



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

7 April 2024 - SECOND 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... In the run up to Easter Fr John and I began meeting with those families who are a part of the Family in Faith and who feel their children are ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. I know I speak for both of us when I say that we have genuinely enjoyed these meetings. Not only are they an opportunity for us to get to know people better, they are also an opportunity for us to discern with the families concerned the appropriate way forward for their child. In the coming weeks and months the families who have asked that their children celebrate First Reconciliation will prepare their children for this celebration, working through a set of resources. Each family or group of families working through the resources will have the support of a volunteer catechist. Then, when they are ready, the children will come along on a Saturday morning during the usual confession time, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

For me one of the things that our changed approach to sacramental preparation is doing, and in particular the meetings with myself and Fr John, is embodying what today's first reading from Acts gives voice to. There we see the early Christian community working as one, as a unit, with its members accepting a responsibility to and for one another, so much so, that people were prepared to give over what was owned individually for the use of the whole. In other words key decisions about the use of resources and the way forward, decisions which touched people deeply and personally, were not arrived at unilaterally, rather they drew on the voice and insight of the community at large. In this there is a profound recognition that we cannot live out our Christian faith alone and away from the community at large; that just as we might have a voice in the life of the community, the community - which we understand to be the Body of Christ - might have its voice in ours.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25 May at 2:30pm

The Cardinal invites to this Mass 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 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please phone or email the parish office by 12 April with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email.

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. If you have stopped paying tax, 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 current tax year ends on 5 April 2024 and we will be submitting our gift aid claim for 2023/24 shortly after that. 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 God of new beginnings, in your ways are compassion and hope. Open our hearts to dialogue and understanding. Lead us all to answer your call to become peacemakers today, and all the days of our life.

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 stalbansec@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 stalbansec@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 all Masses at the Church over the weekend of 6/7 April and 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 Knights of St. Columba - an organisation for Catholic men. Consider joining? Come to our Meeting on Monday 8 April at 8pm in Room 1 in the Parish Centre.

Walsingham Pilgrimage The pilgrimage to Walsingham on Monday April 8 will be leaving from St Bart's Church in Vesta Avenue at 8am. Please could those who have reserved seats but haven't yet paid contact Rosemary Roscoe asap on 07723 546642 to confirm they wish to join the pilgrimage.

Mothers' Prayers We will meet in room 2 of the parish centre at 8pm on Monday 8 April in room 2. Information from office@mothersprayers.org. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome.

The Parish Friends Knit and Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays 9 and 23 April from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Migrants' Meal - Thursday 11 April - volunteers needed

We will be hosting another meal when migrants will use our parish kitchen to cook meals. We need volunteers to be present during the day. Volunteers usually stay from 11.30 - 2pm and then from 2pm - c.4.30pm but any time during that period would help. Volunteers do not cook; you will be there to befriend, help locate items in the kitchen and be vigilant re safety issues. To help please call Mary on 07976 277059.

C.W.L. 2pm Thursday 11 April Please Note: Change of Plan The talk by Father John, "A Journey of Discovery", has been moved to 2 May. We will meet as usual on Thursday 11 April at 2pm for a social meeting and book exchange.

BINGO Friday 12 April Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 12 April at 8pm in the Parish Hall, in aid of The Catholic Children's Society. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Newman Association Saturday 13 April 10.30am AGM followed by talk at 11a. 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.

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!

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 6 April - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Deceased members of the Sheehan and Guinnelly families

Sunday 7 April - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Joseph Smalls (RIP)

9am Mass People of the parish

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

11.30am Mass Jim Naisbitt (RIP)

6pm Mass Domenica Ribaldo (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 117(118)

Reading 2, 1 John 5:1-6, Gospel, John 20:19-31

Monday 8 April - THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

10am Mass Kevin Hickman (RIP)

7pm Mass Catherine Mannion (Ann) and Patrick Mannion (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 7:10-14,8:10, Psalm 39(40),

Reading 2, Hebrews 10:4-10, Gospel, Matthew Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday 9 April - Easter feria

10am Funeral Mass for Anna Truglio

Reading 1, Acts 4:32-37

Psalm 92(93), Gospel, John 3:7-15

Wednesday 10 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

7pm Mass Fr Liam O'Donovan (Ints)

Reading 1, Acts 5:17-26

Psalm 33(34), Gospel, John 3:16-21

Thursday 11 April - St Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr

10am Mass David Buxton (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 5:27-33, Psalm 33(34)

Gospel, John 3:31-36

Friday 12 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Carys Newton

7pm Mass Donor's intentions

Reading 1, Acts 5:34-42, Psalm 26(27),

Gospel, John 6:1-15

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

Saturday 13 April - Easter feria

10am Mass Desmond Chin Ah Sang (RIP)

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Acts 6:1-7, Psalm, 32(33)

Gospel, John 6:16-21

Saturday 13 April - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Albert Antona (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 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

PLEASE PRAY

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for all the members of Cornerstone 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 Helen Akua Addea, Fr Michael Daley, David Grundy, Mary Hodgson, Jean Mullen, Carys Newton and Anna Truglio.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Bishop James O'Brien, Kathleen O'Brien and Catherine Mannion.

Forthcoming Funerals:

10am Tuesday 9 April - Anna Truglio

10am Friday 12 April - Carys Newton

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."