



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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27 October 2024 - THIRTIETH 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

November is the month of the Holy Souls and we will hold our annual Novena of Masses for the Holy Souls from 2-10 November, praying the Novena Prayer at all masses. Please note that the mass for all those who have died in the past twelve months will be offered on Monday 4 November at 7pm. During this Mass the names of all listed below will be called out and a votive candle will be lit in remembrance. You and your family are most welcome to attend and to come forward and light this candle in prayer for and remembrance of the family member who has died in the past year. If you are unable to attend, a candle will still be lit for your family member. If you would like to add the name of somebody who has died in the last twelve months, please email his or her name to the parish office.

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED - NOVEMBER 2023 to OCTOBER 2024

Agnes Seavers	Doreen Poole	Kenneth King	Philomena Whitton
Anna Truglio	Eddie O'Connell	Lavinia Staines	Rev Stephen Pickard
Anne Green	Esther Buckingham	Lydia Centala	Rose Kendrick
Annie Reeves	Felicity French	Mary Hodgson	Samantha Rodell
Barbara Latham	Henry Green	Mary Liddle	Sarah Murphy
Beatrice Greatorex	Isabel Binks	Mary Quinn	Sheila Taylor
Carys Ann Newton	Isabelle Westrup-Aparicio	Maura Moran	Sieglinde Wilson
Colin Macdonald	James Papworth	Maureen Patricia Wood	Teresa Hambridge
David Whitton	James Warrilow	Michael Dennehy	Teresa Griffin
Desmond Stack	Jane Malyon	Michael Patrick O'Reilly	Terrence Burke
Diane Quinn	Joan Honeywell	Michael Thursfield	Tom Birkin
Domenica Ribauda	Joseph Dwyer	Monica Jane King	Vincenzo Carini
Domenico Sellecchia	Kathleen Fahy	Patricia Brennan	

During November, several of the Holy Souls masses will be offered for a particular intention, as listed below:

Sunday 3 November 11.30am

For deceased benefactors

Monday 4 November 7.00pm

For all who have died in the past year

Sunday 10 November 11.30am

For those who have died in war

Wednesday 13 November 7.00pm

For deceased brothers and sisters

Sunday 17 November 8.00am

For deceased children/sons and daughters

Thursday 21 November 10.00am

For deceased parents and grandparents

Saturday 23 November 10.00am

For deceased spouses

Wednesday 27 November 7.00pm

For deceased victims of violence

Saturday 30 November 10.00am

For deceased priests and religious

Holy Souls Lists If you would like to include people in the Holy Souls List, which will be placed near the altar, please use one of the leaflets and envelopes available in the porch and return it to the Presbytery. Any offering you wish to make towards the masses offered for the Holy Souls can be included in these envelopes or in a plain envelope marked 'Holy Souls' and posted through the Presbytery door. The Novena Prayer and the Holy Souls leaflet will also be available on the parish website, or via [this link](#), but please feel free to email your Holy Souls list to stalbens@rcdow.org.uk

There will be a retiring collection after all masses this weekend to support our You Can Be Santa parish initiative.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Mass with Bishop Paul McAleenan 7pm Sunday 27 October

At this weekend's Sunday evening Mass we welcome Bishop Paul who will be conferring the Ministries of Acolyte and Reader on five candidates currently in formation for the permanent diaconate. St Stephen, one of our patron saints, was among the first to be ordained to the diaconate which, as Acts 6:3-6 reminds us, is a ministry of service to the church. Today, deacons serve in a variety of settings; schools, prisons, hospitals as well as parishes. Here at St Alban & St Stephen we have been blessed through the ministry of Deacon Steve, who died last February, and Deacon Brendan. So, I am pleased to say that another of our parishioners, Michael Larmer, will be among those to receive the ministry of Acolyte at this weekend's evening Mass.

The word acolyte comes from the Greek word meaning attendant. The acolyte is a follower, assistant, server, or companion who supports the priest or deacon leading a service. Michael and his wife Maria moved to St Albans in 2005 after migrating from New Zealand. They have four children: Aideen, Eoin, Ashling and Neeva. You may already know Michael from his involvement with our sacramental programmes, especially baptism preparation, through one of the parish retreats, or through his wife Maria and their four children. Following Sunday's evening Mass there will be some light refreshments available in the hall by way of celebrating these stages in the candidate's formation.

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 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.

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. **There will be a YCBS collection after each Mass this weekend for voucher and cash donations.**

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 stalbandsycbs@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 stalbandsycbs@rcdow.org.uk

Migrants' toiletries collection We currently need donations of toiletries, shampoos and baby wipes, adult toothbrushes, deodorants for women, bars of soap, baby shower gel and shampoo. Please only donate requested items.

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.

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 or call Melanie (07900 051956)

Fair trade Our fair trade stall will be available at all Masses at the church over the weekend of 26/27 October and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on Sunday 3 November. We have many Christmas items & accept payment by card.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesdays 5 and 17 November from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Requiem Mass All Souls Day, Saturday 2 November A sung Requiem Mass according to the Dominican Rite will be celebrated at 2.30pm at St Dominic's Priory, The Rosary Shrine, Haverstock Hill/Southampton Road. London NW5 4LB. This will also form the culmination of a Singing Day organised by the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge, beginning with study and rehearsal of the chant at 11am. All are welcome to attend, either as participants in the choir (any level of experience accommodated) by registering for the day, or as congregants. An ideal opportunity for those who would like to deepen their acquaintance with the Church's unique foundational musical culture. For details see the poster in the porch, or see [here](#).

