



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN
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12 May 2024 – SEVENTH 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 / stalbands3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059
We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes...

Last Thursday the church celebrated Christ's Ascension into Heaven at the end of his earthly life. In the Gospel for the Ascension we were reminded of how Jesus called on the Apostles to proclaim the gospel to the whole world, promising them that they would have the ability to cast out devils, speak in tongues, pick up snakes and heal the sick. In other words Jesus didn't jealously guard what he came to do, keeping it for himself. Just as his dying, rising and ascending into heaven paves our way back to the Father, to our sharing in God's divine life, Jesus invites his Apostles, invites us, to share in his earthly work.

This Sunday is World Communications Day. Established by Pope St Paul VI in 1967, the purpose of World Communications Day was to reflect on how modern means of communication help and hinder the proclamation of the Good News. The question and challenge for all of us is to use technology to the glory of God and the spread of the gospel. Not to make a God of technology, such that it becomes an end in itself, or to be controlled by technology, but to use technology and all the endeavour and wisdom that underpins it, for human flourishing and that glory of God - that proclamation of the Good News - which is humanity fully free and fully alive. As Pope Francis puts it in his message for this year's Communications Day; 'Human beings have always realized that they are not self-sufficient and have sought to overcome their vulnerability by employing every means possible...Each of these instruments, however, can be abused by the primordial temptation to become like God without God (cf. Gen 3), that is, to want to grasp by our own effort what should instead be freely received as a gift from God, to be enjoyed in the company of others'.

Parish Friends Outing We are hoping to run a day trip to Bletchley Park on Friday 30 August. Bletchley Park was once the top-secret home of the World War 2 code breakers. The approximate cost (coach fare, entry fee and tip for the coach driver) is likely to be in the region of £37 per person depending on the number going. If you would like to go, please can you register your interest no later than Friday 17 May by contacting Cath White on 07961 364922 or via emailing cathfwhite@gmail.com. You can also leave a note at the presbytery marked 'Parish Friends - Bletchley Park'. If you register your interest please let us have your name, contact number and email address if you have one.

Recommissioning of Ministers of the Word and of the Eucharist We are very blessed in our parish to have many volunteer Ministers who read during Mass and 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. Our Ministers of the Word will be recommissioned at all Masses at the Feast of Pentecost (19 May) and our Ministers of the Eucharist will be recommissioned at all Masses on the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi 2 June)

World Children's Day The Catholic Church's first World Children's Day takes place over the weekend of 25 - 26 May 2024. Children from around the globe, including those from areas of conflict and children of different faiths, are invited to join together as sisters and brothers. Pope Francis calls on Catholics around the globe to celebrate this event. "World Children's Day is an occasion to put children, who are the present and the future of humanity, back at the centre of the world's attention... It offers children the possibility to become protagonists through moments of prayer, friendship, and formation." To help schools celebrate World Children's Day, Mission Together has produced several free [resources](#). These include an introductory assembly, Celebration of the Word, Activities, Celebrating our Cultures ideas sheet, Virtual map Explorer Worksheets, and more.

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 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.

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 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.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

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'.

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.

CAFOD Pentecost Novena If you would like to join this novena between the Ascension and Pentecost click [here](#).

School Governors wanted St John Fisher Catholic Primary School is seeking to recruit Governors. This is an exciting opportunity to support our school community and play a role in a vibrant and collaborative Trust that is in the process of expansion and development. For more information please see [here](#) and to register your interest please contact governance@ascatschool.co.uk or complete the online register of interest form on the [ASCAT website](#).

St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Primary School and Nursery Teaching Assistant Vacancy Term time only (38 weeks per annum) 8.30am to 3.30pm, from September 2024. For further details and to apply online, please see [here](#) or contact admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk or 01727 866668 for an application form. Deadline: 30 May 2024.

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.

Fairtrade Our monthly Fairtrade stall will be available after all Masses at the church this weekend and after Mass on 12 May at Marshalswick Mass centre. We continue to add new lines, so please take a moment to look at the range we have available. By supporting Fairtrade you can directly help farmers and their families across the world lead a better life.

The Parish Friends Knit and Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays 21 May and 4 June from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Mothers' Prayers We will meet at 8pm on Monday 13 May in room 2. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from office@mothersprayers.org.

Salvation Army Events The Salvation Army, 16-18 Victoria Street, would like to welcome us to the following: Sally's Café - Tuesday to Friday, 9:30am - 1pm, Annual Spring Fair, 18 May, 10am - 1pm. Free entry, 140th Anniversary Concert - Saturday 1 June, 7:30pm. Hosted by Ss. Alban and Stephen church. Adults £10. Children Free.

