



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 1 OCTOBER 2023



Contactless Giving

Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Boy - Assistant Priest: Fr John Casey

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

Fr Michael writes.... The Parish Pastoral Council met during the week. In the first part of our meeting Joan Egenes, our catechetical co-ordinator, shared with us an update on Family in Faith, our revised approach to Sacramental Preparation, which begins over this weekend. Please keep the families participating in Family in Faith in your prayers, as well as the young people participating in Family in Faith Youth who will be discerning, with the support of their families and catechists, whether to go forward for Confirmation.

The PPC also reflected on the launch of the Building Fund Appeal and in particular the plans for the extended church porch and refurbished forecourt. (These are displayed in the Church Porch.) The PPC felt it would be helpful to emphasise two points. First, a significant amount of the work to be undertaken is being done to address existing issues. For example, the brickwork on the front wall is blown in a number of places, while the lighting of the church forecourt and steps is poor. Indeed, parts of the flat roofing over the presbytery have failed and are letting in water, while the glazing in many of the presbytery windows has failed. Secondly, the PPC felt it important to stress that the Building Fund Appeal is not subject to any diocesan levy and that **all** the money given to the Building Fund Appeal will be used to fund the development of the parish complex.

You Can Be Santa Voucher Scheme This year, You Can Be Santa will run once again as a voucher scheme. As always, the aim of YCBS is to help children/families who may not otherwise enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. The feedback from families who took part last year was very positive. They were very thankful for the generosity of the Parish. If you are aware of families within the Parish who may appreciate being a part of the scheme, please mention it to them. Encourage them to contact YCBS by emailing stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk with their full contact details. Assure them that all contact details will be kept in confidence and in accordance with data protection requirements. We will be appealing for voucher donations in the next couple of weeks and will be asking for vouchers (in £5, £10 & £20 denominations) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos, Amazon & One4All. For more information please email stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk.

Aren't We Fortunate that in our part of Hertfordshire we have such an outstanding and historical building as St. Albans Abbey/Cathedral. Founded in the 8th Century, it is the Shrine of Britain's first saint and martyr and is the oldest site of continuous Christian worship in this country. Another significant feature of the life of this Church of England Cathedral is that Catholic Mass is celebrated there every week. There is no other example of this anywhere in the UK. It has taken place ever since 1983 every Friday. On Friday 13 October at 12noon a special Mass will be celebrated to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Catholic Mass at the Cathedral. Do think about taking the opportunity to be present on this significant occasion. On Sunday 15 October there will be a Solemn Evensong celebrating the Cathedral's ecumenical relationships with other churches in our part of Hertfordshire. Refreshments will follow. You are warmly invited to both.

Primary, Secondary and Nursery School Certificates of Catholic Practice For those parents and guardians who need to obtain a certificate of Catholic Practice to accompany their child's application for a school or nursery place, Fr Michael will be available at the presbytery at the following times to sign school forms.

- Friday 20 October 3.30 - 6.00pm and Wednesday 25 October 7.30pm - 9.00pm
- Tuesday 31 October 3.30 - 6.00pm and Wednesday 8 November 7.30pm - 9.00pm
- Wednesday 13 December 3.30 - 6.00pm and Tuesday 9 January 3.30 - 6.00pm

Please be conscious that upwards of 100 families could be looking for school forms and you endeavouring to make one of the following times would be much appreciated. No appointment is necessary and children need not attend.

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

Family in Faith and Family in Faith (Youth) Programmes

Please contact Joan Egenes, our catechetical coordinator, at stalbanscc@rcdow.org.uk, for any questions about these sacramental preparation programmes for our young people which begin this weekend.

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 but never confirmed, then Enquiry could be the group for you. 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 to or email Fr Michael.

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.

There is no Children's Liturgy on the last Sunday of each month. Instead, the children are invited to sit on the carpet at the front of the church while the Mass itself is geared towards their participation. There is a short social afterwards and we need volunteers to help. If you can help please speak with Deacon Brendan.

