



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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13 October 2024 - TWENTY-EIGHTH 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 / stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr John writes...

Last Monday was the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. In fact, the whole month of October is designated by the Church as the Month of the Rosary. For some, catholic and non-Catholic, the rosary, with its emphasis on Mary, can be something of a challenge. It can appear to be all about Mary.

Here however it is worth remembering that the principal prayers used in the rosary, the Our Father and Hail Mary, have their roots in scripture. Christ taught his disciples to pray the Our Father (Matthew 6:9-13) and in Luke 1:28 we find the opening words of the Hail Mary, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,". Again, a little further on, in Luke 1:42 Mary is described as blessed. "Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,". Indeed, all but two of the twenty decades of the rosary are given over to events in the lives of Jesus and Mary which are recorded in Scripture. Some might believe that Catholics pray to and adore Mary when reciting the rosary, but this is not so. We do not idolise or adore Mary when praying the mysteries of the rosary, rather we ask her intercession as we meditate on Christ's joys, sacrifices, sufferings and the miracles of his life. The Rosary is, at heart, a Christo-centric prayer. As Pope St John Paul II said: "To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ."

Rosary beads come in all colours, shapes and sizes. They can be carried as rings or bracelets. But whatever shape or colour, as a string of beads or ring on a finger, the rosaries we carry should be treated with respect, carried as an invitation to pray, not worn or glamorised as a fashion accessory. As Canon Law (no. 1171) reminds us, "Sacred objects, set aside for divine worship by dedication or blessing, are to be treated with reverence. They are not to be made over to secular or inappropriate use, even though they may belong to private persons."

In this month of the rosary, let us pray the rosary for peace in the Holy Land imploring Our Lady Queen of Peace to intercede for our world in danger, that it, as Pope Francis has said, 'may protect life and reject war, care for the suffering, the poor, the defenceless, the sick, and the afflicted, and guard our common home.'

Prayer Group on Wednesday evenings A number of parishioners meet on Wednesday evenings via Zoom to reflect on the scripture readings for mass the following weekend and to say the evening prayers of the church. If you would like to join our friendly and informal group, please email the parish office stalbens@rcdow.org.uk or call Melanie (07900 051956)

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday There will be a retiring collection after all masses to support the work of Missio.

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, Tuesday 22 October 6.00 -7.30pm, Wednesday 30 October 3.30 - 6.00pm;
- 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 9 November 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, 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

Pax Christie travelling crib This Advent we have the chance to think about the birth of Jesus as well peace in the world and in the Holy Land by joining in with others to share this travelling crib as it passes from house to house in St Albans. Individuals and families will receive the beautiful hand-made olive wood crib set along with some Advent prayers and a story about Bethlehem today; you will have the opportunity to hold the crib and then pass it on to another household. If you would like to know more about the process or would like to register an interest, please email grabecki@hotmail.com by 1 November.

You Can Be Santa Voucher Scheme As always, the aim of YCBS is to help children/families who may not otherwise enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. We are now appealing for voucher donations (in £5, £10 & £20 denominations please,

this will really help when we allocate the vouchers) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos & Amazon. Please note we will not be collecting One4All vouchers or any online Amazon vouchers this year. If you would like to contribute to the YCBS scheme this year, please post your voucher/s through the Presbytery door in a clearly marked envelope (YCBS Voucher). If you are unable to obtain a voucher but would still like to contribute, any monetary donation would be gratefully received and vouchers will be purchased by the YCBS team on your behalf.

Identifying families with children that might benefit from the scheme If you are aware of families within the Parish who may appreciate being a part of the scheme please ask them to contact stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk with their full contact details. All contact details will be kept in confidence and in accordance with data protection requirements. For more information, please email stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk

Migrants' toiletries collection Many thanks for all your generosity to our local asylum seekers. We, they and the charities which support them, do not have storage space so please only donate items which are requested. We cannot currently accept clothes. 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.

St Alban and St Stephen RC Primary School Reception Admissions 25/26 To arrange a visit, contact the School Office: on 01727 866668 or at admin@ssas.herts.sch.uk.

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.

Loreto College Sixth Form Open Evening 6-8pm Wednesday 16 October Guided tours and the opportunity to meet staff and pupils. Please see the [school website](#) or the poster in the porch for more details.

Fair trade As we approach Advent and Christmas we try to offer extra opportunities to buy from the parish fair-trade stall. This year, due to family commitments, we have to change our usual timetable as follows. Dates for all Masses at the Church: 26/27 October, 9/10 November, 23/24 November and 7/8 December. Marshalswick Mass Centre: 13 October, 3 November, 1 December. We have a good range of Advent Calendars, Christmas Cards and chocolate items plus our usual range of fairly traded goods from around the developing world. can even take payment by card or phone.

A Jewish Response to Gaza - meeting of St Albans Friends of Palestine Saturday 19 October 3-5.15 pm Homewood Road United Reformed Church. If attending please email stafriendsofpalestine@gmail.com to book. The meeting will offer an insight into how members of the Jewish community are acting in solidarity with the people of Gaza.

