



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 23 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 / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes... As many will be aware there are a good many care homes in St Albans and many of these are within our parish boundaries. For most people, going into care, as necessary as it may be, can represent a loss; a loss of independence, a loss of all they have known, a loss of the communities they have been a part of. Family and friends cannot always fill the gap. Indeed, a sad fact of living in St Albans is that it's not always possible for children to settle close by.

If you have had a relative or friend in care, you will know that some people have no visitors at all, day after day, week after week. And you will also know how a visit can transform a day, if not a week, for those in care. If you feel you could be a listening friend, an expression of our concern for those in residential care, please contact Anne on 07821 726357. Practical support with the do's and don'ts of visiting will be offered, and if desired, you will be accompanied for the initial visit. The length and frequency of visits will be determined by what you are able to offer. All visitors will need to complete the required safeguarding checks.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation Programmes 2023/24 There will be open meetings, for those who could not attend this last week's meetings, at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12 September in the hall for the parents of children starting years 2 & 3 this coming September and at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 September in the parish centre for parents of children starting year 9 & 10 this coming September. These meetings will outline those proposed changes to the FHC and Confirmation programmes, as highlighted in last's week's bulletin and weekend masses, and shared in parent meetings this week, and to answer further questions you may have.

Catholicism Course Part 2 From Wednesday 4 October 10.45am and Thursday 5 October 7.45pm for six weekly 90 minute sessions, with a break at half term. It is hoped 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. Light refreshments provided - Wednesdays: biscuits and cakes; Thursdays: soup and a roll. Cost: £10 including study guide for new registrations. No cost for those who have attended Part 1 of the course. Please email the parish office on stalbens@rcdow.org.uk to register. Payment on registration please by [bank transfer](#) using the reference 'AFF/<NAME>' or a marked envelope through the door. Please see our [website](#) for full details.

Enquiry If you are an adult who has never been baptised, have been baptised in another Christian tradition but would like to find out more about Catholicism, or you were baptised Catholic and were never confirmed, then **Enquiry** could be the group for you. Beginning in September the group will meet on a weekly basis to reflect on the Sunday Scripture and explore the Catholic Faith. If you would like to find out more please speak with Fr Michael or contact him at michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk.

Newsletter This weekend's bulletin will be the last before the summer break. The first newsletter after the summer will appear the weekend of 2/3 September.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer (JPIC) We pray for all who live in fear, for all who have fallen victim to hatred and inhumanity. May they come to know your healing peace.

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: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.

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 with your name and parents' email address to contact going forward. If a musician please state your instrument and approximate grade. The next mass is on 1 October at 6pm.

Monthly 9.30am Family Mass on the last Sunday of the month. On the last Sunday of each month here 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.

Bike locks, helmets and lights wanted For asylum seekers in Ardmore House. They have bikes and training bikes and training but desperately need more equipment. Please contact David Markham on 07543 400650 if you can help.

Cafod Fix The Food System Campaign: Thanks to the 291 parishioners who signed CAFOD's Letter/petition. We will also be receiving signed letters from local schools. Cafod will continue to run the campaign until the end of September so if you missed the letter please click [here](#) where you will find information and a preprinted letter which you can easily email to the Head of the World Bank. If you wish to be kept informed about developments on Live Simply issues and are not yet on our mailing list please email marytharber@gmail.com.

PARISH GROUPS AND EVENTS

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

Faith and Family Group The 'Faith & Family group' meets in the parish hall on the first Tuesday of each month (not August) 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 after 10am Mass each Monday. All welcome. Please note there are no coffees /teas after mass on Monday 24 July.

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 1 and 15 August. We meet in the Parish Centre 2.15-4pm and all are welcome to join us.

C.W.L Tea Party Thursday 3 August Starting at 3pm at 7 Cunningham Ave. All welcome members, visitors and guests, cost £5.

Witness at the St Albans Peace Obelisk - 6 August Please join us at our town's Peace Obelisk to remember the loss in Hiroshima and Nagasaki from nuclear bombs in 1945. Japan sent St Albans the Peace Obelisk, which is at the corner of Holywell Hill and Sumpter Yard, where we shall gather at 2:50 pm for 30 min of prayer and reflection.

Fairtrade Our parish Fairtrade stall will be running as usual during the summer. All Masses at the church on the weekend of 5/6 August, at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 13 August and at all Masses at the church over the weekend of 2/3 September. Please try to spare a few moments to look at the stall: we sell a wide range of goods from around the world and all of it helps people live a more dignified life either directly through the sale itself or via CAFOD who receive all our profits.

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.

BINGO - Many, many thanks for wonderful support for our recent Bingo evening. A total of £250.00 has been raised for the SVP at St. Barts,. They are very grateful. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 8 September.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

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.

World Youth Day (WYD) 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](#).

Young Adults Formation The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW) is offering an opportunity to Catholic men and women aged 18 - 35 to live alongside their community in Norfolk for a week this summer. As well as joining community prayers, meals and activities, young adults will receive formation on topics such Prayer, Scripture, Discernment and the Spirituality of Walsingham. There are two choices of dates: 14 - 21 August or 30 August - 6 September. To find out more, please email freetobe@walsinghamcommunity.org by 31 July.

