



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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9 June 2024 -TENTH 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 John writes... During the Sundays leading up to the general election we journey with Mark's Gospel. Jesus has already in the first two chapters, healed a man with an unclean spirit, healed many people at Simon's house, conducted a preaching tour throughout Galilee, cleansed a leper, healed a paralytic, invited a tax collector to follow him, challenged the Pharisees in a controversy about fasting – and again in a controversy over plucking grain on the Sabbath – and healed a man with a withered hand. Perhaps most notably, when the crowds pressed around him at the side of the sea, unclean spirits “fell down before him, and cried, ‘You are the Son of God!’” (3:11).

It is clear to those following Jesus that he is not using soundbites, not trying to grab headlines, but that he is working by God's power. Jesus clearly engages with the crowds with powerful teaching and a healing ministry. However, it's not all straightforward. The religious authorities have started to show up to challenge Jesus and have already become sufficiently worried that they have begun to plot how to destroy him (Mark 3:6).

As we know, the General Election is on Thursday, 4 July and the heavyweight boxers have begun sparring. The first TV debate has been shown and the analysis of who scored the most points is undergoing full scrutiny. However, amid all the soundbites and political point scoring, we could easily fall into the trap of not being fully informed. At a recent Council of Priests meeting, which I attended as a representative of our Deanery, reference was made to encouraging parishioners, before voting, to be aware of the following key issues, criminal justice, domestic poverty, family life and taxation, education, environment, international relations, human rights and peacebuilding, life issues, and migration.

President of the Bishops' Conference, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, is asking voters to be active rather than passive and to engage with politicians on the key issues. “You want to know what your candidate will think and say on your behalf when that candidate gets into Parliament,” says the Cardinal. “I would like to put forward a theme for us all to think about. How do we seek to construct a society in which families can flourish? That's the bedrock”.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) offers a [guide](#) to issues for the election, as does [CAFOD](#) working together with the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). These sites provide information on a range of topics from a Catholic Christian perspective, to help us ask key questions of local candidates and the parties who need our votes. Please ensure you are registered to vote by 18 June and have suitable Photo ID, which you will need this year for the first time. Our Gospel today clearly shows that Jesus is not out of his mind; Jesus is not filled with demonic spirits. Rather, Jesus has the mind of God; Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit - and invites all of us to be of the same mind and same Spirit in a new family as his sisters and brothers. Let us pray that our politicians will be mindful of those they serve, in making wise decisions for the good of their constituents and that they will be able to cope with the stresses and strains of public office.

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.

Day for Life: 'The Lord is my shepherd - Compassion and Hope at the end of life' On Sunday 16 June 2024 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. Next 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 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.

Fair trade Our regular fair trade stall will be open after Mass this weekend at Marshalswick Mass Centre. Please try to spare a moment to look at the wide range of items on sale.

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.

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.

Mothers' Prayers group We will meet on Monday June 10 in room 2 at 8 pm. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from, office@mothersprayers.org.

BINGO Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 14 June at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall, in aid of CAFOD - Sudan Crisis Appeal. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

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 stalbins@rcdow.org.uk with the name and number of people attending in your family.

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. We have 128 places in each year and are historically heavily oversubscribed with girls who meet the criteria of Catholic girls from a Practising Catholic family who have made their First Holy Communion in the Catholic Church. Priority for up to 32 places is given to girls who are registered as Pupil Premium with their primary school. 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.

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 or on 07860 830340.

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.

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 or visit 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.

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 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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 8 June - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Des Stack (RIP)

Sunday 9 June - TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Milly Yarwood (RIP)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Michael Doherty (Ints)

11.30am Mass Gina Campaniello (first anniversary)

6pm Mass Jeannette and Gerry Morillon (Ints)

Reading 1, Genesis 3:9-15, Psalm 129(130)

Reading 2, 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1, Gospel, Mark 3:20-35

Monday 10 June - feria

10am Mass Gerald McDermott (RIP)

7pm Mass Memorial Mass for Eddie O'Connell

Reading 1, 1 Kings 17:1-6, Psalm 120(121)

Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12

Tuesday 11 June - St Barnabas

10am Mass Sean Duffy (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 11:21-26,13:1-3, Psalm 97(98)

Gospel, Matthew 5:13-16

Wednesday 12 June - feria

10am Mass Richard and Christina Sumner (Ints)

7pm Mass Mary Miskell (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Kings 18:20-39, Psalm 15(16)

Gospel, Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday 13 June - St Anthony of Padua

10am Mass Eileen O'Neill (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Kings 18:41-46, Psalm 64(65)

Gospel, Matthew 5:20-26

Friday 14 June - feria

7pm Mass Leonard Steele (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 Kings 19:9,11-16, Psalm 26(27)

Gospel, Matthew 5:27-32

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

Saturday 15 June - Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Giovanna Pinto (RIP)

10.30 - 11.30am Confessions & Exposition

Reading 1, 1 Kings 19:19-21, Psalm, 15(16)

Gospel, Matthew 5:33-37

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

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches Together in St Albans this week we pray for the members of Dagnall Street Baptist 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 Agnes Cloherty.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Gina Campaniello, Ann Marie Comer, Maureen Lerwill and Leonard 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: 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.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer As the General Election approaches, we pray that all candidates will work towards a fair and Just society with the greater good as their goal.

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."

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.