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, Harpenden. 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. Cost £3 including refreshments.

Hands Together Tplyang Project A registered charity run by three parishioners to build & sustain a school in Tplyang, a village in the Himalayas, Nepal. Food, clothes, health care, school equipment are needed. Fundraiser 8pm 7 November St Albans Abbey Theatre "Nell Gwynn" - a lively, colourful play with music. Tickets £16 from: 07821 726357.

St Michael's Catholic Grammar School, North Finchley - Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 7 November 6-8pm

The Sixth Form at St Michael's is a place where the pursuit of academic excellence and academic curiosity are at the heart of all we do. We look forward to welcoming you to our Open Evening when you will have the opportunity to listen to subject specific talks and a talk by the Head teacher, Mr Stimpson. The evening will start promptly at 6pm. Teachers and current students will be available and happy to discuss subject content and life in the sixth form.

BINGO - Friday 8 November At 8pm in the Parish Centre by the Knights of St. Columba, for St. Joseph's Hospice. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone, including children, are welcome.

Men's Breakfast Saturday 9 November We will continue to learn more about the Gospel of Mark, which we have been listening to during the Sunday masses this year. We will meet in the Parish Centre from 8.15am 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, finishing by 10am. If you would like more details please email d4dstalbans@gmail.com, message Richard on 07976 252309 or just turn up on the Saturday.

Blessing of Graves at Hatfield Road Cemetery - Saturday 9 November Please meet beside the cemetery chapel at 2pm. 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.

Pro-Life Vigil 16 November From St Mellitus, Tollington Park, N4 3AG. Please see the poster in the porch.

Carols by Candlelight at 7.30pm on Monday 23 December Calling musicians, singers and readers! If you'd like to be involved, please email stalbanscbc@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

St Michael's Catholic Grammar School - Consultation on Admissions Arrangements 2026-27 The Governing Body invite your views on the consultation of our Admissions Policy 2026/27 and associated SIF. Further information be found on our website (Consultation on admission arrangements 2026-27). The consultation period will finish on 2 December. All views should be submitted to admissions@st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk by the closing date.

School and Nursery Applications and Certificates of Catholic Practice Fr Michael will be available on Wednesday 30 October 3.30 - 6pm, Wednesday 6 November 7.30pm-9pm, Wednesday 11 December 3.30-6pm and Friday 13 December 6-7.30pm to sign certificates of catholic practice for parents, guardians and carers who need one to accompany their child's application. 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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 26 October- VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass George & Perry Taites (RIP)

27 October - THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the Parish

9am Mass Deacon Steve Pickard (RIP)

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass George Thakaran (Ann)

11.30am Mass Anne and Henry Green (RIP)

6pm Mass Martin Curry (Ann)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 31:7-9, Psalm 125(126)

Reading 2, Hebrews 5:1-6, Gospel, Mark 10:46-52

Monday 28 October - St Simon and St Jude

10am Mass Martin and Bridget Mongan (Ann)

7pm Mass Jane McGeeney (RIP)

Reading 1, Ephesians 2:19-22, Psalm 18(19)

Gospel, Luke 6:12-19

Tuesday 29 October - Blessed Martyrs of Douai

10am Mass Sofia Sancho De Cruz (Ints)

Reading 1, Ephesians 5:21-33, Psalm 127(128)

Gospel, Luke 13:18-21

Wednesday 30 October - feria

10am Mass John Foster (Ints)

7pm Mass Paul Ridings (Ints)

Reading 1, Ephesians 6:1-9, Psalm 144(145)

Gospel, Luke 13:22-30

Thursday 31 October - feria

10am Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

Thursday 31 October - VIGIL OF ALL SAINTS

7pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Ephesians 6:10-20, Psalm 143(144)

Gospel, Luke 13:31-35

Friday 1 November - ALL SAINTS

10am Mass Gaudencio Mendoza (RIP)

7pm Mass People of the Parish

Reading 1, Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14, Psalm 23(24)

Reading 2, 1 John 3:1-3, Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12

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

Saturday 2 November - THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS DAY)

10am Mass Holy Souls

10.30-11.30am Exposition & Confessions

Reading 1, Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 26(27)

Reading 2, Romans 5:5-11, Gospel, Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 2 November - THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS DAY)

6pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 26(27)

Reading 2, Romans 5:5-11, Gospel, Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6

3 November-THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Holy Souls

9am Mass Holy Souls

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass People of the parish

11.30am Mass Holy Souls - For Deceased Benefactors

6pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Deuteronomy 6:2-6, Psalm 17(18)

Reading 2, Hebrews 7:23-28, Gospel, Mark 12:28-34

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for the members of St Albans Society of Friends (Quakers).

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 Tom Birkin, Simon Charles, Eric Fowler, Margaret Tweed and Agnes Walsh.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fr Michael Buckley MSC, Martin Curry, Brian Freaney, Martin and Bridget Mongan, Tonino Roscelli, George Thakaran and Christian Wong Wai Tseung.

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 Help us on this day of rest to see goodness in all your creatures: open our eyes and our hearts to your love in the world.

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