



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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17 November 2024 - THIRTY-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 / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr John writes...

From 28 to 30 November, we have an opportunity for spiritual growth, both personally and as a parish. This will be a time to enhance and enrich our lives, cultivating a deep sense of connection with the Blessed Sacrament.

The Forty Hours of Eucharistic Devotion is a special period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. It gives us a chance to affirm our belief in the real presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, which Vatican II taught is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium, #11).

The number forty in scripture recalls many sacred periods of time: we recall, the rains during the time of Noah lasting 40 days and nights; the Jews wandering through the desert for 40 years, our Lord fasting and praying for 40 days before beginning His public ministry and most importantly the Forty Hours of Eucharistic Devotion remembers the "forty-hour period" from our Lord's burial until the resurrection.

Let us pray that our Forty Hours of Eucharistic Devotion will be a time to spiritually improve our relationship with God; spiritually prepare ourselves for service; transform our lives; strengthen us against sin and awaken in us a love for the things of God, so that we can be a shining light to all we meet. After evening Mass on Thursday, parishioners will go out onto Beaconsfield Road to invite passers-by to come into church to light a candle and pray. This 'Sharing the Light' is practised by many churches in London. We can encourage passers-by to come into the church, welcomed by an atmosphere of prayer and quiet music.

Volunteer parishioners go out in twos, to encourage gently, people to come in and pray. If you can help in this mission, particularly if you will be attending the 6pm mass on Thursday evening, please give your name and contact details to the parish office.

The Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection Our second collection today will be in support of the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. Most priests offer their resignation as a parish priest at the age of 75, but many continue to serve their communities, working in our parishes, schools, hospitals and chaplaincies. We must ensure no priest is worried about meeting essential costs during their senior years and, as such, Cardinal Nichols and the Diocese of Westminster are committed to ensuring that no retired or sick priest is left without support. Last year, the Diocese provided care to 72 retired priests, at a cost of £976,000. By giving a gift to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund today, you can help us to ensure all of our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need. The fund is used to meet essential costs, like making a flat accessible to a disabled priest, or that a priest has regular visits from a carer after undergoing surgery.

If you took a donation envelope last weekend, please place it in the collection bag today. If you do not have an envelope, there are some available in the porch. The envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. If you are able, please consider filling out section 4 on the envelope form, meaning you become a Patron and make a regular gift to support our sick and retired priests. By becoming a Patron, and assuring income to the fund, the Diocese can plan its continued care for our retired and sick priests. Thank you for your generosity and please remember to pray for our clergy, in active ministry, retired or ill.

School and Nursery Applications and Certificates of Catholic Practice Fr Michael will be available on 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. Your endeavouring to make one of these times would be much appreciated. No specific appointment is necessary and children need not attend.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Forty Hours of Eucharistic Devotion This will begin with 6pm Mass on Thursday 28 November and 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 are sheets available, 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 Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to the YCBS scheme so far. We have 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) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos & Amazon. Please note we will not be collecting One4All vouchers, or any online Amazon vouchers this year. Please post your voucher/s through the Presbytery door in an envelope marked 'YCBS Vouchers'. If you are unable to obtain vouchers but would still like to contribute, any monetary donation would be gratefully received and vouchers purchased by the YCBS team on your behalf. 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 [YCBS](#).

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.

Christmas Day Takeaway Lunch 2024 As in recent years, provided we can get enough volunteers to help, we hope to offer a takeaway lunch to anyone who is in need on Christmas Day. The lunch will be available in the Parish Hall to be taken to people who have requested one at around 1pm on Christmas Day. If you would like to have a takeaway lunch or you know someone who would like one, please give your name, address and contact details to the parish office (email: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk) by Monday 16 December. We already have a volunteer chef, but we will need people to help wash up after the cooking and drivers to deliver the meals. If you can help, please give your name and contact details to the parish office.

Advent prayer cards from CAFOD Available in the porch offering a weekly prayer and a Christmas Day reflection. Please take one. Cafod have also produced an interactive online Advent Calendar - you can sign up to it [here](#).

OUR PARISH GROUPS AND EVENTS

Parish Groups and Events Please see our '[Parish News](#)' webpage for more 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)

Hope at Christmas Next weekend - 23/24 November, we have the opportunity to write our first name only on Christmas cards for people in prison. Cards will be available in the church porch and at the Mass Centre.

Fair trade Stall 23/24 November and at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 1 December with 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.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 19 November and 1 December from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Assisted Suicide Bill Discussion Sunday 24 November 3-5pm Farm Street Church, 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH. Come and hear from experts 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 Q&A. Livestreaming available [here](#). 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.

Salvation Army Christmas Fair Saturday 30 November 16-18 Victoria Street 10am -1pm. Gifts and crafts, home-made international food, cakes, decorations, cards and more.

Advent Talks 7.30pm 5 and 12 December in the Parish Hall "A Scriptural Way to prepare for Christmas" with Fr John.

BINGO - Many thanks for the support and donations for our recent Bingo evening. The total amount raised for St. Joseph's was £150.00. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 13 December at 8pm in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

The Herts Circle of the Newman Association - Saturday 14 December Advent Quiet Day led by retired Bishop John Crowley on at Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JG. £15 for non-members. Booking required; please call Mary 07976277059.

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

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 16 November - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Mary Rainforth (Ann)

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

Monday 18 November - feria

10am Mass Deceased family and friends of Seiglinde Wilson

7pm Mass May Flavin (Ann)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 1:1-4,2:1-5, Psalm 1

Gospel, Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday 19 November - feria

10am Mass Peter Rowland (Ann)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 3:1-6,14-22, Psalm 14(15)

Gospel, Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday 20 November - feria

10am Mass Holy Souls - For deceased parents and grandparents (*please note change of date*)

7pm Mass Patrick Moran (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 4:1-11, Psalm 150

Gospel, Luke 19:11-28

Thursday 21 November - The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10am Funeral Mass for Bernice Tominey

Reading 1, Apocalypse 5:1-10, Psalm 149

Gospel, Luke 19:41-44

Friday 22 November - St Cecilia

7pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 10:8-11, Psalm 118(119)

Gospel, Luke 19:45-48 (*On Fridays Mass is celebrated at St Albans Cathedral at Noon*)

Saturday 23 November - Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Holy Souls - For deceased spouses

10.30-11.30am Exposition & Confessions

Reading 1, Apocalypse 11:4-12, Psalm 143(144)

Gospel, Luke 20:27-40

Saturday 23 November - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 24 November-OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

8am Mass Deceased members of Bergin and Cawley families

9am Mass Cliff Staniforth (Ann)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

11.30am Mass Antonio Visconti (Ann) and

Guiseppe D'Auria (Ann)

6pm Mass People of the parish

Reading 1, Daniel 7:13-14, Psalm 92(93)

Reading 2, Apocalypse 1:5-8, Gospel, John 18:33-37

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for the members of the New Testament Church of God.

For all the sick

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 Joseph Bagge, John Connolly, John Foster, Simon Healy, Bernice Tominey and Margaret Tweed.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Danny Crowley, Guiseppe D'Auria, May Flavin, Mary Rainforth, Peter Rowland, Ellen Small, Cliff Staniforth and Antonio Visconti.

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 the United Nations climate conference, COP29, continues, we pray for world leaders, that they may all work together, through the decisions taken, to protect the planet and all who live within it; for the Church: may we discern our roles and tasks arising from the decisions taken at COP29 and take action to achieve them and for our parish and local community, that decisions taken in our parish life will help us live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the earth and all life within it.

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."