



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Tel: 01727 853 585

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YouTube: <https://youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch>

24 November 2024 - OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



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

Forty Hours of Eucharistic Devotion This will begin with 6pm Mass this 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. We need to ensure that there will be people present in church throughout the Forty Hours so there are sign-up sheets in church allowing you to sign up for a particular time or intention. We are currently short of volunteers for the periods between midnight and 4am on both the Friday and Saturday mornings, so if you can volunteer for an hour during any of these times, that would be greatly appreciated.

Hope at Christmas This weekend 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.

Altar Server Training 2-3.15pm Saturday 14 December in the Church this session is for current altar servers only. If you would like to become an altar server, there will be a training session for new servers in the New Year. Please approach Fr John for details.

Carols by Candlelight at 7.30pm on Monday 23 December Calling readers, musicians and singers, especially male voices. 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

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.

Scam Emails We have received an email from the Diocese highlighting a concerning rise in scam emails targeting parishioners in the Diocese. These emails impersonate the parish priest, often using a similar email name and masking the real email address. They typically request the recipient to purchase Amazon or other gift cards as gifts for the priest. Unfortunately, we have received reports of parishioners falling victim to these scams, with some individuals losing up to £600 to the fraudsters. To avoid this happening to you, please:

- Never purchase gift cards as gifts for the parish priest, based on an email request, unless you have verified the request directly in person or through a trusted means.
- Double-check any suspicious email by directly contacting the parish office.
- Avoid sharing personal or financial information in response to unsolicited emails.

If you encounter these emails, please report them as spam and inform the parish office immediately.

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

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. If you would still like to donate, 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. 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.

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)

Fair trade Stall This weekend and 7/8 December in church and at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 1 December. We have a wide range of Advent calendars, Christmas chocolate, cards and several items supporting people in Palestine. All profits go to CAFOD. We are able to accept card payments.

Assisted Suicide Bill 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. You may also find these two sources from the [Catholic Union](#) and [SPUC/CMA](#) informative.

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.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 3 and 17 December from 2.15 to 4pm. All are welcome to join us. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Sunday 1 December 4pm St Saviour's Church Sandpit Lane. An ecumenical gathering welcoming local Churches for a service of traditional choral music looking forward to Christmas. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Gentle, reflective Taize chants, silence and prayer Wednesday 4 December, 7.30 – 8pm at St Mary's Church, 1, Sherwood Avenue, AL4 9QA

Saturday 7 December 9.30-11.30am Churches Together In Marshalswick Christmas collection of food for distribution via Vineyard Church outside Budgens at The Quadrant. Volunteers very welcome, call or text Christine and Maureen 07900260190

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

Senior Citizens Annual Afternoon Tea Once again the Sixth Formers at Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School will be hosting its Senior Citizens Annual Afternoon Tea. This will take place on Friday 6 December 12.15-2.30pm. 'We would like to invite our Grandparents and other senior members of our community to join us for an afternoon of festive refreshments and entertainments'. If you would like to attend please contact Helen Bassill. 07860 830340.) If you need help with transport please let Helen know.

Migrants' Meals Volunteers needed on Thursday 12 December from 11.30am. 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.

BINGO Friday 13 December at 8pm in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

A Christmas Celebration in Westminster Cathedral 7.30pm 18 and 19 December Tickets are now on sale for the annual Christmas concerts which celebrate the mystery of Christ's Incarnation in carols and readings performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or directly from [Ticketmaster](#) typing 'Westminster Cathedral' when prompted.

Pilgrims of Hope The theme of the Jubilee Year 2025, "Pilgrims of Hope," is uniquely captured in the prayers, readings, and options of the Mass for the Holy Year. They stress the themes of pilgrimage. More information about the Jubilee Year and prayers can be downloaded from Prayers for The Jubilee 2025 - Catholic Bishops' Conference. The faithful, united under Christ's banner, always have hope. The expectation that the Lord will come in the present, and the end of the ages, inspires them to make a pilgrimage to God, and their neighbour.

Word on Fire UK Bible Conference 21 – 22 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. Excel Centre, East London. Speakers Include: Bishop Robert Barron, N.T. Wright, Prof. Tracey Rowland and more. For information please see [here](#).

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 23 November - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Rev Stephen Pickard (RIP)

Sunday 24 November - CHRIST THE KING

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 & 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

Monday 25 November - feria

10am Mass Michael Walsh (RIP)

7pm Mass Patrick and Bernadette Marron (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 14:1-5, Psalm 23(24)

Gospel, Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday 26 November - feria

10am Mass John McGrory (Ints)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 14:14-19, Psalm 95(96)

Gospel, Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday 27 November - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Margaret Tweed

7pm Mass Holy Souls - For deceased victims of violence

Reading 1, Apocalypse 15:1-4, Psalm 97(98)

Gospel, Luke 21:12-19

Thursday 28 November - feria

10am Mass Richard Field (RIP)

6pm Mass People of the Parish

Mass followed by Sharing the Light & Forty Hours Exposition

Reading 1, Apocalypse 18:1-2,21-23,19:1-3,9, Psalm 99(100)

Gospel, Luke 21:20-28

Friday 29 November - feria

7pm Mass Francis Peter Hughes (Ann) and Josephine

Patricia Hughes (RIP)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 20:1-4,11-21:2, Psalm 83(84)

Gospel, Luke 21:29-33

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

Saturday 30 November - ST ANDREW

10am Mass Holy Souls - For deceased priests and religious

10.30-11.30am Exposition & Confessions

Reading 1, Romans 10:9-18, Psalm 18(19)

Gospel, Matthew 4:18-22

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 30 November - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

6pm Mass Deceased members of the Sheehan &

Guinnelly families

Sunday 1 December - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am Mass People of the parish

9am Mass Des Stack (RIP)

(John Fisher School Marshalswick)

9.30am Mass Mary Stella Kivali (RIP)

11.30am Mass Teresa Buckler (First Anniversary) and

Delia Daly (Ints)

6pm Mass Agnes Cloherty (RIP)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 24(25)

Reading 2, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2, Gospel, Luke 21:25-28,34-36

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for the members of the St Albans Pentecostal Assembly of God.

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 Joseph Bagge, John Connolly, John Foster and Margaret Tweed.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Teresa Buckler, Guiseppe D'Auria, Francis Peter Hughes, Jim Lewis, 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

We pray for those who are destitute, who do not even have enough for life's necessities: food, clothes, shelter, warmth, safety. May we commit ourselves to a just and generous sharing of resources so that all may enjoy the fruits of creation. *(For the World Day of Prayer for the Poor)*

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