



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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14 July 2024 – FIFTEENTH 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...

In today's second reading from Ephesians we are reminded that those sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit are called to praise God's glory, to sing if you like, of his deeds, and not least the grace of being his adopted children. At the same time today's Gospel reminds us that this same Father, through his Son, calls us to share in his work, sending out the twelve and sharing with them his authority, his power, over unclean spirits. In doing so Jesus tells them not to take anything with them; bread, haversack, coppers or spare clothing. As the adopted children of God we are called to a radical trust and to remember that our greatest act of praise lies in our taking up the invitation given to the Apostles and to the fledgling church; to do his work and not our own.

The bulletin for the week beginning 28 July will be the last published until September. During August an A4 sheet will be available showing mass times and intentions, readings for the week, names of the sick, recently departed and those whose anniversaries occur that week. This will be available on the website and emailed to those on the bulletin distribution list.

Sea Sunday 14 July Seafarers play a vital role, but they often work in difficult and hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This weekend's retiring collection will enable Stella Maris to continue its important work. Thank you.

Retiring Collections The recent collection for Peter's Pence raised £537.89. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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 stalbands@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

Pope says care for creation is an ethical and theological issue Humanity's abuse of nature requires a true conversion and invites us to change our lifestyles. Pope Francis made this appeal in his [Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#), to be held on 1 September 2024, which has just been published. The Day's theme this year is "Hope and Act with Creation," drawn from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:19-25), in which the Apostle explains what it means for us to live according to the Spirit, and focuses on the sure hope of salvation that is born of faith, namely, the newness of life in Christ. The message is broken up into nine sections, which all highlight our responsibility to take care of our Common Home. It stresses that, as Christians called to live in faith and charity, caring for the environment is "a task to be undertaken freely, in obedience to Jesus' commandment of love."

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 stalbansec@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

Thank you to pupils at St John Fisher School Pupils from St John Fisher School entertained members of the Mass Centre with a delicious home-made cream tea. There was great singing by Reception & Years 1 & 2. We were waited on by the School Council who took delight in making us feel very welcome. Thanks to the children & teachers for a delightful afternoon.

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.

Fairtrade Our monthly stall will be available 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.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

The Parish Friends Knit and Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays 16 and 30 July from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Two Migrants' Meal dates - Thursdays 1 and 29 August - volunteers needed We will be hosting a small group of migrants who will use our parish kitchen to cook. We need volunteers to be present during the day. Volunteers usually stay from 11.30 - 2 pm and then from 2 pm to c 4.30 pm 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 07976277059.

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.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham Saturday 21 September There are still some seats available on the bus going to Walsingham. All are welcome to attend. Please see the poster on the notice board at the back of the Church for details etc.

Season of Creation Could you possibly join a group to study Laudate Deum (Praise God), the Pope's second document on the climate crisis? The first of two sessions will be on Tuesday 3 September from 7:30 to 9pm in the Parish Hall. In advance, please read Chapters 1 - 3 of the document available on the vatican.va website. If you do not have access to the internet, we will provide you with CAFOD's 2-page summary document. Please contact us: Barbara 860266, or Stan & Maureen at grabecki@hotmail.com. The first of two prayer and reflection sheets on this year's theme of "Hope and Act with Creation" will be available on Sunday 1 September at the start of the Season of Creation. The second prayer sheet will follow at the end of September, with the second session on Monday 7 October (details to follow).

Welcome to 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.

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.

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 January 2025.** 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.

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 13 July - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Patrick Keegan (Ann)

Sunday 14 July - FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Cliff Staniforth (RIP)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Joanna and Marian Hoscilowicz (Ann)

11.30am Mass Michael Aylward (Ann)

6pm Mass Michael Feeney (Ann)

Reading 1, Amos 7:12-15, Psalm 84(85)

Reading 2, Ephesians 1:3-14, Gospel, Mark 6:7-13

Monday 15 July - St Bonaventure

10am Mass Teresa Virrueta (Ints)

7pm Mass PJ Conefrey (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 1:10-17, Psalm 49(50)

Gospel, Matthew 10:34-11:1

Tuesday 16 July - feria

10am Mass Richard Richardson (Ann)

Reading 1, Isaiah 7:1-9, Psalm 47(48)

Gospel, Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday 17 July - feria

10am Mass Rosauro Gregorio (first anniversary)

7pm Mass Vania Eyre (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 10:5-7,13-16, Psalm 93(94)

Gospel, Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday 18 July - feria

10am Mass Molly Alty (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 26:7-9,12,16-19, Psalm 101(102)

Gospel, Matthew 11:28-30

Friday 19 July - feria

7pm Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 38:1-6,21-22,7-8, Psalm Isaiah 38:10-12,16

Gospel, Matthew 12:1-8

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

Saturday 20 July - Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

10.30 - 11.30am Confessions & Exposition

Reading 1, Micah 2:1-5, Psalm 9B(10)

Gospel, Matthew 12:14-21

Saturday 21 July - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Mgr Canon James Cronin (Ints)

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 21 July - SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass James Ladley (Ann)

9am Mass Kevin Barry (Ann)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass People of the parish

11.30am Mass Des Stack (RIP)

6pm Mass James Papworth (RIP)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 22(23)

Reading 2, Ephesians 2:13-18, Gospel, Mark 6:30-34

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Alban, we pray for all members of South St. Albans Churches.

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 Esther Buckingham, Beatrice Greatorex, Carol Hunt, Hannah Hunt, Louise Hunt and Dariusz Markiewicz.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Michael Aylward, Kevin Barry, Michael Feeney, Rosauro Gregorio, Joanna and Marian Hoscilowicz, Patrick Keegan, James Ladley and Richard Richardson.

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

Forthcoming Funerals

Esther Buckingham - 10am on Tuesday 30 July

Beatrice Greatorex - 10am on Friday 2 August

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer Dear Lord, in this holiday time let those who can afford a break think of those who cannot.

Mass in Cantonese Once a month at 2pm at Our Lady of Lourdes in Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3HJ. Dates in 2024: 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.

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."