



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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10 November 2024 - THIRTY-SECOND 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

Fr Michael writes... In today's readings we are presented with two women whose giving to a stranger and the poor represented a real risk for themselves. They weren't giving from a place of plenty - where their giving was neither here nor there in terms of their ongoing security - rather they gave from the little that they had. Their generosity meant something. It had real consequences for them. Its easy, at times convenient, to think of our 'giving' and generosity in monetary terms, but giving such that impinges on us, requiring some kind of sacrifice, can be as much about the giving of our time and talents as anything else. It could well be the half-hour or hour given to a neighbour that you could well have done with for yourself.

The Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection is next week The second collection next week will be for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. Last year, the Diocese of Westminster provided care to 72 retired priests, at a cost of £976,000. Caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential costs and give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met.

You will find a donation envelope at the back of the church today. Please take one home, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. You can make a one-off donation or set up a regular donation and become a Patron by completing section 4 on the envelope form. You can also donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations - the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. If so, please take a leaflet home today.

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

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. The Holy Souls leaflet is also available on the parish website, or via [this link](#), but please feel free to email your Holy Souls list to stalbens@rcdow.org.uk

The Lateran Basilica St John Lateran (Celebrated 9 November) This Basilica was first dedicated by Pope Sylvester I in the year 324. When centuries of persecution ended with Constantine's 313 edict granting Christians the right to publicly practice their faith, St John Lateran became the first basilica where Christians were able to worship freely in public.

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

Forty Hours of Eucharistic Adoration Beginning with Mass at 7pm on Thursday 28 November, our Forty Hours will run through until the 10am Mass on Saturday 30 November. During this period, day or night, there is an open opportunity to come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament which will be exposed on the altar. Each hour will be given over to a particular intention, but there will be an emphasis on world peace, remembering especially the Ukraine and all those engulfed in the war in the Middle East. We need to ensure that there will be a few people present in church throughout the Forty Hours so there will be sign-up sheets available next weekend allowing you to sign up for the time and/or intention you would like to be present for.

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is Saturday 11 January 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.

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

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 Thursday evening before. Please email stalbanscc@rcdow.org.uk if interested or if you would like more information.

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

You Can Be Santa Voucher Scheme The YCBS team has identified over 170 children this year and we would really

like to be able to help all of them enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. We will continue to collect 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, please post your voucher/s through the Presbytery door in a clearly marked envelope (YCBS Vouchers). If you are unable to obtain vouchers but would still like to contribute, any monetary donation would be gratefully received and vouchers can be purchased by the YCBS team on your behalf. Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously so far. Donations can be made until 25 November at which point, they will be distributed to the families identified by the YCBS team in time for Christmas. For information please email stalbansycbs@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.

Volunteer Driver Needed We are looking for a volunteer driver to join a rota to give a lift once a month to the Saturday 6pm mass to two parishioners who live in the Drakes Drive area. For more information please contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Sincere thanks to all who supported the parishioner - run registered charity Hands Together Tiplyang Project at the Abbey Theatre. Well over £1,600 was raised to continue providing health care & education for the needy children of Tiplyang & its surroundings in the Nepalese Himalayas. The children's families are deeply touched by & appreciative of the help they're given from caring people who live on the other side of the world. Thank you very much from them.

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, term time 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 Stall Open this weekend (9/10 November) at all Masses in the Church and again over the weekend of 23/24 November. It will be at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 1 December and the final one of this year over the weekend of 7/8 December in the Church. We have a wide range of Advent calendars, Christmas chocolate and cards. Also, several items supporting people in Palestine where the suffering is huge at the moment. All profits go to CAFOD. We are able to accept card payments.

