



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Tel: 01727 853 585

E-mail: stalbands@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org

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

1 September 2024 - TWENTY SECOND 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 / stalbands3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr John writes...

This time last year I arrived in the parish as your new assistant priest. As I begin my second year as a priest, I am excited, once again, to be involved in the many aspects of parish life. The parish last year launched Family in Faith, aimed at families with children in Years 2-6, and Family in Faith Youth, aimed at young people in years 9 and 10. This was a new approach to sacramental preparation, one that I had never been involved in throughout my years as a catechist. This change, I believe, has assisted families to renew and rekindle their love for the Eucharist. Participation at Mass has been key to this deepening relationship and I am encouraged every week by the joy expressed on the faces of the parish children, who enthusiastically embrace the faith. The children are the future of the Church and it is imperative that we all play our part in nourishing them in the faith.

Over the coming days, many of our children will be starting new schools, or moving to secondary schools for the first time. This is a daunting time for them, as they seek to make new friends, learn many new things in class and forge out a pathway for themselves. Let us keep them in prayer and be mindful that they are not only pupils at schools, but members of God's family, part of this Christian community.

I would like to thank Fr Michael and his team, for helping me to feel very much at home here in St Albans. I look forward with enthusiasm to the year ahead. Each year our parish community continues to flourish because many people respond to their baptismal vocation by participating in many aspects of parish life. Maybe this coming year you might, if you have not already done so, consider ways that you might be able to respond to the various volunteering requests that are made, or participate in prayer groups, various ministries or social justice initiatives. Let us together make our prayer after communion our own: "Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord". Together let us continue to build community in Our Church.

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

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 14 September 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.

Family in Faith (Journey to Reconciliation and First Holy Communion) and FIF Youth (Journey to Confirmation) Online registrations for our Family in Faith and Family in Faith (Youth) programmes for 2023/24 will open via our website on 7 September and will close on 30 September.

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 always 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

Migrants' toiletries collection Thank you to all parishioners who have so generously donated toiletries for our local migrant community. 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.. 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 10 and 24 September from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

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](#).

Education Sunday Celebrated on 8 September, Education Sunday is a special day on which churches across England and Wales pray for all those who work in education, and pray for all those who learn. It has been celebrated for over 100 years. It is a time to think about how the Church can support education and a time to give thanks for the gift of education. A special prayer can found [here](#).

Mothers' Prayers Monday 9 September at 8pm in room 2. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from; office@mothersprayers.org.

CWL 12 September 2.30pm Holiday reminiscences. Tea and chat.

BINGO IS BACK - Friday 13 September, by the Knights of St. Columba, at 8pm in the Parish Hall. to support our Parish "Hands Together-Tiplyang Project" - that supports Nepalese communities in need. Admission is 50p, and everyone is 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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment retreats all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, the retreat offers a unique experience. It's a chance to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter weekend retreat, the next non-residential retreat is from 21-22 September 2024 at Church of the Annunciation, Burnt Oak, London, HA8 0HQ. Why not find out more at wwme.org.uk.

ECO Retreat - Online from October 24 to June 25 Would you like to save the planet but not really sure where to begin? This extended online retreat in daily life may help you to make a start, and to do so in collaboration with God and with other generous, but equally bewildered people, who desire to do more. This retreat will span eight months (October 2024- June 2025) and will invite you to contemplate certain realities and experiences to notice better how God is speaking to you personally through them and about them. There will not be any lectures or inputs by experts. Each month, there will be reading and prayer material for you to engage with and savour in your own time. This will be followed by an opportunity to meet online with a small group on the first Tuesday of each month to voice and to listen to each other's reflections that you might experience ecological conversion that finds expression in action over

the course of the retreat. Please follow this [link](#) for more information.

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 February 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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 31 August – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

Sunday 1 September – TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Mrs Ruane (RIP)

9am Mass Carys Newton (RIP) (*John Fisher School, M'wick*)

9.30am Mass People of the parish

11.30am Mass Anne Green (RIP)

6pm Mass Pat Brennan (RIP)

Reading 1, Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8, Psalm 14(15), Reading 2, James 1:17-18, 21-22,27, Gospel, Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Monday 2 September – feria

10am Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

7pm Mass Mary Thomasina Fitzpatrick (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Psalm 118(119)

Gospel, Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday 3 September – ST GREGORY THE GREAT

10am Mass Kate Chronnell (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:2-8, Psalm 95(96)

Gospel, Matthew 16:13-19

Wednesday 4 September – feria

10am Mass Gabriel Dobson (Ints)

7pm Mass Larry Hughes (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Psalm 32(33)

Gospel, Luke 4:38-44

Thursday 5 September – feria

10am Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 3:18-23, Psalm 23(24)

Gospel, Luke 5:1-11

Friday 6 September – feria

10am Mass Henry Green (RIP)

7pm Mass Liber Marzo (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Psalm 36(37)

Gospel, Luke 5:33-39

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

Saturday 7 September – Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Giltinane family (Ints)

10.30 – 11.30am *Confessions & Exposition*

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 4:6-15, Psalm 144(145)

Gospel, Luke 6:1-5

Saturday 7 September – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Deceased members of the Confrey and Watters family

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

8 September – TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Fintan Bergin (Ann)

9am Mass Susanna Mole (Ann)

(*John Fisher School Marshalswick*)

9.30am Mass People of the parish

11.30am Mass Gennaro and Guiseppe Capparelli (RIP)

6pm Mass Jose Peidade & Anthony Fernandes (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 35:4-7, Psalm 145(146)

Reading 2, James 2:1-5, Gospel, Mark 7:31-37

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Alban, we pray for the Eco Church Movement and those communities working towards the LiveSimply award.

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 Michael Cronin, Tony Micallef, Mary Quinn and James Warrilow.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fintan Bergin, Kate Chronnell, Mary Thomasina Fitzpatrick, Joanna Hoscilowicz, Larry Hughes, Liber Marzo, Susanna Mole and Fr Richard Scriven MSC.

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

Forthcoming Funerals

Mary Quinn – date TBA

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