



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**15 September 2024 - TWENTY-FOURTH 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...*

It is just under a year since we launched our Building Fund Appeal. Our target was set at £500,000. It mirrors the amount we have received from a few very generous legacies in recent years. To date we have received donations and pledges which will amount to £430,000 over five years. In the lead up to the summer holidays we appointed a quantity surveyor to work with us on the first phase of works involving the extension of the Church Porch and the Refurbishment of the Church Forecourt. Last week, I was in a position to submit an application to the Diocesan Trustees who need to approve the project and the associated expenditure. My hope is that we will receive this approval by the end of September and that we can then, having finalised drawings with the architect, initiate the tendering process. As you can guess, I have been learning lots of new things, things the seminary curriculum didn't cover. There is still some way to go before we appoint a contractor and set a start date for the works, but I just wanted to update you on the progress thus far.

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**The Westminster Eucharistic Festival** On Saturday 14 September, the Feast of the Holy Cross, Cardinal Nichols invites everyone to a Eucharistic Festival in the Cathedral, starting with Mass at 12:30pm and finishing around 4pm. The afternoon will include Adoration, Rosary, Confessions and a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as sermons from Fr Alan Robinson, Rector of the Diocesan Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament, and Bishop Nicholas Hudson, who will impart Pontifical Benediction at the end of the Procession. A relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis, whose Canonisation has recently been announced, will also be present. Please follow this [link](#) for more information.

**Season of Creation** You are invited to take a card from the church porch this weekend on which there is a prayer for peace and the flourishing of our world.

**Annual Mission Appeal** Next weekend we will welcome Fr Pat O'Byrne SSC who will be appealing on behalf of the Columban Missionaries. There will be a retiring collection after all masses to support their work.

**St Vincent de Paul** Over the weekend of 28 and 29 September there will be a retiring collection in support of an initiative of our parish SVP. The donations given on this particular occasion will be used to provide help to local people in need of financial assistance with their winter fuel bills and their food costs.

### School Applications & Certificates of Catholic Practice

Fr Michael will be available as shown to sign certificates of catholic practice for parents, guardians & carers who need one to accompany their child's application for a school or nursery:

- Friday 18 October 3.30 - 6.00pm and Tuesday 22 October 6.00 - 7.30pm
- Wednesday 30 October 3.30 - 6.00pm and Wednesday 6 November 7.30pm - 9.00pm
- Wednesday 11 December 3.30 - 6.00pm and Friday 13 December 6.00 - 7.30pm

Please be conscious that upwards of 100 families could be looking for school forms and your endeavouring to make one of these times would be much appreciated. No appointment is necessary and children need not attend.

**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)** For parents who would like to support their child prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, please read about the ongoing faith journey this will involve by going to the [homepage](#) of the website and following the link to the registration form now open. Registrations will close on 26 September.

**FIF Youth (Journey to Confirmation)** For those in Years 9 or 10 ready to affirm their desire to be disciples and missionaries of Jesus and be supported by the family, then read about FiF Youth by going to the [homepage](#) of the website and following the link to register. Registrations will close 26 September, unless at capacity.

**Monthly Youth Mass, first Sunday of the month at 6pm** Calling all musicians who would like to be involved in the monthly Youth Masses. We would like to build a band of regular singers and musicians. The commitment is playing at Sunday 6pm Mass most third Sundays of the month and attending an 8pm practice in the church the Tuesday evening before. Please email [stalbanscc@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbanscc@rcdow.org.uk) if interested or if you would like more information.

**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, children are invited to sit on the carpet at the front of the church and the Mass itself is geared towards their participation. There is then a short social 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 list. Names will be included for eight weeks, 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 and deodorants for local migrants also baby wipes, adult toothbrushes, deodorants for women, bars of soap (they last longer,) and baby shower gel and shampoo. Thank you also for donating sanitary wear; that collection is now closed. Any further donations will be given to the hygiene or food banks.

**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.

**Recycling for good causes** As part of our 'Live Simply' initiative for the Season of Creation, there will be a cardboard recycling box in the church porch from 7 to 30 September; for collecting unwanted household items to raise money for Mary's Meals. Wanted: Jewellery, watches, used stamps, foreign and obsolete bank notes/coins, mobile phones, cameras, sat navs, gaming devices, iPods/MP3s, tablets.

**Centre 33 volunteers needed** Centre 33 is the local charity that provides hot meals for anyone in need on St Albans, 5 mornings and 5 evenings each week. Centre 33 is in desperate need of additional volunteers to enable our meal services to continue to operate. Could you help by giving 2 hours of your time to serve meals- even once a month in St Albans? If you would like to know more, please contact Melanie (tel 07900 051956 or email [chairman@centre33.org](mailto:chairman@centre33.org)) or apply direct at <https://www.centre33.org/application-form>. Centre 33 is also seeking a new treasurer. Please see our '[Parish News](#)' webpage for more information.

