and 1 October at 6pm.

**Monthly 9.30am Family Mass on the last Sunday of the month.** On the last Sunday of each month there will be no Children's Liturgy but the children will be invited forward at the beginning of the Mass which will be geared towards their participation. There will be a short social afterwards and we need volunteers to help with this. If you can help please speak with Deacon Brendan.

## OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

**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 box in the porch. There will also be a food collection box at Marshalswick Mass Centre the first Sunday of every month.

## PARISH GROUPS AND EVENTS

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

**Heart to Heart Newsletter** The latest Heart to Heart Newsletter is now available in the porch as or can be viewed online at [www.hearttoheartstalbans.org](http://www.hearttoheartstalbans.org). This issue gives news from the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, their Lay Associates here in St Albans and how their Spirituality of the Heart is reflected in our parish's Live Simply initiative.

**Catholicism Course Part 2** In October we will host part 2 of the acclaimed three-part CATHOLICISM Study Series.

You can join the programme at any point, you don't need to have done Part 1 before doing Part 2.

Bishop Barron is an author, theologian and podcaster and founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. He created this series out of his 10-episode film CATHOLICISM, as a thematic presentation of what Catholics believe and why, so that all adults can come to a deeper understanding of the Catholic Faith. This engaging and interesting programme uses the art, architecture, literature, music and all the treasures of the Catholic tradition to illuminate the timeless teachings of the Church. The Study Program expands and reinforces the content of the film which was filmed in over 50 locations across 15 countries.

We hope that anyone seeking to understand or deepen their faith as adults or anyone who wants to be able to confidently answer questions posed to them about our faith, will come and journey around the world and go deeper into the Catholic faith, supported by fellow parishioners.

Starting: Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 10.45am or Thursday 5 October 2023 at 7.45pm with break for half term. Light refreshments provided - Wednesdays: biscuits and cakes; Thursdays: soup and a roll.

Commitment: 6 weekly sessions in the Church Hall, each 90 minutes (plus 30 min preparation time at home in advance of the weekly sessions). Participant bring and share dinner 22 November 2023 at 7.45pm

Cost: £10 including study guide for new registrations

New registrations : Please email [stalbans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk) by Monday 24 July. Payment upon registration, please, by

1. Dropping a marked envelope through the presbytery door with your name and cash or a cheque made payable to 'WRCDT - St Albans'
2. Making an online bank transfer, using the reference 'AFF/<NAME>' so that we can identify the payments.

Bank: HSBC-69 Pall Mall, Account name: WRCDT St Albans, Sort Code: 40-05-20, Account No: 21094696.

**Fair trade** Our monthly stall of fairly traded goods will be available after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 9 July. There are so many issues facing those in the developing world - hardship, war, climate change, lack of opportunity, even genetically modified seeds. Please take a moment to look: all sales go to help those in need.

**Parish Friends Outing** The Parish Friends outing to the Weald and Downland Museum will take place on Friday 8 September. For details contact Helen Bassill on 07860 830340 or [helen.bassill@ntlworld.com](mailto:helen.bassill@ntlworld.com).

**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, contact David Markham on 07543 400650.

**Knit and Natter Group** Our next meetings are on Tuesdays 4 and 18 July. We meet in the Parish Centre 2.15-4pm and all are welcome to join us.

**C.W.L. Thursday 6 July at 2pm "The Royal Saints" A talk by Richard O'Neil.** Guests and visitors all welcome. Cost £2 to include coffee and refreshments.

**BINGO** Many, many, thanks for the support for our recent Bingo evening. £100.00 was raised for the Catholic Worker Farm. The next Bingo session organised by the Knights of St Columba will be **Friday, 14th July**, at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre. It will be in aid of The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Bartholomew's Parish. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

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**Parish Friends** Thank you to all those who helped to make the Tea Party last Sunday so successful. We had a wonderful assortment of homemade cakes and a great band of willing helpers. The band, 'Diamond Years', were fantastic and our guests thoroughly enjoyed their music singing and dancing along despite the heat.

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

**Churches Together Marshalswick** are holding a Songs of Praise and Afternoon Tea on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm in the Churchyard of St Leonard's, Sandridge. All welcome.

**Walsingham - New Dawn Catholic Charismatic Conference Monday 31 July to Friday 4 August** For groups families and single pilgrims. Theme; Eucharistic Adoration. Luke 10 v 42 "Mary has chosen the better part" Outstanding programme with speakers, workshops, children and youth ministries. Full booking details are available online at [www.newdawn.org.uk](http://www.newdawn.org.uk).

