



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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22 September 2024 - TWENTY-FIFTH 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... A new edition of the Lectionary, the series of books from which the Scripture is read at Mass, will be coming into use from the First Sunday of Advent this year (Sunday 1st December). The current edition of the lectionary uses the 'Jerusalem' translation of the Bible and the 'Grail' translation of the psalms. The new Lectionary will use the English 'Standard Version - Catholic Edition' of the Bible and the 'Abbey Psalter' for the responsorial psalms. The Bishops of England and Wales made the decision to change the translation of the Bible we use at Mass because they wanted to be more faithful to the original languages of the bible, to reflect current biblical scholarship, and to provide an edition which was easier for readers to proclaim and, where appropriate, more inclusive.

We have already ordered the new sanctuary editions of the lectionary to be used by readers, deacons and priests in the main church and at Marshalswick. There are several volumes in the new sanctuary edition of the lectionary. They are not cheap, but if anyone would like to sponsor one of these editions, donating them on behalf of their family or in memory of someone, please let me know.

Going forward we will need to decide how we make the Sunday readings available to the congregation as a whole. Do we continue to provide the Sunday Missals that we currently use and recycle at the end of the year? Do we revert to the use of paper missalettes which are recycled weekly? Or do we purchase Mass books which would be used for several years ahead. There are pros and cons to each. If you have any strong feelings, please let me know.

Finally, I know that some people like to have their own personal copy of the prayers and readings used at Mass. Several publishers will be producing their own editions of these. Below are some links with information on the Sunday Missals being produced by the [Catholic Truth Society](#), [Redemptorist Publications](#) and [St Paul's Books](#).

Annual Mission Appeal This 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. You can also donate to the St Vincent de Paul Society using sort code 60-60-04, account number 46076492. Thank you for your support.

No Exposition, Confessions or Benediction next Saturday morning 28 September owing to Confirmation Masses.

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

RCIA Group 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 12 October 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 follow the link on the [homepage](#) of our website to read more about our FIF Programme and complete the online registration form. Registrations will close on 26 September. It will NOT be possible to register after this date.

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, please follow the link on [homepage](#) of the website to read more about our FIF (Youth) Programme and complete the online registration form. Registrations will close 26 September, unless at capacity. It will NOT be possible to register after this date.

Monthly Youth Mass, third 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 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 baby wipes, adult toothbrushes, deodorants for women, bars of soap, 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.

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 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.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Survey 2024 St Albans City and District Council is conducting a survey as part of its continuing commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion within the Council and community. This survey is designed to gather your experience of equality, diversity and inclusion and what you would like to see improved. The survey takes about 15 minutes and can be found [here](#).

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.

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 Tuesday 24 September from 4pm to 7pm for prospective pupils applying to Loreto

College, St Albans for September 2025. Please use the entrance in Upper Lattimore Road. More details are available on the school website www.loreto.herts.sch.uk.

Mercy Associates Our next meeting is on Wednesday 25 September after the 10am Mass, parish centre, Room 1.

Jumble sale St Barts Church 10am Saturday 28 September Proceeds to St Bart's HCPT Group for Easter 2025 pilgrimage. Good quality jumble, lots of bargains, donations most welcome but no large or electrical items, thank you. Please leave in St Bart's Parish Centre entrance hall, Vesta Avenue, St Albans, between 9am and 8pm on Friday 27 September. Queries to Barbara Bliss 01727 873672

St Columba's College Open Morning Saturday 28 September 9am-1pm. We are an HMC independent co-educational Catholic day school in St Albans for ages 4-18. To register, please visit www.stcolumbascollege.org.

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. Bookings can be made via the SPUC [website](http://www.spuc.org.uk). Email 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). New registrations please email stalbans@rcdow.org.uk (i.e. only if you haven't already attended either part 1 or part 2 of the course) Cost - £10 including study guide.

BINGO Thank you for the support and donations for our recent Bingo evening that raised £160-00 for the "Hands Together - Tiplyang Project". Our next Bingo evening is on Friday 11 October at 8pm in the Parish Centre.

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 or just come along.

Cafod soup and film lunch: Saturday 12 October Everyone is invited to enjoy lunch at 12 noon and the film One Life [Cert 12] at 1pm, with Anthony Hopkins and based on a true story about child refugees just before the outbreak of the

Second World War. Free, with donations to CAFOD on the day for the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day collection. More details, or to help, email grabecki@hotmail.com.

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 21 September - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Joseph Collins (RIP)

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

Monday 23 September - St Pius of Pietrelcina

10am Funeral Mass for Mary Quinn

7pm Mass Eric Harber (RIP)

Reading 1, Proverbs 3:27-34, Psalm 14(15)

Gospel, Luke 8:16-18

Tuesday 24 September - Our Lady of Walsingham

10am Mass Liz Henry and family (Ints)

Reading 1, Proverbs 21:1-6,10-13, Psalm 118(119)

Gospel, Luke 8:19-21

Wednesday 25 September - feria

10am Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

7pm Mass Joseph Chi Kin Fong (first anniversary)

Reading 1, Proverbs 30:5-9, Psalm 118(119)

Gospel, Luke 9:1-6

Thursday 26 September - feria

10am Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Ecclesiastes 1:2-11, Psalm 89(90)

Gospel, Luke 9:7-9

Friday 27 September - St Vincent de Paul

7pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Reading 1, Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, Psalm 143(144)

Gospel, Luke 9:18-22

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

Saturday 28 September - Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Nigel Appleyard (Ann)

No Exposition, Confessions or Benediction

Reading 1, Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8, Psalm 89(90)

Gospel, Luke 9:43-45

11.30am & 2.30pm Confirmation Masses

Saturday 28 September - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Brendan and Denise Kearns (Ann)

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

29 September - TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

9am Mass Felicity French (RIP)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Mary Margaret Kiely (ann)

11.30am Mass George Xuereb Brennan (Ann)

6pm Mass People of the parish

Reading 1, Numbers 11:25-29, Psalm 18(19)

Reading 2, James 5:1-6, Gospel, Mark 9:38-48

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Alban, we pray for the members of the Lutheran Congregation at St Albans Cathedral.

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 and Mary Quinn.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Nigel Appleyard, George Xuereb Brennan, Joseph Chin Kin Fong, Brendan and Denise Kearns, Mary Margaret Kiely, Hannah Moore, Jim Naisbitt and Fr Liam O'Callaghan 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 Dear Lord, as we observe the International Day of Peace this weekend, we pray that your peace will rule in our hearts. Comfort and console all those whose lives are damaged by violence and conflict. Guide all in authority to use their power to heal divisions and work tirelessly for peace

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.

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."