



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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23 June 2024 - ST ALBAN



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*

**Jubilee Year 2025** The Year of Prayer (2024), in preparation for the Jubilee Year, is well on its way and attention is now turning to the Holy Year itself. In this diocese the Opening Mass for the Holy Year will take place in Westminster Cathedral on Sunday 29 December 2024 at 12noon. The Closing Mass will take place, again in the Cathedral, on Sunday 28 December 2025, again at 12noon.

During the year there will be opportunities, in the spirit of the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope' to take part in walking pilgrimages. This is in keeping with what the Bull of Indiction 'Spes Non Confundit' has to say: 'In the coming year, pilgrims of hope will surely travel the ancient and more modern routes in order to experience the Jubilee to the full.'

Among these is a new pilgrimage route that has been devised between English Martyrs Church at Tower Hill and Westminster Cathedral, taking in places and saints connected with Catholic history and witness in this country and diocese. Planning is well advanced and more details will follow soon. There is also a Hertfordshire pilgrimage planned with a route from Hatfield to St Albans. Both routes will provide an opportunity to consider the deposit of faith and the ways in which we are called to witness to 'the hope that does not disappoint' (Romans 5:5). Neither of these routes will be arduous, but they will enable pilgrims to appreciate the themes of the year and the importance of pilgrimage as indicative of the Christian life and hope. There will be a 'Mass for Pilgrims' in Westminster Cathedral in November 2025, for those who, in one way or another, have completed one (or both) of these walking pilgrimages.

Another way the Jubilee will be marked is through study. There will be a five-week Lenten Course available for parishes to use in 2025 on the theme 'We Dare to Hope.' This will be produced by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and will follow a similar format to the previous course which ran in Lent of this year.

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**Peter's Pence** There will be retiring collection after all masses next weekend for Peter's Pence. Peter's Pence is the name given to the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church and for the relief of those most in need.

**Season of Creation** The Season of Creation is the 5-week global ecumenical celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home, starting each year on 1 September and finishing on the feast of St Francis, 4 October. This year the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation group are offering two ways of marking the Season of Creation whose theme is Hope and Act with Creation:

1. Reflections and prayers will be available for individual or group use.
2. The opportunity to discuss Laudate Deum ( Praise God ) the Pope's recent document on the climate crisis to people of good will, an update of his influential Laudato 'Si with two sessions on Tuesday 3 September from 7:30 to 9pm in the Parish Centre, and Monday 7 October (details to follow). Please contact Stan and Maureen tel. 765549, or Barbara tel. 860266 if you are interested.

**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.

**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.

**Pizza and Film Night for the Parish Men's Group - Friday 28 June from 7.30pm** The Parish men's group is holding a Pizza, Drinks and Film evening on Friday 28 June from 7.30pm. All men of the parish are welcome to join us and chat over a pizza and beer.

## PARISH ADMINISTRATION

We will then watch the recent film, Father Stu, which is based on the true story of an amateur boxer and his complicated journey to becoming a catholic priest. Any questions please contact [d4dstalbans@gmail.com](mailto:d4dstalbans@gmail.com).

**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.catitastwestminster.org.uk/volunteer-service/awards](http://www.catitastwestminster.org.uk/volunteer-service/awards) Nominations close on 30 June.

**CWL Meeting 3pm Thursday 4 July** Strawberry Tea at 7 Cunningham Ave, St Albans - £7. All are welcome!

**The Parish Friends Knit and Natter Group** We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays 2 and 16 July from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

**BINGO** Many thanks for the Support and donations for our recent Bingo evening. £150.00 was raised for the CAFOD Sudan Crisis Appeal. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 12 July at 8pm in the Parish Hall.

**Support for all those visiting the housebound and care homes** 10.45am to midday on Saturday 13 July. Coffee and cake in rooms 1 & 2 of the parish centre, Please come along for the chance to share experiences, joys and difficulties.

**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).

**Citadel** This is a highly acclaimed homelessness prevention programme Citadel running across Wales. It has had such successful outcomes in helping people to find and sustain a home, that it will be rolled out across England later on this year. Citadel utilizes trained volunteers to support people to find a home, and then helps them to maintain their tenancy. Each supported person is allocated their own volunteer who will help them with DIY and sourcing furniture etc.; help them to access training and healthcare; set up bank accounts and appointments; and settle into their communities - for as long as needed. They are now recruiting for a variety of roles in London, Hastings, Bristol, Cornwall, Sheffield and South Yorkshire - find out more [here](#).

**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 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

### Monday 24 June - ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

10am Mass Fr John Casey (Ints)

7pm Mass Eddie Shovlin (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 49:1-6, Psalm 138(139)

Reading 2, Acts 13:22-26, Gospel, Luke 1:57-66,80

### Tuesday 25 June - feria

10am St Alban and St Stephen Primary School Mass with Bishop Paul McAleenan

Reading 1, 2 Kings 19:9-11,14-21,31-36, Psalm 47(48)

Gospel, Matthew 7:6,12-14

### Wednesday 26 June - feria

10am Mass Jimmy McGilloway (Ann)

7pm Mass Sheik Fareed IlamTafajoul (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Kings 22:8-13,23:1-3, Psalm 118(119)

Gospel, Matthew 7:15-20

### Thursday 27 June - St John Southworth

10am Mass Paddy Joe Hussey (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Kings 24:8-17, Psalm 78(79)

Gospel, Matthew 7:21-29

### Friday 28 June - St Irenaeus

7pm Mass Donal O'Leary (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Kings 25:1-12, Psalm 136(137)

Gospel, Matthew 8:1-4

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

### Saturday 29 June - Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Paddy Crowley (Ann)

10.30 - 11.30am *Confessions & Exposition*

Reading 1, Lamentations 2:2,10-14,18-19, Psalm 73(74)

Gospel, Matthew 8:5-17

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Saturday 29 June - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Margaret Burke (Ann)

### Sunday 30 June - ST PETER AND ST PAUL

8am Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

9am Mass People of the parish *(John Fisher School Marshalswick)*

9.30am Mass Anne Green (RIP)

11.30am Mass Antonio Visconti (RIP) and Antonietta Wallis (RIP)

6pm Mass Mary Steele (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 12:1-11, Psalm 33(34)

Reading 2, Timothy 4:6-8,17-18,

Gospel, Matthew 16:13-19

## PLEASE PRAY

As we commemorate the Feast of St Alban, we pray for the intentions of all the members of Churches Together in St Albans.

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 Maureen Brennan and John Reed.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Theresa Isatu Bangura, Margaret Burke, Paddy Crowley, Jimmy McGilloway, Fr Jerome O'Hanlon MSC, Christopher Small and Mary Steele.

*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: 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, Look down with mercy on us and all refugees. Help us to be aware of the fears, anxiety, pain, sorrow, difficulties and uncertainty all refugees suffer, and to remember that we all belong to the same human family. *(Extract from CAFOD)*

**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."