



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**16 June 2024 -ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



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

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*We are a Fairtrade parish*

*Fr Michael writes...*

There will be no 10am Mass on Tuesday of this week. This will enable Fr John and myself to join the clergy of the diocese at Westminster Cathedral for the episcopal ordination of Mgr. Jim Curry. Mgr. Curry is currently parish priest of Our Lady of Victories, Kensington and has been appointed by the Holy Father as an Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster. His ordination will mean that the Cardinal and diocese are supported by four auxiliary bishops, the remaining three being, Bishop John Sherrington, Bishop Nicholas Hudson and Bishop Paul McAleenan. Please keep Bishop Jim in your prayers in the coming days and weeks.

Thursday of this coming week is the feast day of St Alban. As St Alban is one of our patron saints and the patron of the city and area in which we live, we are allowed to keep his feast day as a solemnity and to celebrate it on the nearest Sunday. This we will do next weekend when the prayers and readings used at all masses will be those for St Alban.

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**The Alban Pilgrimage Saturday 22 June** Would your family like to celebrate the story of St Alban, Britain's first saint, by joining the procession through town organized by St Alban's Cathedral with other parishioners from St Alban and St Stephen? This is one of St Alban's great spectacles with giant sized puppets and music bands. Those joining the procession must be at St Peter's Church at 10.30am. The procession will walk through town and is likely to finish at the Abbey by 12pm. Children are welcome to dress up. Please email [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk) with the name and number of people attending in your family.

**World Refugee Week (17-23 June)** This year's Refugee Week theme, "Finding Freedom" has a focus on the Family. It encapsulates the profound journey of resilience, strength, and unity that we would all wish for our own families.

**General Election Hustings** Cathedral 7.30pm 19 June - Come and see the candidates and hear them answer questions from St Albans voters. The event will be live streamed. For more details and to post your questions, see [here](#). Special hustings on green issues The Maltings 7-8.30pm 24 June Come and hear the candidates answer questions on the environment.

**Register to Vote** Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) are encouraging all Catholics to #RegisterToVote before 23:59 on 18 June 2024 in preparation for the General Election. CSAN have launched a number of resources to help Catholics inform their conscience and navigate the political landscape at this time, find more at [www.csan.org.uk/general-election-2024](http://www.csan.org.uk/general-election-2024).

**Day for Life: 'The Lord is my shepherd - Compassion and Hope at the end of life'** This Sunday we celebrate the Day for Life. This year we focus on the theme of compassion and hope at the end of life as well as the reasons why the Church opposes the proposal to introduce assisted suicide or euthanasia. The Bishops' Conference has a dedicated section of their [website](#) on this topic. This weekend there will be a retiring collection after all masses to support the Bishops' Conference 'Day for Life' Appeal.

**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 3 August 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.

## 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 18 June and 2 July from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

**Good Counsel Network** On Saturday 22 June, the Eve of the Vigil of the Feast of St John the Baptist, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. This is the last monthly day of prayer and fasting for life before the General Election. An election which could well result in an even more pro-abortion government than we have currently had. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. Please invite others to join the day on [Facebook](#).

**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 25 June between 5pm and 7pm. Head teacher talks will be held at 5pm and 7pm in The

Sports Hall. 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 and Certificate of Catholic Practice provided to the School is 4pm on 2 July.

**Day for Life - Applications for Funding of Projects** The Day for Life Fund provides financial assistance each year to organisations working to support the Church's mission to protect human life from conception to natural death. Each year, the money donated by the faithful on the Day for Life is dispersed to organisations to assist them in undertaking specific projects relating to life issues. These can range from educational workshops to advocacy campaigns, practical support services to commissioning research. Applications are now open to apply for a grant through the [Day for Life Fund](#) and will stay open until 23 June. For enquiries please email: [dayforlife@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:dayforlife@cbcew.org.uk).

**Herts, Mind & Spirit 26 June** Panel discussion exploring emotional and spiritual wellness with local supporting charities. Free event. 7.30 - 9pm at St Albans Cathedral.

**Migrants' Meal Thursday 27 June - 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 2-4.30pm 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 07976 277059.

**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.

**Pro-Life Pilgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 3 August.** There is a Pro-Life Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 3 August. All are welcome to attend. Please see the poster on the notice board at the back of the Church for details etc.

**New Dawn Walsingham 5-9 August** A great conference for families and single people alike. Youth programme with talk on new Saint Carlo Acutis. Full details and booking forms on [Admin@newdawn.org.uk](mailto:Admin@newdawn.org.uk)

## 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 December 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** New Offertory Promise Envelopes are still 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 15 June - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Canon Jeremiah Cronin (Ints)

### Sunday 16 June - ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Des Stack (RIP)

*(John Fisher School Marshalswick)*

9.30am Mass Maureen Lerwill (Ann)

11.30am Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

6pm Mass Paddy Joe Hussey (RIP)

Reading 1, Ezekiel 17:22-24, Psalm 91(92)

Reading 2, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, Gospel, Mark 4:26-34

### Monday 17 June - feria

10am Mass Kate Duggan and family (Ints)

7pm Mass Alban and Peggy Brampton (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Kings 21:1-16, Psalm 5

Gospel, Matthew 5:38-42

### Tuesday 18 June - feria

*No morning mass due to Episcopal Ordination*

Reading 1, 1 Kings 21:17-29, Psalm 50(51)

Gospel, Matthew 5:43-48

### Wednesday 19 June - feria

10am Mass Chris Murphy (RIP)

7pm Mass Des Stack (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Kings 2:1,6-14, Psalm 30(31)

Gospel, Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

### Thursday 20 June - feria

10am Mass Donor's Intentions

Reading 1, Ecclesiasticus 48:1-15, Psalm 96(97)

Gospel, Matthew 6:7-15

### Friday 21 June - St Aloysius Gonzaga

10am Funeral Mass for Vincenzo Carini

7pm Mass Kathleen Bamford (Ann)

Reading 1, 2 Kings 11:1-4,9-18,20, Psalm 131(132)

Gospel, Matthew 6:19-23

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

### Saturday 22 June - ST JOHN FISHER AND ST THOMAS MORE

10am Mass Mary Mudd (RIP)

*10.30 - 11.30am Confessions & Exposition*

Reading 1, 2 Maccabees 6:18,21,24-31, Psalm 30(31)

Gospel, Matthew 24:4-13

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Saturday 22 June - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Thanksgiving Mass for Steve Pickard's fifteen years of Diaconal Ministry

### Sunday 23 June - ST ALBAN

8am Mass Christopher Small (Ann)

9am Mass Les Gomez (RIP)

*(John Fisher School Marshalswick)*

9.30am Mass Theresa Isatu Bangura (First Anniversary)

11.30am Mass People of the Parish

6pm Mass Deceased members of the Sumner and Cronin families

Reading 1, Ecclesiasticus 51:1-8, Psalm 123 (124)

Reading 2, 2 Timothy 2:8-13,3:10-12, Gospel, John 12:24-26

## PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for the members of St Marys, Marshalswick 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 Vincenzo Carini and Agnes Cloherty.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Kathleen Bamford, Theresa Isatu Bangura Maureen Lerwill and Christopher Small.

*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** God of our hopes and dreams, the love you offer always exceeds the furthest expression of our human longing, for you are greater than the human heart. By the power of your Spirit, make us dreamers of your dream for ourselves and for our world. Give us the faith and vision to make that dream a reality (Pope Francis: Let us Dream)

**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."