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is on Saturday 14 October at 11.30am. To register or to arrange a date for baptism please collect a form from Fr Michael or Fr John 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 later in 2023 or 2024 please email 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.

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.

Creation Prayer Walk 1 October 3pm-5-30pm It would be wonderful if you could join with Christians from different churches for all or a part of the walk which will begin at 3pm at the Cathedral Holm Oak in Sumpter Yard. The walk will take in a visit to the pet blessing in the Cathedral at 3.15pm, a prayer for water purity by the Verulam Lakes at 3.40pm, a prayer for bio-diversity at Grebe House Wildlife Garden 3.50pm and a prayer for justice like a river at the River Ver at 4.10pm. The walk will conclude at Marlborough Road Methodist Church with Evensong at 5pm. Timings are very approximate. There's about an hour of walking and an hour of prayer/pausing. The weather could force changes - please pray for good weather!
<https://ctstalbans.org.uk/event/creation-prayer-walk>

Fairtrade Our monthly Fairtrade stall will be open after all Masses this Sunday 1 October and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 8 October. We have our usual range of chocolate, dried fruit and preserves as well as tea and coffee. From October we add Christmas cards and Advent calendars. All profits go to support Cafod.

Recycling As part of our 'Live Simply' initiative for the Season of Creation, there will be a box in the church porch from 1-15 October, for collecting unwanted household items to raise money for CAFOD and Mary's Meals. Wanted: Jewellery, watches, used stamps, foreign and old bank notes / coins, mobile phones, cameras, sat navs, gaming devices, iPods / MP3s, tablets.

PARISH GROUPS AND EVENTS

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

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 are welcome.

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.

Men's football (ages 16+) St. Albans Romans, the parish football team are always looking for new players to join our team. We play on Saturday mornings (10.30am kick off), with home games held at St. Albans Rugby Club - Oaklands Lane. If you or someone you know would like to join or wants more information please call Massimo on 07378263965 or see our website www.stalbansromans.com

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.

Building Fund Appeal There will be two open meetings this coming week. Monday 2 October at 11am and Friday 6 October at 7.30pm. Both meetings are in the Parish Centre.

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 stalbands@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.

C.W.L. Thursday 5 October 2pm Richard O'Neil will speak on 'The Papal Bulls of St Albans'. All welcome members, visitors and guests. Cost £3.00 incl refreshments.

Cafod harvest family fast day: Friday 6 October. You are invited to join in solidarity with those less fortunate by praying and fasting on this day. There will be a Cafod collection over the weekend of 7/8 October: you may wish to donate any money saved from fasting to the collection. Gift Aid envelopes will be available, as are QR codes on the Cafod posters in the porch. This year the focus is on much needed medical clinics.

Harvest homemade bread/soup and film event: Saturday 7 October Lunch at noon, film at 1pm. The parish Justice and Peace group are showing The Two Popes [12A, 2hrs]- a lovely film imagining how emeritus Pope Benedict and Pope Francis, both very different people, developed their relationship through their own human frailties. All are welcome. Free with donations to Cafod on the day.

Parish Friends Tea Party Sunday 8 October 3-5pm in the Parish Hall Join us for a great afternoon of entertainment with Vince who sings Elvis, Roy Orbison, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and many others. Everyone is welcome and lifts can be provided. Offers of cakes, drivers and help on the day would be appreciated. Phone Helen 07860 830340 if you require a lift or can help in any way.

Knit and Natter Group Our next meetings will be on Tuesdays 10 October and 24 October. We meet in the Parish Centre from 2.15-4pm and all are welcome to join us.

Men's Breakfast Saturday 14 October The theme this year is Christianity and science, how they strongly complement each other, rather than the popular perception that scientific advances undermine our Christian faith. We have a special treat this month as Peter Berners-Lee, one of our own parishioners, will be leading us in considering

how Christianity and science complement each other. We will meet in the Parish Centre from 8.15am for coffee, croissants and conversation, followed by Peter's talk and a discussion on the themes emerging. We will aim to finish by 10am as usual. For more details please email d4dstalbands@gmail.com, or come on Saturday morning.