**Pilgrimage to Walsingham** Led by Most Rev. Kevin Mc Donald Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark. Saturday 5 August. Coach departs from Harpenden at 7.30am and St Barts 7.50 am. Places: Adults £25, Child/Student £10. For more information visit [www.pro-lifepilgrimage.org](http://www.pro-lifepilgrimage.org) and to book contact Geraldine 07971028415.

**World Youth Day (WYD)** If you can't attend the main event in Lisbon, why not join WYD London - a day celebration on Saturday 5 August from 11am-5pm in the church by Leicester Square. Programme: music • prayer • talks • activities • Mass Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX. Donations only. To register a group or individually, fill in the [form](#).

**Abortion up to birth** The abortion lobby is running a campaign to fully 'decriminalise' abortion, which would introduce abortion up to birth. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website which makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to oppose the introduction of abortion up to birth. Contact your MP now. It will take 30 seconds if you visit [www.righttolife.org.uk/noabortionuptobirth](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/noabortionuptobirth)

## 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 the range 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 January 2024** 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 UK 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 sufficient UK tax and gift aid is claimed on what you give, then HMRC may seek reimbursement from the parish. 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.



## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Saturday 1 July - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Mary Miskell (RIP)

### Sunday 2 July - 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Jack McKeon (RIP)

9am Mass People of the Parish (*St John Fisher, Marshalswick*)

9.30am Moore family (Ints)

11.30am Anne Hynes (RIP)

6pm Mass Angela McCann (First anniversary)

Reading 1, 2 Kings 4:8-11,14-16, Psalm 88(89)

Reading 2, Romans 6:3-4,8-11, Gospel, Matthew 10:37-42

### Monday 3 July - ST THOMAS

10am Mass David Edwards (Ints)

7pm Maureen Lerwill (Ann)

Reading 1, Ephesians 2:19-22

Psalm 116(117), Gospel, John 20:24-29

### Tuesday 4 July - feria

10am Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 19:15-29

Psalm 25(26), Gospel, Matthew 8:23-27

### Wednesday 5 July - feria

10am Mass Agnes Ryan (Ints)

7pm Mass Ethelreda Forster (Ann)

Reading 1, Genesis 21:5,8-20

Psalm 33(34), Gospel, Matthew 8:28-34

### Thursday 6 July - feria

10am Mass Teresa Sequeira (Ann)

Reading 1, Genesis 22:1-19

Psalm 114(115), Gospel, Matthew 9:1-8

### Friday 7 July - feria

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Joan Finucane

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

7pm Mass Joan Egan (Ann)

Reading 1, Genesis, 23:1-4,19,24:1-8, 62-67

Psalm 105(106), Gospel, Matthew 9:9-13

### Saturday 8 July - Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday

10am Mass Tony Moran (RIP)

10.30am - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Genesis 27:1-5,15-29

Psalm 134(135), Gospel, Matthew 9:14-17

### Saturday 8 July - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Catherine Pitt (RIP)

### Sunday 9 July - 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Mary Corbett (RIP)

9am Mass Cliff Staniforth (RIP) (*St John Fisher, Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass People of the parish

11.30am Mass Tom Timmins (Ann)

6pm Mass Terry Mahabir (RIP)

Reading 1, Zechariah 9:9-10, Psalm 144(145)

Reading 2, Romans 8:9,11-13, Gospel, Matthew 11:25-30

## PLEASE PRAY

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for the minister and members of St. Marys, 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 John Bagge, Josie Dekkers, Denis Boyle, Gina Campaniello, Maureen Farrow, Josephine Fletcher, Joan Finucane and Ita McCracken (nee Gordon).

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Paddy Crowley, Joan Egan, Ethelreda Forster, Maureen Lerwill, Angela McCann, Edna McCarthy, Peter McGeeney, Teresa Sequeira and Tom Timmins.

### Forthcoming Funerals

Joan Finucane Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 10am

Josie Dekkers Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 10am

Josephine Fletcher Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 10am

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

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

Father, climate change is affecting all of us and especially those in the developing world where they are least responsible for its cause. Help us to see what we are doing to our home and give us the courage to change the way we treat it.

### Mass in Cantonese

Once a month at 2pm (15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 14 October, 18 November and 16 December) at Our Lady of Lourdes in Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3HJ. All welcome. For more details, please see the flyer at the back of the church or email [cantonmassea@gmail.com](mailto:cantonmassea@gmail.com).

### 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 only). If you can help with Little Lights 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 from the Diocese of Westminster.

The [Wednesday Word](#) 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."