Mothers' Prayers 8pm room 2 Monday 11 November Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from; office@mothersprayers.org

Bishops' Holy Hour 5:30pm Wednesday 13 November Cardinal Vincent Nichols has called for Catholics in England and Wales to join him, and the Bishops of our countries, to pause for an hour at 5:30pm on Wednesday 13 November to pray for the dignity of human life. On that day, the Bishops will pause for an hour in the middle of their autumn plenary meeting to kneel in front of the Blessed Sacrament for a holy hour in light of the bill passing through the UK parliament that seeks to legalise assisted suicide. This bill, proposed by MP Kim Leadbeater, will receive its Second Reading with a vote, on Friday 29 November. It is important we take prayerful, compassionate action before this time. Please see [here](#) for information or [here](#) for how to write to your MP.

The Herts Circle of the Newman Association 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.

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

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 17 November and 1 December from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Is The Assisted Suicide Bill About Compassion, Giving Choice And Dignity? Calling All People of Faith and those of None - Sunday 24 November 3-5pm Farm Street Church,

114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH. Come and hear from experts in the field who have serious concerns about a possible change in the law: Baroness Tanni Grey-Thomson DBE DL: Multi gold medal winning Paralympic athlete and advocate for disability rights, Dr Matthew Doré: Consultant Palliative Care Physician, Professor Julian Hughes: Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist, Professor David Jones: Professor of Bioethics. Panel Discussion including Questions and Answers. Livestreaming available [here](#).

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

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 March 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 9 November - THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

6pm Mass Holy Souls

Sunday 10 November-THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Holy Souls

9am Mass Holy Souls

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Holy Souls

11.30am Mass Holy Souls - For those who have died in War

6pm Mass People of the parish

Reading 1, Kings 17:10-16, Psalm 145(146)

Reading 2, Hebrews 9:24-28, Gospel, Mark 12:38-44

Monday 11 November- St Martin of Tours

10am Mass Mary Miskell (Ann)

7pm Mass Ellen Small (Ann)

Reading 1, Titus 1:1-9, Psalm 23(24)

Gospel, Luke 17:1-6

Tuesday 12 November - St Josephat

10am Mass Gustav and Anne Azzopardi (RIP)

Reading 1, Titus 2:1-8,11-14, Psalm 36(37)

Gospel, Luke 17:7-10

Wednesday 13 November - feria

10am Mass Patricia Pearce (Ann)

7pm Mass Holy Souls - For deceased brothers & sisters

Reading 1, Titus 3:1-7, Psalm 22(23)

Gospel, Luke 17:11-19

Thursday 14 November - feria

10am Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

Reading 1, Philemon 7-20, Psalm 145(146)

Gospel, Luke 17:20-25

Friday 15 November - feria

7pm Mass Antonio Gramegna (RIP)

Reading 1, 2 John 4-9, Psalm 118(119)

Gospel, Luke 17:26-37

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

Saturday 16 November - St Edmund of Abingdon

10am Mass Kate Moran (RIP)

10.30-11.30am Exposition & Confessions

Reading 1, 3 John 5-8, Psalm 111(112)

Gospel, Luke 18:1-8

Saturday 16 November - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Mary Rainforth (Ann)

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 17 November-THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Holy Souls - For deceased sons & daughters

9am Mass People of the parish

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Vito La Monica (RIP)

11.30am Mass Danny Crowley (Ann)

6pm Mass Ellen Mary Small (Ann)

Reading 1, Daniel 12:1-3, Psalm 15(16)

Reading 2, Hebrews 10:11-14,18, Gospel, Mark 13:24-32

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for the members of the Forest Town 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 Simon Healy, Bernice Tominey and Margaret Tweed.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Danny Crowley, Martin Curry, Mary Miskell, Patricia Pearce, Mary Rainforth and Ellen Small

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace

J Word on Fire UK Bible Conference | February 2025 Join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK for Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible to gain a deeper appreciation of the Bible and its relevance to the Church's mission today. Friday 21 - Saturday 22 February 2025. Excel Centre, East London. Speakers Include: Bishop Robert Barron, N.T. Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland and more. For more information please see [here](#).

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."