



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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28 July 2024 - SEVENTEENTH 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... This year will be the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th August 1945 when somewhere between 129,000 and 226,000 people were killed. As in previous years, our Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Group invite us to mark this tragic event and to pray for peace next Sunday at 2.45pm by joining with them for a short ecumenical service at the Peace Pillar in Sumpter Yard. All are welcome. This pillar or obelisk was presented to St Albans Abbey by the people of Japan in gratitude for Dean Thicknesse's condemnation of the bombings and his refusal to allow a service of thanksgiving and the celebratory ringing of the Cathedral's bells.

Mindful of all that is taking place in the Holy Land, the Ukraine and elsewhere in the world, our prayers for peace are as needed today as ever. Hiroshima and Nagasaki may seem a long time ago, and today's wars and conflicts may be hundreds and thousands of miles away, and we can all behave as if 'out of sight, out of mind' is a maxim to be lived by, but if anything the recent technological blip that disabled so many computer systems across the world is a reminder of just how interconnected the world is.

In the coming days you will see a series of origami cranes hanging from the consecration candles fixed to the church walls. These origami cranes have been produced for us by the students at Loreto College. The crane is a Japanese peace symbol and they have been hung around the church as reminder and invitation to pray for peace.

Summer break This is the last full edition of the bulletin 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

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. If you are able to help with the setting up of the hall on the Sunday afternoon or with serving drinks at the reception, please contact Geoff Miller on 07816 193944.

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.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

C.W.L. Thursday 1 August Please meet in the church car park at 2pm to go out to tea. Ring Sheila (01727 853100) for details.

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 cash/credit/debit cards as well as cash.

Sunday 4 August - Anniversary of the Hiroshima nuclear bombing There will be a short service at the Peace Pillar in Sumpter Yard by the Abbey at 2.45pm to mark this tragic event. All are welcome.

TAIZE - Gentle, Quiet, Chants and Prayer Wednesday 7 August 7.30-8pm at St Mary's Church, Sherwood Ave. Marshalswick, AL4 9QA.

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 Barbara 860266, or Stan and 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).

March 4 Life UK - a date for your diary: Saturday 7 September The march will start at 1.30pm from the Emmanuel Centre, near Westminster ending in Parliament Square. Please help to make this the biggest march yet. For more details please see [2024: Annual March Event Page - March for Life UK](#).

BINGO Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 13 September at 8pm in the Parish Hall. All welcome!

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.

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 There are still a couple of Offertory Promise Envelopes for 2024-25 awaiting 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.

Retiring Collection The recent collection for Stella Maria raised £609.92. Thank you very much for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 27 July - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Guiseppe Realmuto (RIP)

Sunday 28 July - SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Anne Green (RIP)

9am Mass Stan and Ken Phillips (RIP) (*John Fisher School*)

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

Monday 29 July - Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

10am Mass Anne Cosimini (RIP)

7pm Mass Adrian Jones (RIP)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 13:1-11

Psalm Deuteronomy 32:18-21, Gospel, Luke 10:38-42

Tuesday 30 July - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Esther Buckingham

Reading 1, Jeremiah 14:17-23, Psalm 78(79)

Gospel, Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday 31 July - St Ignatius of Loyola

10am Mass Joseph Cheetham (RIP)

7pm Mass Jim Durkin (RIP)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 15:10,16-21, Psalm 58(59)

Gospel, Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday 1 August - St Alphonsus Liguori

10am Mass James Davey (Ann)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 18:1-6, Psalm 145(146)

Gospel, Matthew 13:47-53

Friday 2 August - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Beatrice Greatorex

7pm Mass Michael Meer (RIP)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 26:1-9, Psalm 68(69)

Gospel, Matthew 13:54-58

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

Saturday 3 August - Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Paul Coogan (RIP)

10.30 - 11.30am Confessions & Exposition

Reading 1, Jeremiah 26:11-16,24, Psalm 68(69)

Gospel, Matthew 14:1-12

Saturday 3 August - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Kitty Houlihan (RIP)

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 4 August - EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Desmond Stack (RIP)

(*John Fisher School Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass Shaman Ratu (Ints)

11.30am Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

6pm Mass Jean Young (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 16:2-4,12-15, Psalm 77(78)

Reading 2, Ephesians 4:17,20-24, Gospel, John 6:24-35

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Alban, we pray for all members of St Michael's 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 and Michael Thursfield.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including James Davey and Laszlo Vjlaki (Lazlo Ulaki).

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

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."