



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**2 June 2024 – CORPUS CHRISTI - THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS**



Contactless Giving

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*We are a Fairtrade parish*

*Fr Michael writes...*

This weekend we keep the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ or 'Corpus Christi' as it is often called. As Catholic Christians we believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. We believe what Christ tells us when he says 'This is my Body', 'This is my Blood', do this in remembrance of me. For the Jewish people the remembrance of things was so much more than the recall of past events; more than this, remembrance was the way in which things are brought to life. In other words when Jesus asks us to do this in remembrance of him, he is telling us that this is the way in which he will be alive and present among us. Of course Jesus is present in many ways. He is present in the Scriptures, in the Word, that is alive and active, which – as Scripture relates, cuts more finely than any two edged sword, and he is present when the Body of Christ – you and me, those who have received his Spirit in baptism – gather. Wherever two or three gather in my name he promised to be there. However it is in the Eucharist that he is supremely present, for it is in the Eucharist, where the bread that has become his body is broken, and the wine that has become his blood is poured, that the Cross – the whole of his life and mission – is made present to us sacramentally.

We acknowledge the presence of Christ in the Eucharist in a number of ways; by genuflecting – going down on one knee – every time we enter a church where the Eucharist is reserved in the tabernacle, in the way in which we dress the tabernacle, and in the constant light which burns on every sanctuary. It is also reflected in the way in which we are in church, moderating our voices, our actions, even our dress, conscious that we are in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, in the presence of Christ. And yes, it is acknowledged in our reverence at communion when we actually receive Jesus; in our predisposition (our minds and hearts), in our procession to the place of communion, on our knees, with a bow of our heads, with hands made into a throne. All these are signs of reverence, an acknowledgement, that this is a banquet of real food; food that enables us to be the Body of Christ in the world, because we have received the Body of Christ at the altar.

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**7 June 2024 - Feast of the Sacred Heart: Living out the Spirituality of the Heart** The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart minister in more than 50 countries worldwide, with over 1,700 MSCs carrying on the legacy of their founder, Fr Jules Chevalier. They served in our parish of St Albans for more than 100 years. The Sacred Heart family has grown since its foundation in 1854, and now includes the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, and MSC lay associates. Their devotion to living in union with God's love, as revealed through the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is a shared vision with the Brothers of the Sacred Heart family across the world. Founded by Fr Andre Coindre in 1821, the community continue to minister in schools – including St Columba's College in St Albans – and in missions throughout the world.

**SVP and CAFOD working together in the run up to the General Election** As Catholics, we know that tackling poverty and injustice are among the most important issues politicians should act on. St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD have produced a guide for Catholics for the General Election, with suggested questions to ask candidates. Please see [www.cafod.org.uk/encounter](http://www.cafod.org.uk/encounter) or [www.svp.org.uk/encounter/](http://www.svp.org.uk/encounter/) for more information.

**Retiring Collection** Thank you for your donations to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal. Last weekend's retiring collection raised £1,163.78.

**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 8 June 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](mailto: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 [parish office](#). Permission from the person being prayed for, or their next of kin, must be obtained before being added to the bulletin. Those added to the sick list will be included for eight weeks and then will be removed, unless the request to have their name included is renewed.

**Recommissioning of Ministers of the Eucharist** We are very blessed in our parish to have many volunteer Ministers who distribute the Eucharist at Mass and to our housebound parishioners. Each year we recognise their dedication and invite them to renew their commitment to service. We will recommission our Ministers of the Eucharist at all Masses on the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi 2 June).

## OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

**Help wanted to welcome at Masses** We need more volunteers at each of our Sunday masses to welcome new and existing parishioners to the Sunday mass each week. This is an important part of how we become a parish that lives its Christianity through Worship, Welcome and Witness. To be a welcomer, you just need to turn up at mass 15 minutes early, and be ready to smile and greet people

with a hymn book and missal as they arrive for the Sunday mass. Please contact one of the welcomers at your normal Sunday mass to find out more or contact the parish office.

**Migrants' toiletries collection** Thank you to all parishioners who have so generously donated toiletries for our local migrant community. They are very much appreciated. Your consistent support of our neighbours is very kind. The need continues. 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'.

**St Albans Food Bank** Donations of non-perishable food items (cans and dried goods) can be left in the box in the porch. All donations are very welcome, but there is a particular need for long life milk, long life juice and tinned fruit at the moment. More details of the St Albans Food bank can be found using this [link](#). There will also be a food collection box at Marshalswick Mass Centre the first Sunday of the month.

## OUR 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 are also available after the 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.

**The Parish Friends Knit and Natter Group** We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays 4 and 18 June from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

**Fair trade** Our regular fair trade stall will be open after all Masses at church this weekend and after Mass next weekend at Marshalswick Mass Centre. Please try to spare a moment to look at the wide range of items on sale.

**Quiet Reflection and Taize Chants 7.30-8pm Wednesday 5 June** at St Mary's Church, Sherwood Avenue, Marshalswick. All most welcome.

**CWL Thursday 6 June** We meet for tea, refreshments and chat at 2.15 pm.

**Talk: Full speed ahead: the journey we need to travel ecumenically** Talk to be given by Bishop John Gladwin at St Bartholomew's Church, 47 Vesta Avenue, St Albans 10.30am for 11am Saturday 8 June. All welcome.

**BINGO** Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 14 June at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall, in aid of CAFOD - Sudan Crisis Appeal. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

**The Alban Pilgrimage Saturday 22 June** Please join the community at St Albans Abbey 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.