Catholic Worker Farm Music Festival 25 - 28 August Beautiful setting by a lake with amazing free activities for kids including swimming pool, bouncy castle, trampoline etc. Great food / real ales at affordable prices. Sit, eat, drink, relax and enjoy live music; while supporting female asylum seekers / refugees. Camp all four days for just £50/£25 kids. Or per day £15/£7.50 - [website here](#)

World Youth Day Summer Picnic: 2 September Join Westminster Youth Ministry on 2 September for a taste of Lisbon at their Summer Picnic. This event is aimed at any young person (12-35) in the Diocese who wasn't able to make it to World Youth Day. It will explore the theme for World Youth Day, 'Mary arose and went with haste', with workshops activities, testimonies and Mass with Bishop Paul McAleenan. Sign up [here](#). Please note, for Safeguarding reasons any young person 12-16 year old will need to be accompanied either by a parent or by a group leader of a parish/school group. For 16-18 year olds additional sign up requirements are in place.

MARCH FOR LIFE London Saturday 2 September From 1.30pm (with stalls and events in the morning). Abortion destroys the most fundamental freedom, the freedom to live and leaves so many women and men deeply hurting. Join thousands of others at this family-friendly event to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Full details [here](#) or ring Isabel 07773 501721.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 23 September This will be led by Cardinal Vincent and the Auxiliary Bishops. The theme of the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage is 'Mary, Mother of the Home'. Please see the poster in the porch for more details or email parish office.

Travel to Walsingham with Westminster Youth Ministry: 23 September Westminster Youth Ministry is taking a

group of 45 young people (16-25) by coach to Walsingham as part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage on 23 September. The coach leaves at 7am from Westminster Cathedral, and should return around 8pm. The cost is £35, which includes the pilgrimage contribution. Bookings are open until 16 September, so sign up [here](#). For questions, please email Ola from our Outreach Team at youth@rcdow.org.uk.

Hands Together Tiplang Project A registered charity run by three parishioners to support the education & healthcare in the Nepalese village of Tiplang & its surroundings www.handstogether.org.uk. Please would you consider raising money for free by signing up to www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Shop online as usual, select the charity and the company will give it a donation. It costs you nothing !

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 masses can be booked a year in advance and the next masses available for booking are in January / February 2024** Intentions may have to be moved with little notice to accommodate funerals. The suggested diocesan donation, which contributes to the stipends of the priests of our parish, 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 22 July - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Richard Field (RIP)

Sunday 23 July - 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Mgr. Canon James Cronin (Ints)

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

9.30am Mass Mary Davis (RIP)

11.30am Mass Sr Francis (RIP)

6pm Mass Eileen Walsh, Fergus Walsh and Ursula Coleman (RIP)

Reading 1, Wisdom 12:13,16-19, Psalm 85(86)

Reading 2, Romans 8:26-27, Gospel, Matthew 13:24-30

Monday 24 July - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Ita McCracken

7pm Mass Kevin Farrell (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 14:5-18

Psalm Exodus 15, Gospel, Matthew 12:38-42

Tuesday 25 July - ST JAMES

10am Mass Rita Walsh (Ints)

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

Psalm 125(126), Gospel, Matthew 20:20-28

Wednesday 26 July - Ss Joachim and Anne

10am Funeral Mass for Janita Flory Raymond

7pm Mass Michael Fivey (RIP)

Reading 1, Ecclesiasticus 44:1,10-15

Psalm 131(132), Gospel, Matthew 13:16-17

Thursday 27 July - feria

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Margaret Burke

Reading 1, Exodus 19:1-2,9-11,16-20

Psalm Daniel 3, Gospel, Matthew 13:10-17

Friday 28 July - feria

11am Funeral Mass for Thomas Bradbury

7pm Mass Vincent Johnson (Ints)

Reading 1, Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 18(19), Gospel, Matthew 13:18-23

On Fridays Mass is celebrated at St Albans Cathedral at Noon

Saturday 29 July - Ss Martha, Mary and Lazarus

10am Mass Mary Steele (Ann)

10.30am - 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, 1 John 4:7-16

Psalm 33(34), Gospel, Luke 10:38-42

Saturday 29 July - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Colm Feeney (RIP)

Sunday 30 July - 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the Parish

9am Mass Andy Finch (Ann) (*St John Fisher, Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass Liam Walsh (RIP)

11.30am Mass Pat Bambury (RIP)

6pm Mass Jimmy Flavin (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 Kings 3:5,7-12, Psalm 118(119)

Reading 2, Romans 8:28-30, Gospel, Matthew 13:44-52

PLEASE PRAY

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for minister and members of Park Street Baptist 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 Theresa Isatu Bangura, Margaret Burke, Josie Dekkers, Josephine Fletcher, Fr Mark Leenane, Ita McCracken (nee Gordon) and Janita Flory Raymond.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Paddy Chronnell, Richard Field, Andy Finch, Jimmy Flavin, Patrick Keegan, Mary Steele, and Tom Timmins.

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

Forthcoming Funerals

Ita McCracken - Monday 24 July at 10am

Janita Flory Raymond - Wednesday 26 July at 10am

Margaret Burke - Thursday 27 July at 10am

Thomas Bradbury - Friday 28 July at 11am

Mass in Cantonese

Once a month at 2pm (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.

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 Laura via laura.cox.london@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."