



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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14 April 2024 - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Contactless Giving

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

Deacon: Rev. Brendan Day

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... Like most, if not all parishes, we are accustomed to praying for the sick and including the names of those who are sick on the lists of those to be prayed. Best practice, in terms of data protection, means that we don't include the list of those being prayed for on the website version of the newsletter, or call out the names of the sick during Masses which are streamed. We do however include their names in the emailed and printed versions of the weekly bulletin. From time to time names are removed from the sick list, but generally speaking it is a list that grows as people ask to have names included, but not removed when those concerned have recovered or are much improved. To help us manage the prayer list going forward it is proposed to include a sick person's name for 8 weeks and to remove their name thereafter, unless the request to have their name included is renewed.

Understanding the Mass 'One of the most basic truths about the Mass is that it is an encounter with Jesus Christ. Christianity is not a philosophy or a set of ideas, but rather a relationship with the person of Christ. In the Mass, in a privileged way, we meet Him, listen to Him, respond to Him, commune with Him' (Bishop Robert Barron). Join us in the Parish Hall as we walk through the Liturgy of the Mass with Bishop Barron on three Thursday evenings - 9, 16 and 23 May. Soup and a roll will be served at 7.30pm, followed at 7.45pm by showing the DVDs and discussion, and aiming to finish before 9pm. Everyone is welcome. Not to be missed!

Priest Training Fund Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 49 seminarians studying at Allen Hall seminary, 13 of whom are from our own Diocese. We also have one seminarian in Valladolid, Spain and one at the Beda College in Rome. There are also two on a propaedeutic year at Redemptoris Mater. Last year 3 deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. The Priest Training Fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Promise Envelopes The new Offertory Promise Envelopes are now available for collection from the presbytery. We cannot leave them on open display because the labels include personal data. Please ask one of the priests after Mass on Sunday for your box of envelopes if you can't get to the parish office during the week.

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, as we cannot claim gift aid on your giving (25p in every pound). If you do not pay tax and gift aid is claimed on what you give, HMRC may seek reimbursement. If you have signed a gift aid form, your offertory or building fund donations need to come from a bank account in your name only or a joint bank account on which you are also named. The 2023/24 tax year ended on 5 April 2024 and we will be submitting our gift aid claim for 2023/24 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 Group Prayer Risen Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, comfort all whose lives are damaged by violence and hunger. Inspire all leaders to work tirelessly for the establishment of peace, recognising the dignity of every person. Give us the courage and generosity to share the resources you have given us, so that all may look to the future with hope. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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

Enquiry A group for those who wish to explore the Catholic faith further with the possibility of being baptised/received into the church or, for those of you who are already baptised Catholic, with a view to being confirmed. Please [email](#) or speak with Fr John.

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is Saturday 11 May 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.

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.

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.

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. Please [email](#) Fr Michael for details.

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

Marshalswick Mass Centre Volunteer Rota The Marshalswick volunteer rota is now available on the parish website. It can be found/downloaded by selecting 'groups' and then 'liturgy'.

St Albans Food Bank 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 the month.

Migrants' toiletries collection We need donations of toiletries, shampoos, deodorants and sanitary [towels](#) for local migrants. Please leave in the box in the Church porch labelled 'For Migrants'.

Building Project Update Our planning application, submitted towards the end of September 2023, has been successful. We are now able to progress and to apply to the Diocesan Trustees for their approval.

Thank you to all those who have made one-off donations and to those who have set up standing orders to donate to our Building Fund Appeal. The current total stands at £423,000. If you have a query about whether your standing order has been processed or you need help to set it up, please phone the parish office during office hours or email stalbans@rcdow.org.uk.

Please see the parish website for more information, including:

- Details of the three phases of work and their rationale
- Architectural plans and visuals of the enlarged Church Porch and refurbished forecourt
- 360 degree visualisations of the lobby & forecourt areas
- A frequently asked questions section, including the answers to questions raised about parking
- Details of how you can support the project, including bank details and a standing order / gift aid form.

OUR 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.

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.

Fair trade Our regular parish Fair Trade stall will be open after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 14 April. All profits go to CAFOD and the sales benefit those in the Developing World through improved wages, education and health. Your support is much appreciated and life-giving.

The Parish Friends Knit and Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays 23 April and 7 May from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Newman Association Saturday 13 April 10.30am AGM followed by talk at 11am. by the Revd. Joanne Kelly-Moore, Anglican Dean of St Albans Cathedral on her Church Journey from New Zealand to St Albans at St Alban & St Stephen Parish Hall. All welcome.

Churches Together Spring Forum 7:30pm Hatfield Road Methodist Church Wednesday 17 April 7:30pm - Brief AGM and 8pm - Ways to Pray. Prayer has never been more urgent. Three ways to revitalise your prayer in these times of tribulation. Everyone welcome!

