



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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29 September 2024 - TWENTY-SIXTH 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... As you are aware the new lectionary, using a different translation of the scriptures, will come into use this Advent. Alongside the books used on the sanctuary we need to consider how members of the congregation access the readings. Thank you to those parishioners who offered feedback on the missalettes we used to the use and the St Paul's Missal we are currently using. At Monday's meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council the question of what to use going forward was discussed. There are pros and cons on all sides, but as a result of the feedback received and the PPC's discussion we have now placed an order for the Parish Mass Book. You may have seen it in use elsewhere. The Parish Mass Book comes in six volumes and covers the entire three year cycle of readings, with each volume being used every three years. I am hoping each volume will last at least fifteen years. The Parish Mass Book also provides the text of the Mass and all the relevant options, e.g. all the Eucharistic prayers, but with considerably fewer pages it should prove easy to navigate. The initial outlay for these books is relatively high, but purchasing them will mean a long term saving as well as less recycling.

St Vincent de Paul This weekend 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.

Cafod Harvest Family Fast Day Friday 4 October Many of the world's population live with hunger, poverty, oppression and the daily effects of climate change. You are invited to fast and pray on this date in solidarity with them. Perhaps think about having a simple meal and donating the money saved to the collection to be held on the weekend of 5/6th October. Try to take time to reflect on what their lives might be like or how you could cope if you experienced their lifestyles. Envelopes will be available at the Church and at Marshalswick Mass Centre: you can use these if you can Gift Aid your donation. Or you can donate via the [CAFOD website](http://www.cafod.org.uk) if you prefer. Many thanks for your prayers and donations - they all make a huge difference to those struggling to make their and their families lives better. There will be a retiring collection held after all masses over the weekend of 5/6 October.

World Day for Migrants and Refugees Please take a prayer card from the porch which features a reflection and photo of the parish's own Lampedusa Cross permanently displayed in the porch which was made from wood of a boat used by refugees.

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) and FIF Youth (Journey to Confirmation) Registrations have now closed for our 2024/25 programme. Please email the parish office with any queries.

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.

Gentle, meditative TAIZE chants, prayers and silence 7.30 - 8pm 2 October at St Mary's Church, Sherwood Ave, AL4 9QA. All very welcome.

Second Session of the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod on Synodality Under the protection of the Guardian Angels - on the day of liturgical remembrance on 2 October - the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will open at 9.30am in St Peter's Square. The sessions will continue until 27 October, when the Synod will conclude with a Eucharistic celebration in St Peter's Basilica at 10 am.

Fair trade The parish fair trade stall will be open after all Masses at church over the weekend of 5/6 October and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on Sunday 13 October. Many thanks for your support.

The Parish Friends Knit and Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays 8 and 22 October from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

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 Friday 11 October at 8pm in the Parish Centre by the Knights of St. Columba. to support CAFOD - Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

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 Friends Tea Party in the Parish Hall Sunday 20 October from 2.30-4.30pm Please note the change from the normal time. We are delighted to announce that once again Elvince has offered to sing for us so it will be a great afternoons entertainment. Everyone is welcome. Offers of homemade cakes and help on the day will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340 if you can help. Lifts can be arranged.

Tell Your Friends! 'Nell Gwynn' 8pm Thursday 7 November at the Abbey Theatre St Albans. Funny, joyous, lively play with music and dance. all proceeds to charity [Hands Together Tplyang Project](#) providing health and education for children in Nepal. Tickets £16 from: 07821 726357, 07768 177634 or 07976 277059

Carols by Candlelight at 7.30pm on Monday 23 December Calling musicians, singers and readers! Practices on:
- 23 November, 30 November, 7 December - 2pm singers then 4pm musicians,
- 14 December, 21 December, singers and musicians 2pm
- 23 December 5.45pm all in preparation for the service

If you'd like to be involved, please text 07840 367555 or email stalbanscbc@rcdow.org.uk.

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 28 September - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Brendan and Denise Kearns (Ann)

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

Monday 30 September - St Jerome

10am Mass Deceased members of the parish knit and natter group

7pm Mass Desmond Coleman (RIP)

Reading 1, Job 1:6-22, Psalm 16(17)

Gospel, Luke 9:46-50

Tuesday 1 October - St Therese of the child Jesus

10am Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

Reading 1, Job 3:1-3,11-17,20-23, Psalm 87(88)

Gospel, Luke 9:51-56

Wednesday 2 October - Holy Guardian Angels

10am Mass Christina Barreto (RIP)

7pm Mass Margaret Lavelle (Ints)

Reading 1, Job 9:1-16, Psalm 87(88)

Gospel, Matthew 18:1-5,10

Thursday 3 October - feria

10am Mass Monseigneur Sylvester Pereira (Ann)

Reading 1, Job 19:21-27, Psalm 26(27)

Gospel, Luke 10:1-12

Friday 4 October - St Francis of Assisi

10am Mass Sr Margaret (Ints)

7pm Mass Teresa McSweeney (RIP)

Reading 1, Job 38:1,12-21,40:3-5, Psalm 138(139)

Gospel, Luke 10:13-16

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

Saturday 5 October - Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

10.30-11.30am Exposition & Confessions

Reading 1, Job 42:1-6,12-17, Psalm 118(119)

Gospel, Luke 10:17-24

Saturday 5 October- VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Carys Newton (RIP)

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

6 October - TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Martin Brosnan (Ann)

9am Mass People of the parish

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Lorraine McLoughlin (First Anniversary)

11.30am Mass Patrick Curran (Ann)

6pm Mass Seiglinde Wilson (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 2:18-24, Psalm 127(128)

Reading 2, Hebrews 2:9-11, Gospel, Mark 10:2-16

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for the members of London Colney 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 Canon Jeremiah Cronin, Eric Fowler, Horatio Mak and Bertram Vieyra.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including George Xuereb Brennan, Martin Brosnan, Patrick Curran, Joseph Chin Kin Fong, Brendan and Denise Kearns, Mary Margaret Kiely, Lorraine McLoughlin, Monseigneur Sylvester Pereira and Fr John Roche 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, help us to live in peace with our families, friends and neighbours. Give assistance to those countries at war so that their people can sustain the attrition they face.

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