



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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

26 May 2024 - THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



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 / [stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07976 277059

*We are a Fairtrade parish*

*Fr Michael writes...*

As you know from notices in the bulletin over recent weeks, we will shortly be submitting our gift aid claim for 2023/24. The good news is that we expect to be able to reclaim over £52,000 in gift aid this year. This is a significant amount of money and is a direct result of our parishioners kindly agreeing to gift aid their standing order, contactless, envelope and Building Fund donations.

The parish has been incredibly generous over the last year, contributing to both our ordinary running costs and the newly established Building Fund. Thank you! In recent months we have seen a number of new offertory standing orders being received into the parish bank account while a significant proportion of parishioners have also generously set up standing orders to support the parish Building Fund. This regular giving allows us to plan our finances and budget more effectively. Gift Aiding what you donate is a straightforward way of increasing the value of what you give without actually giving more. We can reclaim an extra 25p for every £1 donated by tax paying parishioners. Effectively, the government re-direct some of the tax that you have already paid and give it to the parish. So, I would ask every tax paying parishioner who has set up an Offertory or Building Fund standing order, to consider gift aiding what they give. It is an easy way in which the parish can improve its position without asking parishioners to give more than they are already giving.

Finally, please note that we can backdate our claim for up to four years and claim gift aid on any donations made in that four year period. So, please consider whether gift-aiding what you give is something you could do. If you have any queries about gift aid or about your offertory or Building Fund standing order, please contact the parish office on [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk) or 01727 853585.

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**CAFOD Schools Volunteer** Could you inspire the next generation and gain valuable experience of presenting to young people at the same time? CAFOD is looking for volunteers to visit local schools to present assemblies and workshops. Full training and support provided. Visit [www.cafod.org.uk/Volunteers](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Volunteers) for more information or contact Chris Driscoll at [westminsterschools@cafod.org.uk](mailto:westminsterschools@cafod.org.uk) or on 07776 493162

**MISSION NEEDS YOU! Missio and Mill Hill Missionaries: Volunteer required for our Parish** Missio is the Pope's charity for overseas mission. It helps God's love to be shared, supporting local missionaries working with communities all around the world that are poor or in need, regardless of background or belief. It also works in partnership with the Mill Hill Missionaries, Britain's own missionary society. Our parish reps or 'Local Secretaries' are the engine room of the work of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Missio's red collection boxes can be found in 200,000 homes across England and Wales. They play a vital role in the universal mission of the Church. One of the key roles of a Local Secretary is to look after the Red Box members in their parish, ensuring that boxes are distributed and emptied, as well as to facilitate the distribution of Missio's free quarterly magazine, *Mission Today*. As a Local Secretary you would not be alone! Our volunteers have the full support of the Missio team who will support you at every stage and answer all your queries. For more information see [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) If you would like to be our Local Secretary please contact the parish office.

**Retiring Collection** Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis - extreme hunger. This weekend there will be a retiring collection after all masses in support of CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal. Donations will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so that clean water can reach communities who need it.

**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 [stalbancc@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbancc@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.

**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@scat.co.uk](mailto:governance@scat.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](mailto:admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk) or 01727 866668 for an application form. Deadline: 30 May 2024.

**St Barts HCPT Group** Huge thanks to all those generous St Alban and St Stephen parishioners who donated to last weekend's Saturday's jumble sale. A phenomenal £886.89 [£100+ more than last time] was raised towards our 2025 pilgrimage, taking children and young people with additional needs to Lourdes next Easter. The next jumble sale will be in September. If you would be interested in coming with us on next year's pilgrimage as a helper, please get in touch with Phil Ahern (Group Leader) on 07580 060906 or by emailing [philjdahern@aol.com](mailto:philjdahern@aol.com).

## 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 over the weekend of 1 and 2 June and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 9 June. Please try to spare a moment to look at the wide range of items on sale.

**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](mailto:stalbens@salvationarmy.org.uk). Also available on door.

**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** Thank you for the support to our recent Bingo evening. The amount raised, including donations, for HCPT came to £150.00. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 14 June at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall.

**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.

**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.catitastwestminster.org.uk/volunteer-service/awards](http://www.catitastwestminster.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

[cathwhite@gmail.com](mailto:cathwhite@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 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 & 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

### Monday 27 May - ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

10am Mass Tina Everest (Ints)

*No evening Mass due to the Bank Holiday*

Reading 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:2-8, Psalm 116(117)

Gospel, Luke 10:1-9

### Tuesday 28 May - Feria

10am Mass Rose Kendrick (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Peter 1:10-16, Psalm 97(98)

Gospel, Mark 9:28-31

### Wednesday 29 May - Feria

10am Mass Donor's Intention

7pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Peter 1:18-25, Psalm 147

Gospel, Mark 10:32-45

### Thursday 30 May - feria

10am Mass Geraldine Flynn (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Peter 2:2-5,9-12, Psalm 99(100)

Gospel, Mark 10:46-52

### Friday 31 May - VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7pm Mass Our Blessed Mother's Intentions for the whole planet

Reading 1, Romans 12:9-16, Isaiah 12

Gospel, Luke 1:39-56

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

### Saturday 1 June - feria

10am Mass Adam Mougri (Ints)

*10.30am Confessions & Exposition*

Reading 1, Jude 17:20-25, Psalm, 62(63)

Gospel, Mark 11:27-33

## 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

## PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for all who worship and visit the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban.

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.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Tom and Patrick Bagge, Gerard and Declan Crosse, Ellen and Thomas Lawless and Lou Monte.

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

## Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer

Loving Father, you are present in the whole Universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all living beings. Pour out upon us the power of your love that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace that we may live as sisters and brothers, harming no one.

**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).

**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."