

SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY MASSES FOR THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST ALBANS FROM 18th/19th JANUARY 2025

Sunday Mass Schedule

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|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5pm (Vigil Mass) | St Alban & St Stephen |
| 6pm (Vigil Mass) | St Bartholomew's |
| 8am | St Alban & St Stephen |
| 8.30am | St John Fisher School, Marshalswick |
| 9.30am | St Bartholomew's |
| 10am | St Alban & St Stephen |
| 12 Noon | St Alban & St Stephen |
| 6pm | St Alban & St Stephen |

Dear Parishioners

Changing the times of Sunday and weekday Masses is challenging at the best of times, changing them for two parishes makes things somewhat more complicated, while changing them in a parish where you have only just arrived, well that's a new league altogether. So, my first words, must be words of thanks. Thank you to the Parish Pastoral Councils for your advice, thank you to the parishioners from both parishes who have written or contacted me, thank you to you all for your concern that whatever is arrived at should be workable for myself and Fr John.

The changes in Mass Times would ideally have involved a lot more consultation and the time to do it, but given the immediacy of the pairing of St Bartholomew's and St Alban & St Stephen a decision needs to be made and communicated fairly immediately. That said, in sharing the planned Mass Schedule for the Catholic Parishes of St Albans, a schedule which will come into operation on Monday 13th January 2025, I would like to stress that it will be reviewed by both parishes in July 2025. Moreover, I would also welcome your feedback over the coming months.

In arriving at the Mass Schedule I have been conscious of many things: the need to deliver a choice of Masses, where there are sung and unsung Sunday Masses, the need to deliver a 'Family' Mass in both parishes, the need to make Sunday Mass as accessible as possible across the City, the need to deliver a schedule which enables Fr John and myself to be available after Masses. I have also been mindful of the relative size of both parishes, with St Bartholomew's having a Sunday attendance of between 250 and 300, and St Alban & St Stephen a Sunday Mass attendance of around 1000, roughly 1 to 3. Above all however I have been conscious that both parishes remain parishes in their own right and as such, that each parish should reasonably expect a schedule of weekday Masses, and that each should expect a regular advertised time for confessions.

Inevitably, it is difficult to please everyone. For some, not least those accustomed to the 8.30am Mass at St Bartholomew's, there will be disappointment. So too for the parishioners at Marshalswick who though maintaining a morning Mass at the earlier time of 8.30am, will need to forego this in August, or when holidays or absence and the lack of supply priests demands it. Similarly, whereas St Alban & St Stephen have been used to a First Friday Mass at 10am, this will be discontinued mindful of the existing and continuing provision of Masses at 12 Noon (St Albans Abbey) and 7pm. Again, while maintaining the existing number of Sunday Masses at St Alban & St Stephen, I am also asking that those who attend St Alban & St Stephen on Saturday evening and later Sunday morning adjust to new timings.

With my good wishes for Christmas and prayers for a prosperous New Year
Fr Michael

**SCHEDULE OF WEEKDAY MASSES FOR THE CATHOLIC PARISHES
OF ST ALBANS FROM MONDAY 13th JANUARY 2025**

Monday

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| 10am | Mass | St Alban & St Stephen |
| 7pm | Mass | St Alban & St Stephen |

Tuesday

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|---------|------|-----------------------|
| 10am | Mass | St Alban & St Stephen |
| 12 Noon | Mass | St Bartholomew's |

Wednesday

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| 12 Noon | Mass | St Bartholomew's |
| 7pm | Mass | St Alban & St Stephen |

Thursday

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|---------|------|-----------------------|
| 10am | Mass | St Alban & St Stephen |
| 12 Noon | Mass | St Bartholomew's |

Friday

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|---------|------|-----------------------------|
| 12 Noon | Mass | <i>St Alban's Cathedral</i> |
| 7pm | Mass | St Alban & St Stephen |

Saturday

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|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 10am | Mass | St Alban & St Stephen |
| 10.30am | Exposition | St Alban & St Stephen |
| 10.30am | Confessions | St Alban & St Stephen |
| 11.15am | Benediction | St Alban & St Stephen |
| 5pm | Vigil Mass for Sunday | St Alban & St Stephen |
| 4.45pm | Exposition | St Bartholomew's |
| 4.45pm | Confessions | St Bartholomew's |
| 5.30pm | Benediction | St Bartholomew's |
| 6pm | Vigil Mass for Sunday | St Bartholomew's |

Please Note

On Sundays where we are reliant on a supply priest it may be necessary for the 8.30am at St John Fisher, Marshalswick to become a Service of Word and Communion led by a permanent deacon.

On Sundays where there is only one of the resident priests available and we have been unable to obtain a supply priest the 5pm Vigil Mass at St Alban & St Stephen and the 6pm Vigil Mass at St Bartholomew's will both be celebrated. The 9.30am at St Bartholomew's and the 12 Noon and 6pm at St Alban & St Stephen will also be celebrated. On these Sundays, where possible, the 8am and 10am at St Alban & St Stephen will become Services of Word and Communion led by a permanent deacon. In this instance, there would be no Sunday Mass or Service of Word and Communion at St John Fisher, Marshalswick.

There will be a revised Mass schedule in August during which the Sunday Mass at Marshalswick will be cancelled. The precise details of the August Mass schedule will depend on the availability of supply priests, however there will be at least one Sunday Morning Mass in each parish.