



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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8 September 2024 - TWENTY-THIRD 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

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 to be supported in this by their family, please 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.

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

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](#).

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 Bl Carlo Acutis, whose Canonisation has recently been announced, will also be present. Please follow this [link](#) for more information.

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.

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 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, 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 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, 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. Some of the visitors are homeless people. Others are people who are lonely and come for a meal, a warm welcome and some company. Centre 33 is run entirely by approximately 100 volunteers, with our income coming from donations and small grants. We served more than 700 meals in 2023. 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? Volunteers receive training and join a rota of friendly volunteers: 3 for breakfast and 4 for the evening meals. The rota is flexible and volunteers sign up for dates that suit them: they can be different days each week or month. If you would like to know more, please contact Melanie (tel 07900 051956 or email chairman@centre33.org) or apply direct at <https://www.centre33.org/application-form>. Centre 33 is also seeking a new treasurer. Our current treasurer of 10 years has taken on an additional role at Centre 33. Please contact Melanie for more details.

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.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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 Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on Sunday 15 September.

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.

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. 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 wwwme.org.uk.

Pilgrimage to Catholic York During the weekend of the 26-27 October 2024, Young Catholic Adults and the Traditional English Association of Catholic History will be organising a pilgrimage to Catholic York, including a visit to, St. Margaret Clitherow's Shrine, the Bar Convent and St. Mary's Bishophill - the oldest Church in York. This event is aimed at Young Catholic Adults and Catholics interested in history. For details of how to book onto this free weekend please see [here](#).

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. Please follow this [link](#) for more information.

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 7 September - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Deceased members of the Confrey and Watters family

8 September - TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Fintan Bergin (Ann)
9am Mass Susanna Mole (Ann) (*John Fisher School*)
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

Monday 9 September - feria

10am Mass Anne Green (RIP)
7pm Mass Betty Cunich (RIP)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 5:1-8, Psalm 5
Gospel, Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday 10 September - feria

10am Mass Colin Molloy (RIP)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 6:1-11, Psalm 149
Gospel, Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday 11 September - feria

10am Mass Holy Souls
7pm Mass Foster family (Ints)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 7:25-31, Psalm 44(45)
Gospel, Luke 6:20-26

Thursday 12 September - feria

10am Mass Alan Healy (RIP)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 8:1-7,11-13, Psalm 138(139)
Gospel, Luke 6:27-38

Friday 13 September - St John Chrysostom

7pm Mass Daniel Brudney (RIP)
Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-27, Psalm 83(84)
Gospel, Luke 6:39-42
(*On Fridays Mass is celebrated at St Albans Cathedral at Noon*)

Saturday 14 September - THE EXULTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

10am Mass Felicity French (RIP)
10.30 - 11.30am *Confessions & Exposition*
Reading 1, Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 77(78)
Gospel, John 3:13-17

Saturday 14 September - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass John Paton (Ann)

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

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

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Alban, on this Education Sunday, we pray for all those who work in education, and pray for all those who learn.

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 Tony Micallef, Kenneth King, Mary Quinn and James Warrilow.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fintan Bergin, Larry Hughes, Susanna Mole, and John Paton.

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 we give thanks for all that God has made, repent for the damage that we have caused and commit ourselves to take action to protect the earth our common home. Lord give us the grace to recognise, respect and protect all You have created, using wisely all that you have entrusted to us.

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."