



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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

9 February 2025 - FIFTH 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](mailto:stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07976 277059

*We are a Fairtrade parish*

*Fr Michael writes...* The parish administrators here and at St Bartholomew's have spent much of the past couple of weeks completing the annual financial returns required by the Diocese. Although we cannot release specific figures until the diocesan accounts are approved by the auditors, it is clear that we will have ended last year with a reasonable surplus. In the main that surplus has been generated by a) a cautious approach to capital expenditure, b) a combination of high interest rates and growth in our Building Fund and c) the receipt of a legacy during the year. With further falls in the interest rate almost certain and a reduction in our bank balance resulting from the commencement of building works in the spring, together with the resultant impact on parish centre lettings income, our operational surplus in 2025 will be significantly affected. This means that we have to think more carefully about everyday spending and maximise income where we can.

First then, I would like to thank you for your ongoing generosity; for your giving to our ordinary operational costs by way of the Sunday Offertory and for your donations to and pledges of support for the Parish Building Fund. To date £207,800 has been received and a further £240,500 is expected, making a total of £448,300 over the five years of the Building Fund Appeal (including £70,100 of gift aid tax reclaimed). Secondly, this is not an appeal for people to give more, it really isn't. However, I would ask those of you who are UK tax payers to please consider gift aiding what you give and to give by standing order, if you do not already do so. Gift aiding is a straightforward way of maximising what you give without giving any more than you already do.

When UK tax payers gift aid their charitable donations, the charity can claim back the basic-rate tax from HM Revenue & Customs on their donations. In effect, gift aiding what you give will increase the value of what you give to the parish by 25p in every pound or 25%. (The only thing the tax payer needs to do is to ensure that the money the Government gives to a charity or charities, as a result of a tax payer's gift aiding, does not exceed the amount of tax they have paid in the relevant tax year.)

So, if you are a UK tax payer who gives on a regular basis (perhaps you already do by standing order) but have not signed a gift aid declaration enabling us to reclaim a proportion of the tax you have already paid, please contact Angela, our Parish Administrator, at [stalbans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk) saying you would like to gift aid your giving and asking for the relevant Offertory or Building Fund standing order and/or gift aid form.

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**The Chosen** 'The Chosen' is a historical drama series based on the lives of Jesus and those who knew him, set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in 1st century Israel. It draws on our knowledge of Jesus from the gospels and suggests what may have been some of the back stories of the characters around at that time. A deeply moving Christmas episode was shown in the parish in December. If there is sufficient interest in watching the drama and some discussion afterwards, the Adult Faith Formation Group proposes to show the first series of The Chosen on Thursday mornings after 10am mass, beginning on 27 February and finishing after 6 episodes on 3 April. Each session will last approx. 90 minutes, including tea and coffee. If you would like to join in, please give your name to the parish office by emailing [stalbans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk) or telephone 01727 853585 9am - 1pm Monday to Fridays.

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*Please note that weekday and weekend mass times have now changed as the result of the recent pairing of our parish with St Bartholomew's. Please visit our parish [website](http://www.albanstephen.org) for details of our new mass times.*

**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 8 March 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 10am 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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:) 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.

**Sunday Sung Masses** Under the revised Mass schedule musicians who previously served the 11.30 Mass will serve the 12 noon Mass on Sundays, with choir and organ on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and cantor and organ on 2nd, 4th and, when applicable, 5th Sundays, as previously.

## OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

**AFF Group - Save the date** Our Lenten talk schedule is something you are not going to want to miss. Dr Pia Matthews will be speaking : 7.30pm to 9pm as follows:  
Friday 7 March 2025 – Assisted Suicide  
Friday 21 March 2025 – A Just War?  
Friday 28 March 2025 – Conscience in a Modern World  
Dr Pia Matthews is a senior lecturer at St Mary's University, Twickenham, and a lecturer at Allen Hall, our Diocesan Seminary, in Chelsea. She gained a BA/MA in Law from Cambridge University, a BTh (Theology) from St John's Seminary and Surrey University, and an MA in Bioethics from St Mary's. She currently teaches on the MA Bioethics and Medical Law programme, and on the FD Healthcare Practitioners Ethics, Theology and Care at St Mary's; and in marriage and family life at Allen Hall. In 2015, she was

appointed an expert to the XIV Ordinary General Assembly Synod of Bishops by Pope Francis.

**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 should be non-perishable food and can be left in the box in the porch. 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 at Marshalswick Mass Centre (first Sunday of the month).

**Clean warm, adult clothes and sleeping bags needed for Centre 33** Centre 33 provides hot meals and a warm and welcoming place to meet for anyone in need or homeless in St Albans. During this cold weather, we are in need of clean, warm, second hand jumpers, jackets, coats, casual trousers, gloves and woolly hats for men and women visitors. Clean sleeping bags are also needed. If you have spare any of these items in good clean condition, please leave them in the marked box in the porch. Please do not donate any other items. Thank you.

**Clothing Collection** Donations of warm men's clothing is needed for local migrants. Donations can be left in the Migrants' Collection box at the back of the church. Please only donate items which you would be happy to give to a family member or friend. Many thanks for all that you do to support the local migrant community.

## 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 10am Sunday Mass during school term time, after 12 noon 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** Our parish fair trade stall will be available after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 9 February. This endeavour has been running in the parish for over 30 years and has offered a small lifeline to those suffering in the Developing World enabling many people to escape poverty through their own work. Please try to look at the stall and see if there is anything you could buy to support those so much less well-off than we are. All sales make a difference.

