



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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

30 June 2024 - ST PETER AND ST PAUL



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 John writes...*

It was never inevitable that I would be a priest. Certainly, my life has had many twists and turns, but here I am, celebrating my first year of ordination. On Monday evening, I gathered with the four priests ordained alongside me on 24 June 2023. We celebrated mass and spent some time relaxing together, sharing memories of our first year as priests.

What came through to me loudly and clearly was the great joy that there has been for each of us in this first year of priesthood, but there is also the awareness of our being a work in progress, that no matter how long we may have been ordained, there will always be something more to learn and to have; more humility, more charity. Yes, there is the grace and blessing of doing things well, but there is always the invitation to be more and more the voice and hands of Christ.

Together we make up the Body of Christ. Together as a community we strive to be the best people that we can be. Here perhaps we could take the words of St Teresa of Avila to heart:

*"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."*

I ask for your prayers that I will continue to grow in my priesthood and be more Christ like to all I encounter. Please pray for all our priests and also for vocations. "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

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**Catholicism Course** In October our Parish will host part 3 of the acclaimed three part CATHOLICISM Series Study Program by Bishop Barron. (Please note you can join the programme from the commencement of any part). To find out more information about the programme, please follow this [link](#).

- **Starting** Wednesday 9 October at 10.45am or Thursday 10 October at 7.45pm with a break for half-term. Light refreshments provided: Wednesdays: biscuits and cakes; Thursdays: soup and a roll
- **Commitment** - 6 weekly sessions in the Church Hall, each 90 minutes (plus 30 min preparation time at home in advance of the weekly sessions).
- **New Registrations** (i.e. only if you haven't already attended either part 1 or part 2 of the course) Cost - £10 including study guide:
  - Please register by emailing [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk) with your name and contact number by Monday 29 September.
  - To pay, either drop a marked envelope through the presbytery door with your name and cash or a cheque for £10 made payable to 'WRCDT - St Albans' or make a bank transfer for £10 using the reference 'AFF/<NAME>' so that we can identify the payments. Account name: WRCDT St Albans, Sort Code: 40-05-20, Account No: 21094696

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**Retiring Collections** The recent retiring collection for Day for Life raised £545.84. Thank you very much for your generosity. This week there will be a retiring collection for Peter's Pence.

**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 also baby wipes, adult toothbrushes, deodorants for women, bars of soap (they last longer,) and baby shower gel and shampoo.

**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.

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

**Fairtrade** Our monthly stall will be available after all Masses at Church over the weekend of 6/7 July and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 14 July. We sell a wide range of products, including many from poor farmers in war-torn Palestine. All proceeds from our sales directly benefit the producers we support, and our profits go to help CAFOD in their work in the Developing World.

**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.

## PARISH ADMINISTRATION

**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.

**A Day With Mary at Westminster Cathedral** Further information on A Day With Mary at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 13 July (9.45am to 5.00pm) is available at [www.adaywithmary.org](http://www.adaywithmary.org) or [here](#).

**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](#).

**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.

### **Catholic Job Opportunity To Work With Young People**

The Assumption Sisters from Kensington are now recruiting a 'Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry' to join their team based in London. (Closing date 7 July) Check out the Job Description [online](#). More details are also on our [website](#).

**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 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 Sch.Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass Anne Green (RIP)

11.30am Mass Antonio Visconti & 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

### Monday 1 July - THE DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRALCHURCH

10am Mass Noreen Donohue (Ann)

7pm Mass Ambrose Emezi (RIP)

Reading 1, Amos 2:6-10,13-16, Psalm 49(50)

Gospel, Matthew 8:18-22

### Tuesday 2 July - feria

10am Mass Kathy Fahy (Ints)

Reading 1, Amos 3:1-8,4:11-12, Psalm 5

Gospel, Matthew 8:23-27

### Wednesday 3 July - ST THOMAS

10am Mass Maureen Brennan (RIP)

7pm Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

Reading 1, Ephesians 2:19-22, Psalm 116(117)

Gospel, John 20:24-29

### Thursday 4 July - feria

10am Mass Anne Green (RIP)

Reading 1, Amos 7:10-17, Psalm 18(19)

Gospel, Matthew 9:1-8

### Friday 5 July - feria

10am Mass Paddy Joe Hussey (RIP)

7pm Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Reading 1, Amos 8:4-6,9-12, Psalm 118(119)

Gospel, Matthew 9:9-13

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

### Saturday 6 July - Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Teresa Sequeira (Ann)

10.30 - 11.30am Confessions & Exposition

Reading 1, Amos 9:11-15, Psalm 84(85)

Gospel, Matthew 9:14-17

### Saturday 6 July - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Deceased relatives and friends of Steele and

Davies families

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Sunday 7 July - FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Ethelreda Forster (Ann)

9am Mass Edna and Oswald McCarthy (Ann) (*John Fisher School Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass People of the parish

11.30am Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

6pm Mass Mary and Michael McDonagh (Ann)

Reading 1, Ezekiel 2:2-5, Psalm 122(123)

Reading 2, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Gospel, Mark 6:1-6

## PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Alban, we pray that our new government will rule with compassion, uphold human dignity and grant justice for all, regardless of race, gender or religion.

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, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Margaret Burke, Noreen Donohue, David Eldred, Joan Egan, Ethelreda Forster, Edna and Oswald McCarthy, Mary and Michael McDonagh, Teresa Sequeira, Christopher Small, Mary Steele and Winifred Sudell.

*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** On this Armed Forces day we pray: Almighty God, protect those in our armed services. Grant that meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of Justice and Peace to the honour of your Holy Name, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**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).

**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."