**St Michael's Catholic Grammar School - Open Evening for Secondary Transfer - Tuesday 25 June 2024** Parents and girls who are interested in taking the entrance tests for St Michael's Catholic Grammar School are invited to visit the school for a guided tour on Tuesday 25 June between 5pm and 7pm. Head teacher talks will be held at 5pm and 7pm in The Sports Hall. We have 128 places in each year and are historically heavily oversubscribed with girls who meet the criteria of Catholic girls from a Practising Catholic family who have made their First Holy Communion in the Catholic Church. Priority for up to 32 places is given to girls who are registered as Pupil Premium with their primary school. Full details of the Admissions Policy can be found on the School's [website](#) The online application to apply to sit the entrance tests for entry in September 2025 is now [available](#). The deadline for applications to be completed and Certificate of Catholic Practice provided to the School is 4pm on Tuesday 2 July 2024.

**Parish Friends Tea Party 30 June** Parish Friends are having a Tea Party on Sunday 30 June from 3-5pm. We are delighted that the brilliant group Diamond Years have agreed to entertain us once again. All are welcome to attend and lifts can be arranged. If you are able to offer a lift, supply a homemade cake or offer help on the day please contact Helen Bassill by email at [helenbassill1@gmail.com](mailto:helenbassill1@gmail.com) or on 07860 830340.

**Diocese of Westminster 'Love in Action' Volunteering Awards** To nominate a volunteer or volunteer team, and for more information, please email [cvs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cvs@rcdow.org.uk) or visit [www.catitaswestminster.org.uk/volunteer-service/awards](http://www.catitaswestminster.org.uk/volunteer-service/awards) Nominations close on 30 June.

**Parish Friends Outing to Bletchley Park on Friday 30 August** There is still time to book a place on the outing - please contact Cath White on 07961364922 or via email [cathfwhite@gmail.com](mailto:cathfwhite@gmail.com). You can also drop a note into the Presbytery marked 'Parish Friends - Bletchley Park'. We need numbers asap to be able to confirm our coach booking.

## 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 November 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.

**Offertory Promise Envelopes** The new Offertory Promise Envelopes are available for collection from the presbytery. 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.

**Parish Accounts 2023** A summary of our parish income and expenditure for 2023 can be found [here](#). Printed copies are available in the church porch. Please note that these results should be treated as a provisional Statement of Accounts, subject to the completion of the Diocesan audit.



## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Saturday 1 June - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Ellen and Thomas Lawless (Ann)

### Sunday 2 June - CORPUS CHRISTI - THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Cliff Staniforth (RIP)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Friends and family of Fertina Fernandes (Ints)

11.30am Mass Des Stack (RIP)

6pm Mass Lou Monte (First Ann)

Reading 1, Exodus 24:3-8, Psalm 115(116)

Reading 2, Hebrews 9:11-15, Gospel, Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

### Monday 3 June - St Charles Lwanga and Companions

10am Mass Gabriel Sequeira (Ann)

7pm Mass Ellen Small (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Peter 1:2-7, Psalm 90(91)

Gospel, Mark 12:1-12

### Tuesday 4 June - Feria

10am Mass Sr Joanna O'Brien (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Peter 3:11-18, Psalm 89(90)

Gospel, Mark 12:13-17

### Wednesday 5 June - St Boniface

10am Mass Richard Sumner (Ints)

7pm Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12, Psalm 122(123)

Gospel, Mark 12:18-27

### Thursday 6 June - feria

10am Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Psalm 24(25)

Gospel, Mark 12:28-34

### Friday 7 June - THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS (Diocese consecrated to the Sacred Heart 17 June 1873)

10am Mass Pat and Teresa Duggan and family (Ints)

7pm Mass Teresa Cahill (Ann)

Reading 1, Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8-9, Psalm Isaiah 12

Reading 2, Ephesians 3:8-19, Gospel, John 19:31-37

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

### Saturday 8 June - The Immaculate Heart of Mary

10am Mass Marie Noella Amadis and Marie Aline

Rangasamy (RIP)

10.30 - 11.30am Confessions & Exposition

Reading 1, 2 Timothy 4:1-8, Psalm, 70(71)

Gospel, Luke 2:41-51

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Saturday 8 June - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Des Stack (RIP)

### Sunday 9 June - TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Milly Yarwood (RIP)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Michael Doherty (Ints)

11.30am Mass Gina Campaniello (first anniversary)

6pm Mass Jeannette and Gerry Morillon (Ints)

Reading 1, Genesis 3:9-15, Psalm 129(130)

Reading 2, 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1, Gospel, Mark 3:20-35

## PLEASE PRAY

As we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart, this week we pray for the Brothers of the Sacred Heart and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart who have served in St Albans and continue their ministry of living out the Spirituality of the Heart throughout the world.

For all the Sick

*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 and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Teresa Cahill, Gina Campaniello, Ann Marie Comer, Ellen and Thomas Lawless, Lou Monte and Gabriel Sequeira.

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

**Mass in Cantonese** Once a month at 2pm at Our Lady of Lourdes in Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3HJ. Dates in 2024: 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](mailto:cantonmassea@gmail.com).

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer** Dear Lord, teach us to contemplate you in the wonder and beauty of all that you have made. Change our hearts and help us to challenge indifference and greed that leads to environmental destruction and the poverty of our brothers and sisters. Renew and inspire us to make choices for the protection of all living beings and our common home. Lord hear us.

**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 by emailing her on [laura.cox.london@gmail.com](mailto: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 these materials saying they bring "remarkable graces to many."