



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>

19 May 2024 - PENTECOST SUNDAY



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... Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Church and on birthdays it is common to give gifts to those whose birthday it is. In the sending of the Holy Spirit Christ sends us the greatest of gifts. It was the Spirit that hovered over the abyss at the dawn of creation, the Spirit that brought humanity to life as God breathed his breath into what was a lifeless form, the Spirit that enabled the Apostles to speak foreign languages previously unknown to them. Moreover, it is the Spirit that transforms bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ every time we celebrate the Eucharist. In the sending of the Holy Spirit, in the empowering unleashed by the gift of His Spirit, Christ demonstrates his fidelity to us - he doesn't return to the Father leaving us bereft and empty handed - he returns to the Father that we, his disciples here on earth, might be the workers of miracles, amazing and astounding those that encounter us.

As we look around the world today, the war in Ukraine, the events in Israel and Gaza, and the looming famine in Sudan, Christ's gift of the Spirit is needed every bit as much today as it ever was. Indeed it is in the Spirit that the divisions and inequalities that scar the world are overcome, for it is the Spirit which is the true harbinger of peace, which unites humanity 'Jew as well as Greek, slave as well as free'.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

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 cathwhite@gmail.com. You can also drop a note into the Presbytery marked 'Parish Friends - Bletchley Park'. We need to have numbers asap to be able to confirm our coach booking.

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)

Day for Life Fund Grant Applications for the Day for Life Fund opened on 1 May, giving organisations the opportunity to apply for funding for initiatives that promote the dignity of human life from conception to natural death. Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, has announced that this year's applications are now open. He encourages any organisation whose work strives to uphold the Church's commitment to protecting the dignity of human life to [apply](#). Bishop Sherrington "also encourages anyone who can to donate to the Day for Life Fund to ensure that this important work continues." He continued saying that as we approach this year's Day for Life on the 16 June, let us pray that we can receive the graces to better recognise the beauty and gift of life in the most vulnerable.

Lifting cap on free Catholic Schools Bishop Marcus Stock, Bishop Chair of the Catholic Education Service (CES), has welcomed the decision by the Education Secretary, Gillian Keegan, to lift the faith-based admissions cap on new free schools in England. Click [here](#) to read more. The decision paves the way for Catholic free schools to open, having previously been excluded under the 50 percent cap or 'rule' which would have forced schools to turn away some Catholic pupils. The decision is subject to a seven-week public consultation that closes on 20 June 2024. We would encourage Catholics in England and Wales to respond positively to this consultation, and make your views known using this [link](#).

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 The last of our three sessions is on 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

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 at stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

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.

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@ascats.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.

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.

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.

Migrants' Meal - Thursday 23 May 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 - 2 pm and then from 2 pm to c 4.30 pm but any time during that period would help. Volunteers do not cook; you will be there to befriend and help locate items in the kitchen and to be vigilant re safety issues. If you can help please call Mary on 07976277059.

Salvation Army Anniversary Concert The Salvation Army's London Central Fellowship Band will be marking their 140th Anniversary with a concert here at St Alban & St Stephen on Saturday 1 June at 7.30pm. All welcome. Tickets cost £10 (Children Free). Call 07887 768 522 or contact stalbens@salvationarmy.org.uk. Also available on door.

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 11.am Saturday 8 June. All welcome.

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 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 contact the parish office with 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 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

Monday 20 May - Mary, Mother of the Church

10am Mass Rose Kendrick (RIP)

7pm Mass Hilda Hedigan (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 1:12-14, Psalm 86(87)

Gospel, John 19:25-34

Tuesday 21 May - Feria

10am Mass Eric Harber (Ann)

Reading 1, James 4:1-10, Psalm 54(55)

Gospel, Mark 9:30-37

Wednesday 22 May - Feria

10am Funeral Mass for Seiglinde Wilson

7pm Mass McDonnell and Houlden families (Ints)

Reading 1, James 4:13-17, Psalm 48(49)

Gospel, Mark 9:38-40

Thursday 23 May - OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST

10am Funeral Mass for Samantha Rodell

Reading 1, Hebrews 10:11-18, Psalm 109(110)

Gospel, Mark 14:22-25

Friday 24 May - Feria

7pm Mass Sajish Kandaramath (Ann)

Reading 1, James 5:9-12, Psalm 102(103)

Gospel, Mark 10:1-12

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

Saturday 25 May - St Bede the Venerable

10am Mass Sheila Taylor (RIP)

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Ecclesiasticus 39:6-10, Psalm, 36(37)

Gospel, Matthew 5:13-16

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 25 May - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Margaret and Freda Clancy (RIP)

Sunday 26 May - THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

8am Mass Gerard and Declan Crosse (Ann)

9am Mass Patricia McCarthy (RIP)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass People of the parish

11.30am Mass Rita Caparelli and family (Ints)

6pm Mass Tom and Patrick Bagge (Ann)

Reading 1, Deuteronomy 4:32-34,39-40, Psalm 32(33)

Reading 2, Romans 8:14-17, Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for all the members of St Luke'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 Doreen Hawes, Colin Macdonald, Samantha Rodell, Derek Walker and Sieglinde Wilson.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Tom and Patrick Bagge, Arthur and Catherine Ball, Karen Brennan, Gerard and Declan Crosse, Eric Harber, Sajish Kandaramath, Thomas & Mary Miskell, Lou Monte, Dorothy Salisbury and Bernadette Sheehan.

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

Forthcoming Funerals

Sieglinde Wilson - Funeral Mass 10am Wednesday 22 May

Samantha Rodell - Funeral Mass 10am Thursday 23 May

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer Dear Lord, when there is war, let there be 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.

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."