



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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30 March 2025 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



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 / stalbands3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes ... I was walking around Sainsbury's a few evenings ago and overheard two shoppers speaking to one another. One of the two was extolling the benefits of going to church on Sunday. It struck me as a rather brave conversation. When were you or I last bold enough to speak like this in the dairy aisle? One of the things my Dad has always done when passing a church is to make the sign of the Cross. The sign of the Cross is all at once a statement about the Trinitarian nature of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a reminder of Christ's sacrifice and God's love for us, and a sign or act of witness to the world at large, but my point is that it is a straightforward uncomplicated way of witnessing to our faith. It doesn't involve making a speech or setting aside time you cannot spare. It can be readily and easily incorporated into our daily routine.

That said I would like to encourage every household to take home a few copies of the **Holy Week & Easter Card now available in the porch**. It includes details of our Holy Week and Easter Services. But as well as taking one for yourselves please distribute the additional copies to friends or neighbours who seem to have stopped coming to church. As well as taking home a copy of our Holy Week & Easter Card, why not take home a copy of the **Holy Week Poster provided by the Knights of St Columba** and place this prominently in a front room window. Finally, could you give up half an hour of your time between 8.30am and 3.30pm to distribute our Holy Week and Easter Card to people attending the **Wednesday Market on 9th April**? To volunteer please contact Mary on 07976 277059.

Let us reach out and evangelize as Pope Francis encourages us to evangelize, not by staying in-doors, expecting people to find us, but by going out and seeking them.

Blessing for new Mothers 30 March All expectant mothers and those whose babies have recently arrived (less than a year) are invited for a special blessing on Mothers' Day, Sunday 30 March at the 10am Mass. You and your partners are also then warmly invited to tea/coffee after Mass and a brief chat on the Sacrament of Baptism – what it is and what to think about ahead of time.

Music for Holy Week Again this year, there is an open invitation to all musicians and singers from the various masses, as well as to those who do not regularly sing or play, to come together and provide the music for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. There will be rehearsals in the near future, but for now, if you can commit for Holy Week please email the parish office at stalbands@rcdow.org.uk saying that you would like to be involved with the Holy Week music, stating whether you are a singer or musician and, if the latter, indicating what instrument you play.

Holy Week and Easter Services Please see the [Holy Week page](#) of our website for details of all our Holy Week and Easter Services, both here and at St Bartholomew's. Times for Confessions before Easter are also listed there.

Offertory Promise Envelopes The new Offertory Promise Envelopes are now available for collection from the presbytery. We cannot leave them on open display because the labels include personal data. Please ask one of the priests after Mass on Sunday for your box of envelopes if you can't get to the parish office during the week.

Jubilee Pilgrimage Along with the parishioners from St Bartholomew's we hope to mark this Jubilee Year by walking to Our Lady Queen of Apostles in Welwyn and processing through the Jubilee Door that has been opened there. We are thinking of doing this in September. If you are interested in helping, please speak with Fr Michael.

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

Way of the Cross during Lent Every Saturday in Lent at 9.30am, the Way of the Cross will be followed in Church before 10am Mass with a different emphasis each week. On the 5 April the Stations will be led by our Adult Faith Formation Group. You can also view the Stations online and the text will be available to help you reflect on this journey through our Lord's passion and death.

Easter Garden We are commemorating our deceased loved ones in a special way in our Easter Garden again this year by writing their names on bamboo butterfly shapes and planting them around the rose garden in front of the presbytery. These will be close to the three empty crosses, a symbol of the new life Christ won for us in his resurrection. If you would like to remember deceased family or friends in this way, please send us their names clearly marked 'Easter Garden' either by posting the details through the presbytery door or by emailing the parish office stalbens@rcdow.org.uk

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is Saturday 10 May 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.

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.

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.