St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery
We require a Breakfast Club Manager and a Breakfast Club Assistant to work each morning before school during term-time in our very popular Breakfast Club. The successful candidates must be enthusiastic, dedicated and have a nurturing approach to helping our children to learn, socialise, play and grow. If you feel that you could play an important role in developing the young minds and social skills of our children, and that you could help to provide our children with a positive and calm start to their day, please contact the school office and complete our school application form. Further information about the roles including hours and salary can be found in the job descriptions on our website. Closing date for application: 19 April. Interviews: Week of 22-26 April.

International Organ Day 20 April Please come along and join our organists in the Church organ loft between 3.30pm and 5.30pm as they demonstrate and explore the instrument, and play a variety of music. No previous knowledge of organs - or music - is required!

Vocation Day: 'Come and See' Saturday 20 April Men who are interested in exploring vocations to the priesthood or the permanent diaconate are invited to come along on Saturday 20 April, 10am-2pm at Our Lady and St Vincent, 243 Mutton Lane, Potters Bar EN6 2AT. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To register contact: Canon Roger Taylor rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Adrian Cullen adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk or call 07961 594725.

Clarence Park walk & picnic - Saturday 18 May All are invited to a short walk from noon followed by a BYO picnic from 1pm. Weather permitting. Suggested £5 donation to CAFOD on the day. Meet by the Bandstand. If you'd like to join the walk/picnic WhatsApp group e.g. in case of cancellation or changes - please email your phone number and name to grabecki@hotmail.com. Leave picnic/chairs etc with our group, stroll round the park as much as you like with friendly fellow parishioners and share lunch later. Ends around 2pm. All ages welcome - please supervise your own children. For more information, email as above. Arranged by the parish JPIC group.

Help Your Marriage Retrouvaille supports couples with difficulties in their marriage. The programme helps spouses re-awaken their love, trust and commitment. There is no group work or therapy. 14-16 June in Welwyn Garden City. Contact us on 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or www.retrouvaille.org.uk

The Alban Pilgrimage Sunday 22 June Join us for this spectacular celebration of Britain's first saint! With 12ft puppets and pilgrims re-enacting Alban's life and martyrdom through the streets of St Albans, all are welcome to join us on this very special occasion. Visiting groups from across the country and Diocese, and of all denominations are especially welcome.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 19 - 26 July 2024 - Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the [application form](#) or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve. All applications need to be submitted by Tuesday 30 April.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Mass Intentions Mass intentions can be booked by phoning or visiting the parish office from 9am to 1pm any weekday. Outside of these times, please [email](#) the parish office to request a mass intention. 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 up to a year in advance and the next masses available for booking are in September 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 £10 per mass.

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 hire charges and the range of facilities available.

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.

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 13 April - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Albert Antona (RIP)

Sunday 14 April - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Fintan Bergin (RIP)

9am Mass Holy Souls

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Bridget Ridge (RIP)

11.30am Mass Deceased members of the Moore family

6pm Mass People of the parish

Reading 1, Acts 3:13-19, Psalm 4

Reading 2, 1 John 2:1-5, Gospel, Luke 24:35-48

Monday 15 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Allan Healy (RIP)

7pm Mass Elaine Gatta nee Bagge (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 6:8-15, Psalm 118(119)

Gospel, John 6:22-29

Tuesday 16 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Margaret Parkes (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 7:51-8:1, Psalm 30(31)

Gospel, John 6:30-35

Wednesday 17 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Holy Souls

7pm Mass Fr Joe McLoughlin (Ints)

Reading 1, Acts 8:1-8, Psalm 65(66)

Gospel, John 6:35-40

Thursday 18 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Carmel McHale (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 8:26-40

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

Friday 19 April - St Alphege, Bishop and Martyr

7pm Mass Maria & Franciszek Frosztega (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 9:1-20, Psalm 116(117)

Gospel, John 6:52-59

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

Saturday 20 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Donor's intentions

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Acts 9:31-42, Psalm, 115(116)

Gospel, John 6:60-69

Saturday 20 April - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Kathleen Crowley (RIP)

Mass in Cantonese Once a month at 2pm at Our Lady of Lourdes in Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3HJ. Dates in 2024: 20 April, 18 May, 15 June, 6 July, 11 August, 14 September, 13 October, 16 November, 21 December. All welcome. For more details, please see the flyer at the back of the church or email cantonmassea@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 21 April - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Fintan Bergin (RIP)

9am Mass People of the parish

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Michael & Joan Finucane (Ann)

11.30am Mass Pat Bambury (RIP)

6pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Acts 4:8-12, Psalm 117(118)

Reading 2, 1 John 3:1-2, Gospel, John 10:11-18

PLEASE PRAY

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for all the members 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 all those who have died recently including Felicity French, David Grundy and Mrs Ruane.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Michael and Joan Finucane, Maria and Franciszek Frosztega, Elaine Gatta and Catherine Mannion.

Forthcoming Funerals:

Felicity French - TBA

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

FAMILY RESOURCES

Please join us at Little Lights (under sevens) and Children's Liturgy (seven and above) 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."