Clarence Park walk & picnic - Saturday 18 May Everyone is invited to meet by the bandstand and join the friendly group walk from noon, 'Bring Your Own' picnic at 1pm and finish around 2pm. Leave picnic, chairs etc. with our group; walk as much or as little as you like or see if you can find Fr Tom's bench by the cricket field. Please check the [Parish News](#) page of the website on the evening of Friday 17 to see if the walk has been called off due to bad weather. All ages welcome and please supervise your own children. Suggested £5 per family donation to CAFOD on the day.

Jumble Sale 10am Saturday 18 May Proceeds to St Bart's HCPT Group - good quality jumble - lots of bargains - donations most welcome (but no large or electrical items, thank you). Please leave in St Bart's Parish Centre entrance hall, Vesta Avenue, St Albans, between 9am and 8pm on Friday 17 May. Queries to Barbara Bliss 01727 873672.

Christian Aid Week Market Saturday 18 May Churches Together in Marshalswick 10am - 1.30pm St Mary's Church Sherwood Avenue - Refreshments, Lunch, Live Music, Book, Plants, Cakes, Children's Activities, Fairtrade Raffle.

Good Counsel Network On Tuesday 21 May, the Vigil of St Rita, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com.

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.

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 October 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.

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.

Offertory Promise Envelopes The new Offertory Promise Envelopes are 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.

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 and report for 2023 should be treated as a provisional Statement of Accounts, subject to the completion of the Diocesan audit.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 12 May - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Annie Coakley (Ann)

Sunday 19 May - SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Christina Hunter (RIP)

9am Mass Joyce Eastham (Ann)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass People of the parish

11.30am Mass Sheila Taylor (RIP)

6pm Mass Terry Mahabir (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 1:15-17,20-26, Psalm 102(103)

Reading 2, 1 John 4:1-16, Gospel, John 17:11-19

Monday 13 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Jimmy O'Hara (RIP)

7pm Mass Margaret Mann (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 19:1-8, Psalm 67(68)

Gospel, John 16:29-33

Tuesday 14 May - ST MATTHIAS

10am Mass Abbot, Monks and Priests of Ealing Abbey (Ints)

Reading 1, Acts 1:15-17,20-26, Psalm 112(113)

Gospel, John 15:9-17

Wednesday 15 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Robert Falloon (Ann)

4.30pm Reception of the mortal remains of Felicity French

7pm Mass Kate Moran (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 20:28-38, Psalm 67(68)

Gospel, John 17:11-19

Thursday 16 May - Easter feria

10am Funeral Mass for Felicity French

Reading 1, Acts 22:30,23:6-11, Psalm 15(16)

Gospel, John 17:20-26

Friday 17 May - Easter feria

12 Noon Funeral Service for Colin Macdonald

7pm Mass Elizabeth Ingman (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 25:13-21, Psalm 102(103)

Gospel, John 21:15-19

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

Saturday 18 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Tony Moran (RIP)

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Acts 28:16-20,30-31, Psalm, 10(11)

Gospel, John 21:20-25

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 18 May - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Bernadette Sheehan (fiftieth anniversary) and deceased members of the Sheehan & Guinnelly families

Sunday 19 May - PENTECOST SUNDAY

8am Mass Holy Souls

9am Mass Arthur and Catherine Ball (Ann)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Thomas and Mary Miskell (Ann)

11.30am Mass People of the parish

6pm Mass Bernadette (Ints)

Reading 1, Acts 2:1-11, Psalm 103(104), Reading 2,

Galatians 5:16-25, Gospel, John 15:26-27;16:12-15

PLEASE PRAY

With Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for the intentions of everyone participating in, and benefitting from, Christian Aid Week.

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, Colin Macdonald, Stuart Pohler, Rita Prichard, Samantha Rodell and Sieglinde Wilson.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Arthur and Catherine Ball, Karen Brennan, Annie Coakley, Joyce Eastham, Robert Falloon, Eric Harber, Elizabeth Ingman, Terry Mahabir, Thomas & Mary Miskell, Tomasz Moller and Bernadette Sheehan.

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

Forthcoming Funerals

Felicity French - Funeral Mass 10am Thursday 16 May

Colin Macdonald - Funeral Service Noon Friday 17 May

Sieglinde Wilson - Funeral Mass 10am Wednesday 22 May

Samantha Rodell - Funeral Mass 10am Thursday 23 May

Mass in Cantonese Once a month at 2pm at Our Lady of Lourdes in Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3HJ. Dates in 2024: 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.

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. 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."