OUR SCHOOLS & WIDER COMMUNITY

Loreto College are looking to recruit more Catholic governors. If you are interested please email swilliams@loreto.herts.sch.uk.

Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School We look forward to welcoming prospective students and their families to their Open Evening on Thursday 5 October 5.30pm to 8.30pm.

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 March 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 30 September – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass George Xuereb Brennan (Ann)

Sunday 1 October – 26TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

8am Mass Holy Souls

9am Mass People of the Parish (SJF, M'wick)

9.30am Mass Caroline Coggins (RIP)

11.30am Mass Patrick Curran (Ann)

6pm Mass Hugh Scollan (Ann)

Reading 1, Ezekiel 18:25-28, Psalm 24(25)

Reading 2, Philippians 2:1-11, Gospel, Matthew 21:28-32

Monday 2 October – The Holy Guardian Angels

10am Mass Sr Margaret Jones (Ints)

7pm Mass Deceased family and friends of the Steele family

Reading 1, Zechariah 8:1-8

Psalm 101(102), Gospel, Matthew 18:1-5,10

Tuesday 3 October – feria

10am Funeral Mass for Carys McGill

Reading 1, Zechariah 8:20-23

Psalm 86(87), Gospel, Luke 9:51-56

Wednesday 4 October – St Francis of Assisi

10am Funeral Mass for Maria Jose De Augiro Stevens

7pm Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Reading 1, Nehemiah 2:1-8

Psalm 136(137), Gospel, Luke 9:57-62

Thursday 5 October – feria

10am Funeral Mass for Fintan Bergin

Reading 1, Nehemiah 8:1-12

Psalm 18(19), Gospel, Luke 10:1-12

Friday 6 October – feria

10am Funeral Mass for David Carroll

7pm Mass Ruth Sullivan (RIP)

Reading 1, Baruch 1:15-22

Psalm 78(79), Gospel, Luke 10:13-16

On Fridays Mass is celebrated at St Albans Cathedral at Noon

Saturday 7 October – Our Lady of the Rosary

10am Mass Joseph McLean (RIP)

10.30am – 11.30am Exposition with opportunity for Confession

Reading 1, Acts 1:12-14

Psalm Luke 1:46-55, Gospel, Luke 1:26-38

Saturday 7 October – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Jackie Smith (RIP)

Sunday 8 October – 27TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

8am Mass John Green (Ann)

9am Mass People of the Parish (SJF, M'wick)

9.30am Mass John Murphy (Ints)

11.30am Mass Jim O'Neill (first anniversary)

6pm Mass Martin Brosnan (Ann)

Mass in Cantonese

Once a month at 2pm (14 Oct, 18 Nov and 16 Dec) 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.

PLEASE PRAY

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for all the members of London Colney 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 Fintan Bergin, Philip Burton, David Buxton, David Carroll, Helena Duckett, Chin Kin Fong, Carys McGill, Jim Naisbitt, Fr Liam O'Callaghan MSC, Fr John Roche MSC, Julia Rowland, Joseph Smalls and Josie Stevens.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including George Xuereb Brennan, Martin Brosnan, Patrick Curran, John Green, Mary Madden, Jim O'Neill, Danny Onn, Hugh Scollan and Christopher Small.

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

Forthcoming Funerals

Carys McGill – 10am Tuesday 3 October

Maria Jose Stevens – 10am Wednesday 4 October

Fintan Bergin – 10am Thursday 5 October

David Carroll – 10am Friday 6 October

Philip Burton – 10am Wednesday 11 October

Chin Kin Fong (Joseph) – 10am Wednesday 18 October

Jim Naisbitt – 10am Friday 20 October

Joseph Smalls – 10am Tuesday 24 October

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."

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

As we marvel at and contemplate (Mt 6:28) your Creation Lord, nurture in us an ever deepening faith in You.