Help needed setting up the altar Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help set up the Altar and tidy it up after Mass. We are still looking for help at the 10am Saturday morning mass and the 10am Sunday mass. It is not an onerous task and there are guidelines and photos which make it clear what to do. If you can help please talk to Fr Michael or Fr John or email the parish office.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

YCBS Easter Egg Vouchers Once again we have been able to extend the YCBS scheme to Easter; we are delighted that we had enough funds left over from Christmas to be able to do this. A small voucher for an Easter Egg will be delivered to all the children involved in the scheme. Thank you once again for everything you do to make the scheme such a success. We will look forward to launching YCBS 2025 later in the year. The YCBS Team.

Bread and soup event Many thanks to everyone who supported this event in any way. A total of £350 was raised and will be donated to the Cafod family fast day appeal.

Marshalswick Mass Centre rota for 2025-2026 This is now available on the website. It can be downloaded from the Liturgy page under Groups or by using the following [link](#).

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).

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.

Chant Schola Group The cantors have been singing the chant in its old and newer forms for several years now at the 11.30/12 noon Mass on Sundays. Several parishioners have enquired about joining a chant schola, and the cantors would now like to see if we can form a group - as is proper - as a bridge to full congregational participation in the chant. Experimental sessions of 45 minutes will be held in the choir loft at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 and Thursday 3 April. No experience is required beyond the ability to hold a tune together with others, and full tuition will be offered in effective voice production, musicianship and the history and conventions of the chant. If you are interested but can't attend either preliminary session, please contact Jeremy White spodehouse@hotmail.com or text 07999 957665.

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 5pm 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)

Half Hour of Gentle Taize chants, silence and prayers Wednesday 2 April at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Sherwood Avenue, AL4 9QA. All welcome.

C.W.L. Thursday 3 April at 2pm A talk about Agatha Christie entitled "Murder, Mystery and Morality" All are welcome. Cost £3 to include refreshments.

Men's Breakfast Saturday 5 April This will have a focus on Holy week, as we will be two weeks away from our Easter celebrations. We meet in the Parish Centre from 8.15 for coffee, croissants and conversation, followed by a 30 minute video on the final words of Jesus during his crucifixion. We will finish 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 morning.

Fair trade Our monthly stall will be open after all Masses at church over the weekend of 5/6 April and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 13 April. We still have Easter eggs available, plus our usual range of items. All proceeds go to Cafod and each sale directly helps our less fortunate neighbour in the developing world.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 8 April 2-4pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

BINGO Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 11 April in aid of "LIFE". Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is Welcome..

Churches Together in Marshalswick Vineyard Foodbank collection at Budgens The Quadrant Saturday 12 April 9.30-11.30am To volunteer to receive items from customers contact Christine or Maureen 07900260290 / 07788968654.

Mothers' Prayers - Room 2 on Monday 14 April at 8pm. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from : office@mothersprayers.org.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation group We normally meet on the third Thursday of each month. However, our next meeting is on Thursday 24 April at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

HCPT Lourdes Pilgrimage The St Bart's HCPT group will take requests for Candles and Intentions to Lourdes as part of their Pilgrimage during the week of 21 April. The Intentions will be posted in the Prayer Box sited at the Grotto and the Candles will be lit at the group's service of Light and Reconciliation also at the Grotto. To take part, please write out your intention (please anonymise your intention using a first name or initial only) and place it in an envelope addressed to 'St Barts - Private Intention HCPT'. If you want a Candle to be lit at the Service of Light and

Reconciliation please put an offering in a different envelope and mark it 'St Barts - Lourdes Candles HCPT'. These envelopes can be posted through the Presbytery Door on Beaconsfield Road. They will then be delivered to St Bart's.

Migrants' Meal Our next meal will be held on Thursday 24 April. We need more volunteers to support this event. If you can spare a couple of hours on the day please call Mary on 07976 277059. You will not be asked to cook; simply to be present to support the cooks. The event starts at about midday and ends at about 5 pm.

