



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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21 July 2024 – SIXTEENTH 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

Safeguarding Lead: Mary Harber / stalbensg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes... In this Sunday's gospel Jesus invites his disciples to rest. 'You must come away' he says, 'to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'. As the schools break for the summer my hope is that each and everyone of us will take the opportunity to recharge; if not in the laziness of some sun drenched beach - with shades, book and suncream to hand, - then, at the very least, in that change of routine which breaks the busyness and sameness of things. That said, let's not forget, whether home or abroad, that Christ's invitation to rest, is not an invitation to neglect the way of life, or indeed worship, we are called to. This much we know from Christ's example. 'As he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length'.

Summer break The bulletin next weekend will be the last full edition published until September. During August, a one page version 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 also be available on the website and emailed to those on the bulletin distribution list. The parish office remains open as normal during the summer period.

Family in Faith (Journey to Reconciliation and First Holy Communion) and FIF Youth (Journey to Confirmation) Registrations for Family in Faith and Family in Faith (Youth) will open for the month of September 2024.

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 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

Working document for second session of Synod on Synodality Cardinal Vincent has welcomed the [Instrumentum laboris](#) or working document that will guide the second session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod to be held in Rome in October. How to be a missionary synodal Church is the question at the heart of the *Instrumentum laboris* that has just been published. It does not offer any "pre-packaged answers" but rather "indications and proposals". These regard how the Church, as a whole, can respond "to the need to be 'synodal in mission'". That is, to be a Church closer to people, less bureaucratic, where all the baptised are - within their different ministries and roles - co-responsible and participants in its life. For more information, please read the notice in the Church porch or see this [link](#).

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.

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 speak to 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

Fr Philip Miller's Silver Jubilee, Bank Holiday Monday 26 August Fr Philip will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Bank Holiday Monday 26 August with Mass at 12 noon followed by a reception in the hall to which everyone is invited.

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. 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 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.. More details of the St Albans Food bank can be found using this [link](#). There is also a food collection box at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 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 30 July and 13 August 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.

Fair-trade August The parish fair-trade stall will be available after all Masses over the weekend of 3/4 August and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on Sunday 11 August. Please try to take a moment to look at the items on sale. All proceeds benefit those in the developing world and all our profits go to support CAFOD in their valuable work with the poor and outcast. We accept credit/debit cards as well as cash.

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 by emailing Admin@newdawn.org.uk.

Fair-trade September: Date for your diary Our fair-trade stall will open again after all Masses over the weekend of 31 August and 1 September and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on Sunday 8 September.

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).

BINGO Many, many thanks for the tremendous support for our recent Bingo evening. Including donations, the amount raised for the St. Vincent de Paul Society came to £250.00. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 13 September, at 8pm in the Parish Hall.

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.

Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham 24 September The Vatican has granted permission for Our Lady of Walsingham to be celebrated as a new Feast in the dioceses of England, starting this year on 24 September. The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was established in 1061, according to the text of the Pynson Ballad, when devout noblewoman Richeldis de Faverches asked in prayer for inspiration so that she could carry out a special work in honour of Our Lady.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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 21 July - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Mgr Canon James Cronin (Ints)

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

Monday 22 July - ST MARY MAGDELENE

10am Mass Kathleen Fahy (RIP)

7pm Mass Richard Field (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 5:14-17, Psalm 62(63)

Gospel, John 20:1-2,11-18

Tuesday 23 July - ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

10am Mass Paddy Regan (Ann)

Reading 1, Galatians 2:19-29, Psalm 33(34)

Gospel, John 15:1-8

Wednesday 24 July - feria

10am Mass Holy Souls

7pm Mass L and A Dobson (Ints)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 1:1,4-10, Psalm 70(71)

Gospel, Matthew 13:1-9

Thursday 25 July - ST JAMES

10am Mass Alexei Navalny (RIP) and family

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Psalm 125(126)

Gospel, Matthew 20:20-28

Friday 26 July - St Joachim and St Anne

7pm Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

Jeremiah 3:14-17, Psalm Jeremiah 31:10-13

Gospel, Matthew 13:18-23

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

Saturday 27 July - Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Peter McGeeney (RIP)

10.30 - 11.30am Confessions & Exposition

Reading 1, Jeremiah 7:1-11, Psalm 83(84)

Gospel, Matthew 13:24-30

Saturday 27 July - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Guiseppe Realmuto (RIP)

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 28 July - SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Anne Green (RIP)

9am Mass Stan and Ken Phillips (RIP)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass People of the parish

11.30am Mass Edward Spriggs (RIP)

6pm Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 Kings 4:42-44, Psalm 144(145)

Reading 2, Ephesians 4:1-6, Gospel, John 6:1-15

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Alban, we pray for all members of Park 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 Esther Buckingham, Beatrice Greatorex, Carol Hunt, Hannah Hunt, Louise Hunt and Michael Thursfield.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Kevin Barry, James Ladley and Paddy Regan.

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

Michael Thursfield - 10am on Wednesday 7 August

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer

Loving father, we put into your hands all who suffer from injustice and deprivation. Give them your comfort, courage and peace that they may live with hope. Please inspire people who could help them. Lord, in your gentleness, hear our prayer.

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."