The Parish Friends Knit and Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays 22 October and 5 November from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

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

Migrants' Meals - volunteers needed on Thursday 24 October from 11.30 am. The parish will be hosting 4 local migrants while they use our kitchen. Parish volunteers provide welcome and support but do not cook. This is a friendly and interesting event. If you can help at all during the day please call Mary on 07976277059 for information.

The Herts Circle of the Newman Association Diary Dates
- 2pm Saturday 2 November. An afternoon concert of classical music for voice and guitar, including poetry by Emily Dickinson and Emily Bronte set to music by Leisner and music by Mozart, Coste and some familiar songs, followed by light refreshments, at Our Lady of Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden AL5 1PD. Tickets £15; call Mary 07976 277 059.

- Saturday 16 November. Peter Berners-Lee will speak about Uncertainty and Meaning on which he has written. Talk at 11 am at St Bartholomew's Church Hall, Vesta Avenue, St Albans, AL1 2PE. All welcome, no need to book.

C.W.L. Thursday 7 November at 2pm A talk from Father John "Continuing his journey to the Priesthood." All are welcome members, visitors and guests. Cost £3 to include refreshments.

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 Tiplyang Project](#) providing health and education for children in Nepal. Tickets £16 from: 07821 726357, 07768 177634 or 07976 277059.

Blessing of Graves at Hatfield Road Cemetery - Saturday 9 November Please meet beside the cemetery chapel at 2.00pm. There will be a short prayer service after which we will be available to bless individual graves. Fr Kevin from Radlett will be blessing graves on Sunday 3 November as follows: 12.30pm at London Road, 1.30pm at St Peter's, London Colney, 1.45pm at Shenley, 2.15pm at Radlett.

Carols by Candlelight at 7.30pm on Monday 23 December Calling musicians, singers and readers! If you'd like to be involved, please email stalbansebc@rcdow.org.uk or text 07840 367555. Practices on:

- 23 & 30 Nov, 7 Dec - 2pm singers, then 4pm musicians,
- 14 & 21 December, singers and musicians 2pm
- 23 December 5.45pm all in preparation for the service

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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. 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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 12 October- VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Carys Newton (RIP)

13 October - TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Graham Smith (Ann)

9am Mass Polly Lee (First Anniversary)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Bridget Ridge (RIP)

11.30am Mass People of the parish

6pm Mass Tricia Conway (First anniversary)

Reading 1, Wisdom 7:7-11, Psalm 89(90)

Reading 2, Hebrews 4:12-13, Gospel, Mark 10:17-30

Monday 14 October - feria

10am Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

7pm Mass Lydia Centala (First Anniversary)

Reading 1, Galatians 4:22--27,31-5:1, Psalm 112(113)

Gospel, Luke 11:29-32

Tuesday 15 October - St Teresa of Jesus

10am Mass Margaret Parkes (First Anniversary)

Reading 1, Galatians 5:1-6, Psalm 118(119)

Gospel, Luke 11:37-41

Wednesday 16 October - feria

10am Mass Felicity French (RIP)

7pm Mass Eileen Costello (RIP)

Reading 1, Galatians 5:18-25, Psalm 1

Gospel, Luke 11:42-46

Thursday 17 October - St Ignatius of Antioch

10am Mass Pat Brennan (RIP)

Reading 1, Ephesians 1:1-10, Psalm 97(98)

Gospel, Luke 11:47-54

Friday 18 October - ST LUKE

7pm Mass Michael Sherlock (Ann)

Reading 1, 2 Timothy 4:10-17, Psalm 144(145)

Gospel, Luke 10:1-9

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

Saturday 19 October - Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Steve Lee (Ann)

10.30-11.30am Exposition & Confessions

Reading 1, Ephesians 1:15-23, Psalm 8

Gospel, Luke 12:8-12

Saturday 19 October- VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass David Griffin (Ann)

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

20 October - TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Jean Bergin (Ann)

9am Mass People of the parish

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Doreen Hawes (RIP)

11.30am Mass Alexander and Loni Vengler (Ann)

6pm Mass Johnny McGoldrick (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 53:10-11, Psalm 32(33)

Reading 2, Hebrews 4:14-16, Gospel, Mark 10:35-45

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for the members of St Peter's 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 Ciro Anzalone, Tom Birkin, Simon Charles, Eric Fowler, Horatio Mak, Timothy Sullivan, Bertram Vieyra and Agnes Walsh.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Jean Bergin, Martin Brosnan, Geraldine Byrne, Lydia Centala, Tricia Conway, Patrick Curran, John Feeney, David Griffin, Polly Lee, Steve Lee, Lorraine McLoughlin, Margaret Parkes, Jennifer Pearman, Michael Sherlock James Sinclair, Graham Smith, Alexander and Loni Vengler.

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 As we pass the Anniversary of the start of the war in Israel, Gaza and the Middle East, we pray for all those caught up in the conflict, and that their leaders will work towards a lasting Peace and an end to the suffering.

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.

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.

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."