Circle of Friends March 2025 Tea 2-4pm 30 April - St Barts' Parish Hall Parishioners and friends of St Barts or St Alban and Stephen's who are living alone or would like to join for a tea and a chat are welcome to attend. The tea gives an opportunity to meet with others and an activity will be included. There is no charge but a small donation is appreciated. It would be helpful if you can let Maureen Kelly know if you will be attending or are in need of a lift: 07860 283743 or stars2004@btinternet.com.

Westminster Cathedral Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Matrimony 2.30pm Saturday 17 May 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. 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 and phone number.

St Barts Baby and Toddler Group A group is being set up at St Barts at 11am-12.30pm on Thursdays for parents/carers and children aged 0-4yrs. This group will be open to all with no charge. Start date to be confirmed shortly. If you are interested in attending or helping out please contact Lizzie Lizzio at efkelly88@gmail.com.

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 one year in advance and the first masses we now have free for booking are in June 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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 29 March - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Eileen Armstrong (RIP), Margaret Gallagher (RIP)
& Kathleen Armstrong (Ann)

Sunday 30 March - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8am Mass Annie Cawley and Mary Bergin (Ann)
8.30am Mass Milly Yarwood (Ann)
(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)
10.00am Mary Miskell (RIP)
12 Noon Mass Tom Bambury (RIP)
6pm Mass Mario Di Filippo (Ann)
Reading 1, Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 33(34), Reading 2,
2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Gospel, Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Monday 31 March - Lent feria

10am Mass Jeannette Morillon (Ints)
7pm Mass Francisco Diaz (Ann)
Reading 1, Isaiah 65:17-21, Psalm 29(30)
Gospel, John 4:43-54

Tuesday 1 April - Lent feria

10am Mass Margaret Sweeney (Ann)
Reading 1, Ezekiel 47:1-9,12, Psalm 45(46)
Gospel, John 5:1-3,5-16

Wednesday 2 April - Lent feria

10am *No Morning Mass*
7pm Mass Patricia Mangan (RIP)
Reading 1, Isaiah 49:8-15, Psalm 144(145)
Gospel, John 5:17-30

Thursday 3 April - Lent feria

10am Mass Liz Henry and family (Ints)
Reading 1, Exodus 32:7-14, Psalm 105(106)
Gospel, John 5:31-47

Friday 4 April - Lent feria

7pm Mass Andrew Dobson (Ints)
Reading 1, Wisdom 2:1,12-22, Psalm 33(34)
Gospel, John 7:1-2,10,25-30
(On Fridays Mass is celebrated in St Albans Cathedral at Noon)

Saturday 5 April - Lent feria

9.30am Stations of the Cross
10am Mass Brian Dunleavy (RIP)
10.30am *Confessions and Exposition*
Reading 1, Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalm 7
Gospel, John 7:40-52

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 5 April - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Josie Dowd (RIP)

Sunday 6 April - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8am Mass Geraldine Barrett (RIP)
8.30am Mass Oswald McCarthy (Ann)
(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)
10.00am Margaret Walsh (nee Munnelly) (RIP)
12 Noon Mass Terry Reilly (RIP)
6pm Mass Anna Trugio (Ann) & Giuseppe Trugio (RIP)
Reading 1, Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 125(126)
Reading 2, Philippians 3:8-14, Gospel, John 8:1-11

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

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 Eileen
Davey, Jennifer Federer, Bridie Lally, Sally McNeil, Steve
O'Donoghue, Canon Bernard Scholes and Peter Wilson.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time
including Kathleen Armstrong, Mary Baxter, Mary
Bergin, Annie Cawley, Floryse Chan-Fat, Mario Di
Filippo, Francisco Diaz, Oswald McCarthy, Margaret
Sweeney, Anna Trugio and Milly Yarwood.

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

St Bartholomew's Parish Please see the St Bartholomew's
website at [St Bartholomew - Roman Catholic Parish of St
Albans South](#) for details of mass times and events or to
read a copy of the St Bartholomew's weekly newsletter.

Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Prayer Dear
Lord, please help mothers in all their endeavours.

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 cantonmassesea@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. 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.