



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

E-mail: stalbens@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org

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

3 November 2024 - THIRTY-FIRST 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... As we did last year, we are planning to begin this coming Advent with Forty Hours of Eucharistic Devotion. 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. As with last year, 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.

For those unable to be here last Sunday I would just like to share news of our receiving the go ahead from the diocese for the extension of the porch and refurbishment of the forecourt. This approval is a major step towards the realisation of the project. We can now work with the architect on the finalisation of the drawings and with the Quantity Surveyor on the beginning of the tender process. In the last few weeks we have received further donations raising the total of pledged or donated funds to £443,000. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing and generous support!

The new four volume lectionary to be used from the First Sunday of Advent has now arrived. Thank you to those who have donated these volumes to the parish. Thank you also for the generosity that has covered the purchase of the first volume of the new Parish Mass Book. The Parish Mass Book comes in six volumes and this first volume is to be used from the First Sunday of Advent.

Pope Francis' fourth encyclical In welcoming the publication of Pope Francis' fourth encyclical, *Dilexit Nos - He Loved Us*, Cardinal Vincent Nichols has emphasised that the Letter is for everyone and that the Sacred Heart of Jesus is "the source of living water that moves us and enables us to reach out to others, to offer forgiveness, to make amends for our failings, to seek to build healing relationships of faithfulness and service." The encyclical can be downloaded [here](#).

Holy Souls Our annual Novena of Masses for the Holy Souls begins on 2 November. 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 their names will be called out and a votive candle lit in prayer and remembrance. 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.

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

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

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.

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 donated so generously to the YCBS collections last weekend. 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.

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 more 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.

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.

Thankyou from the Parish Friends Group Parish Friends would like to thank all those who made the recent Tea Party such a great success. We had brilliant entertainment from Elvince and some very tasty cakes baked by several parishioners. It was a wonderful afternoon.

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.

Retiring Collections The recent retiring collection for CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day raised £819.40 and our retiring collection for You Can Be Santa raised £1,553.98. Thank you as always for your continued generosity.

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 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.

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 Tiplyang Project A registered charity run by three parishioners to build & sustain a school in Tiplyang, 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 07821 726357.

St Michael's Catholic Grammar School, North Finchley - Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 7 November 6-8pm Please see school website for more information.

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.

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

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.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women & Girls 25 November Caritas Social Action Network, an agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, together with Safe in Faith, hosts the Domestic Abuse Alliance, and we invite you to join us online at 11am on 18 November to discuss this national emergency and launch our call-to-action across the Catholic community in response to the Pope's call to 'act immediately, at all levels'. Click [here](#) to register.

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.

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 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.

School and Nursery Applications and Certificates of Catholic Practice Fr Michael will be available on Wednesday 9 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. Your endeavouring to make one of these times would be much appreciated. No specific appointment is necessary and children need not attend.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 2 November -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

Sunday 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

Monday 4 November- St Charles Borromeo

10am Mass Holy Souls

7pm Mass Holy Souls - For those who have died in the past year

Reading 1, Philippians 2:1-4, Psalm 130(131),

Gospel, Luke 14:12-14

Tuesday 5 November - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Tom Birkin

Reading 1, Philippians 2:5-11, Psalm 21(22)

Gospel, Luke 14:15-24

Wednesday 6 November - feria

10am Mass Holy Souls

7pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Philippians 2:12-18, Psalm 26(27)

Gospel, Luke 14:25-33

Thursday 7 November - feria

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Agnes Walsh

Reading 1, Philippians 3:3-8, Psalm 104(105)

Gospel, Luke 15:1-10

Friday 8 November - feria

10am Funeral Mass for Simon Charles

7pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Psalm 121(122)

Gospel, Luke 16:1-8

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

Saturday 9 November - THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

10am Mass Holy Souls

10.30-11.30am Exposition & Confessions

Reading 1, Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12, Psalm 45(46)

Gospel, John 2:13-22

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

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for the members of our own Marshalswick Mass Centre.

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, Simon Healy, Margaret Tweed and Agnes Walsh.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fr Michael Buckley MSC, Mary Comer, Martin Curry, Brian Freeney, Tonino Roscelli, 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

Loving Father, guide and inspire world leaders and lead each person you have created from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.

(*Each day at noon, some people of all faiths and none use this "Universal Prayer for Peace"*)

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."