## OUR PARISH GROUPS AND EVENTS

**Parish Groups and Events** Please see our '[Parish News](#)' webpage for details of parish groups and events.

**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.

## PARISH ADMINISTRATION

**Fair-trade September: Date for your Diary** Our fair-trade stall will open again after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on Sunday 15 September.

**The Parish Friends Knit and Natter Group** We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays 24 September and 8 October from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

**Loreto College Open Evening** The Open Evening for prospective pupils applying to Loreto College, St Albans for September 2025 will take place on Tuesday 24 September from 4pm to 7pm. Please use the entrance in Upper Lattimore Road. More details are available on the school website [www.loreto.herts.sch.uk](http://www.loreto.herts.sch.uk).

**The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) Conference** SPUC is holding a one-day conference on Saturday 28 September at Holiday Inn Regent's Park, Carburton Street, London, W1W 5EE. Tickets £40, including lunch. Speakers include Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Canada, and David Campanale, a former Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate, who was deselected for his pro-life, Christian beliefs. Bookings can be made via the SPUC [website](http://website). Email [katherinehampton@spuc.org.uk](mailto:katherinehampton@spuc.org.uk) for details.

**Catholicism Course** Wednesday 9 October at 10.45am or Thursday 10 October at 7.45pm with a break for half-term. Part 3 of the acclaimed three part CATHOLICISM Series Study Program by Bishop Barron. To find out more please follow this [link](#). Light refreshments provided. 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 email [stalbans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk).

**Men's Breakfast Saturday 12 October** The first Men's Breakfast after summer will be on Saturday 12 October. The theme this year is learning more about the gospels and the background and key messages in each of the four books. We will meet in the Parish Centre from 8.15 for coffee, croissants and conversation, followed by a 30 minute video on the gospel of St Mark, which we have been reading throughout this year, and conclude with a short discussion on the themes emerging. If you would like more details please email [d4dstalbans@gmail.com](mailto:d4dstalbans@gmail.com), or just turn up on the Saturday morning.

**St Albans & Welwyn Methodist Circuit Part-time Circuit Administrator wanted** 15 hours a week. Salary £14-£15 p/h. If you are a team player and a good communicator, would enjoy supporting church communities and staff, and using your IT and administration skills this role may be of interest to you. Further details and application form on request from: [admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk](mailto:admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk) 01727 854211. Closing 23 September, interviews 7-12 October.

**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 14 September - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass John Paton (Ann)

### 15 September - TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

*(John Fisher School Marshalswick)*

9.30am Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

11.30am Mass Joe Loughlin (RIP)

6pm Mass Pauline, Bella & John Taites (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 50:5-9, Psalm 115(116)

Reading 2, James 2:14-18, Gospel, Mark 8:27-35

### Monday 16 September - Saints Cornelius and Cyprian

10am Mass Frank O'Malley (RIP)

7pm Mass Mary Duggan (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 11:17-26,33, Psalm 39(40)

Gospel, Luke 7:1-10

### Tuesday 17 September - feria

10am Mass Alban and Peggy Brampton (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14,27-31, Psalm 99(100)

Gospel, Luke 7:11-17

### Wednesday 18 September - feria

10am Mass John Kelly and John Kelly Jr (RIP)

7pm Mass Canon Jeremiah Cronin (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, Psalm 32(33)

Gospel, Luke 7:31-35

### Thursday 19 September - feria

10am Mass Kenneth King (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Psalm 117(118)

Gospel, Luke 7:36-50

### Friday 20 September - St Andrew Kim Tae-gon

7pm Mass Edward O'Connell (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Psalm 16(17)

Gospel, Luke 8:1-3

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

### Saturday 21 September - ST MATTHEW

10am Mass John Foley (First Ann)

10.30 - 11.30am Confessions & Exposition

Reading 1, Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13, Psalm 18(19)

Gospel, Matthew 9:9-13

### Saturday 21 September - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Joseph Collins (RIP)

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### 22 September - TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Danny Onn (RIP)

*(John Fisher School Marshalswick)*

9.30am Mass Thanksgiving mass from Pickard family - for mass intentions

11.30am Mass Jim Naisbitt (First Anniversary)

6pm Mass Pidgie O'Driscoll (RIP)

Reading 1, Wisdom 2:12,17-20, Psalm 53(54)

Reading 2, James 3:16-4:3, Gospel, Mark 9:30-37

## PLEASE PRAY

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

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 Canon Jeremiah Cronin, Nancy Finn, Kenneth King, Josie Markham, Mary Quinn and James Warrilow.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including John Foley, Joseph Chin Kin Fong, Hannah Moore, Jim Naisbitt, John Paton and Fr Pat O'Sullivan MSC.

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

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer** In this Season of Creation, let us give thanks for our beautiful world. Loving Father, guide us in being good stewards of your creation & help us to be loving neighbours to one another. May we speak and act for justice and peace, especially in Israel and Palestine.

## Forthcoming Funerals

Mary Quinn - 10am Monday 23 September

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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."