**Mothers' Prayers** We will meet in Room 2 on Monday 10 February at 8pm. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from; [office@mothersprayers.org](mailto:office@mothersprayers.org).

**Prayers and fasting for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country Monday 10 February** Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. Pray especially that Assisted Suicide won't be introduced. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting contact; The Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740. Please Invite others to join us on the day, by Inviting them via [Facebook](#).

**The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group** We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 11 February 1.30-3.30pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

**BINGO Friday 14 February at 8pm in the Parish Centre** to help support World Youth Day in Rome. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation group** We meet on the third Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on 20 February in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

**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.

**A Day With Mary: Westminster Cathedral Saturday 1 March** 9.45am to 5.00pm. Further information available [here](#)

**Nicholas Breakspear School Annual Careers Fair** Thursday 13 March, from 9am-3.15pm This event aims to expose our students to multiple professions from various industries. Our aim is to inform and inspire our students, and demonstrate how they could contribute and help 'Build a Better World' through their future career. If you are willing to participate, or would like some further information regarding the fair, please contact our Careers Lead, Shannon O'Toole at [otooles@nbs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:otooles@nbs.herts.sch.uk).

**Jubilee Pilgrimage to Walsingham for the Feast of the Annunciation 25 March** Join us on a coach leaving from St Bartholomew's, St Albans, for a beautiful pilgrimage experience. Holy Mass will be celebrated in Walsingham at 12 noon in the Basilica, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. We will walk or ride (if preferred) the Holy Mile and visit the site of the original Holy House and

pray the Prayer for England. The cost is £25 for adults and it is free for children. Please contact Rosemary Roscoe 07723 546642 or Margaret Leahy [margleahy@gmail.com](mailto:margleahy@gmail.com) for further details.

**Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Matrimony** On Saturday 17 May at 2.30pm the Cardinal will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and any year over 60) anniversary of Catholic marriage. If you would like to attend please inform the Parish Office by Thursday 3 April and include husband and wife's names, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email (or phone number, if no email).

## 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 May 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.

**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 & READINGS

### **Saturday 8 February – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

5pm Mass Kathy Fahy (RIP)

### **Sunday 9 February – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME**

8am Mass People of the parish

8.30am Mass Mario D'Andrea (Ann)

*(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)*

10.00am Mass Luigi Bragoli (RIP)

12 Noon Mass Mandy Swales (RIP)

6pm Mass Henry Green (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 137(138)

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Gospel, Luke 5:1-11

### **Monday 10 February – St Scholastica**

10am Mass Fr Henry Twohig (Ann)

7pm Mass Patricia Keogh (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 1:1-19, Psalm 103(104)

Gospel, Mark 6:53-56

### **Tuesday 11 February – feria**

10am Mass Deacon Steve Pickard (First Anniversary) and Celia Dunne (Ann)

Reading 1, Genesis 1:20-2:4, Psalm 8

Gospel, Mark 7:1-13

### **Wednesday 12 February – feria**

*10am No Morning Mass*

7pm Mass Kathleen Quinn (Ann)

Reading 1, Genesis 2:4-9,15-17, Psalm 103(104)

Gospel, Mark 7:14-23

### **Thursday 13 February – feria**

10am Mass Funeral Mass for John Joseph Kilbane

Reading 1, Genesis 2:18-25, Psalm 127(128)

Gospel, Mark 7:24-30

### **Friday 14 February – SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS**

10am Funeral Mass for Thomas Screene

7pm Mass Joan Roscoe (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 13:46-49, Psalm 116(117)

Gospel, Luke 10:1-9

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

### **Saturday 15 February – Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday**

10am Mass Celia Dunne (Ann)

*10.30am Confessions and Exposition*

Reading 1, Genesis 3:9-24, Psalm 89(90)

Gospel, Mark 8:1-10

**Mass in Cantonese** Once a month at 2pm at Our Lady of Lourdes in Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3HJ. All welcome. For more details, please see the porch flyer or email [cantonmassea@gmail.com](mailto:cantonmassea@gmail.com).

**Family Resources** Please join us at Little Lights (under sevens) and Children's Liturgy (seven and above) during 10am 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](mailto: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.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### **Saturday 15 February – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

5pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

### **Sunday 16 February – SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME**

8am Mass Brother Clement SC (Ints)

8.30am Mass Ainsley Lambert (Ann)

*(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)*

10.00am Mass People of the parish

12 Noon Mass Antonio Gramegna (Ann)

6pm Mass Sheila Aylward (Ann)

Reading 1, Jeremiah 17:5-8, Psalm 1, Reading 2,

1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20, Gospel, Luke 6:17,20-26

## PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray, on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday, for all those who are discriminated against in our society.

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 John Joseph Kilbane, Trishan Kilkenny, Ena Phelan and Thomas Screene.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Sheila Aylward, Francis Bell, John Comer, Fr Pat Courtney MSC, Mario D'Andrea, Celia Dunne, Bridget Feeney, Ernest and Hermina Gaufruid, Antonio Gramegna, Ainsley Lambert, Oswald McCarthy, Deacon Steve Pickard, Kathleen Quinn and Fr Henry Twohig.

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

**Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for February** Let us pray that the ecclesial community may welcome the desires and doubts of young people who feel called to serve Christ's mission in priestly and religious life.

**Diocese of Westminster Annual Report and Accounts 2023** A copy of the Diocesan annual report and accounts is available to view in the parish office. Copies can also be viewed [online](#).