



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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13 April 2025 – PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



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

Fr Michael writes... This weekend, with the celebration of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most solemn week in the Church's year. In addition to the customary services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday there will a public celebration of Morning Prayer and the Office of Readings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 9.30am. If you are unable attend the principal services why not use the opportunity these present to reflect on the events leading up to Christ's death and resurrection? All are welcome. Finally, please note that there is no 6pm evening Mass next Sunday, Easter Sunday.

Parish Easter Card Market Stall Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the Easter card stall another success. Thanks go to those who collected volunteers' names, accessed the gazebo, shared information with their groups and of course to the brave team who came to hand out invitations to our Easter celebrations. Also those who encouraged us on the day. We had some interesting chats with members of the public.

Retiring collections during Holy Week The retiring collection on Maundy Thursday is being held in support of our local SVP. The retiring collection on Good Friday is a special collection for the Holy Places of Palestine. This offering, called for by successive Popes, is used to support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

Easter Offering The priests of the parish do not receive a wage or salary, instead they receive a monthly stipend or allowance which is funded out of the offering received on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day, as well as for masses, baptisms, weddings and funerals. If you wish to use an envelope for this purpose these are available in the porch.

Walk of Witness Good Friday 7:20pm Join Christians from different churches as we unite to help carry the Cross through the town from St Alban & St Stephen RC church to the Cathedral Abbey for the 8pm Unity at the Cross service on the theme of waiting

Gift Aid If you are a UK taxpayer and have previously signed a gift aid declaration, but no longer pay tax, please contact the parish office and let us know. If you have stopped paying tax, we cannot claim gift aid on your giving (25p in every pound). If you do not pay tax and gift aid is claimed on what you give, HMRC may seek reimbursement. If you have signed a gift aid form, your offertory or building fund donations need to come from a bank account in your name only or a joint bank account on which you are also named. The 2024/25 tax year ended April 2025 and we will be submitting our gift aid claim for 2024/25 shortly. Please phone or email the parish office with any queries or to notify us of any changes in circumstance in 2024/25.

CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal by putting your donation in an envelope marked Myanmar Appeal and posting it through the presbytery door or by donating online at www.cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030.

Food Safety Talk for volunteers 6.30 – 8.30pm Wednesday 7 May Louise Mahon, Head of Health and Safety for the Diocese, will be talking to parishioners from St Alban & St Stephen and St Bartholomew about food safety. This training will be particularly useful for those volunteers who help to organise or support parish events where food is prepared or served. It will be held in our parish centre. All welcome but it would be useful to have some idea of numbers so please [email](mailto:stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) the parish office if you might be interested in attending.

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.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

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.

Stations of the Cross - Good Friday The Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 6.30pm will be on the theme of the Way of the Cross for Our Time. Following this service, at 7.20pm, the Walk of Witness starts and then processes through the town centre to St Albans Cathedral for the Ecumenical service "Unity at the Cross" which begins at 8pm. You can also view the Stations [online](#) and the text will be available to help you reflect upon this prayerful journey through our Lord's passion and death. Children's Way of the Cross takes place on Good Friday at 10.30am.

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 stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

Music for Easter Masses Musicians and singers from across the various music groups are invited to come together to provide the music for the Triduum of Services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. If you are a musician or a singer and want to join the Holy Week Music Group, you are welcome. Rehearsals will take place at 6.30pm on Maundy Thursday, 12pm on Good Friday and 5pm on Easter Saturday.

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.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

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.

Jubilee Pilgrimage 13 September 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. If you are interested in helping, please speak with Fr Michael.

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)

Fair trade Our monthly stall will be open 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.

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.

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.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 22 April 2-4pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

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.

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.

FiF Youth Car Washing for Tiplyang Project Sign-up sheets are at the back of the church if anyone would like their car washed whilst having a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake on Saturday 26 April between 2pm and 4.30pm. £10 per car donation.

Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday 27 April At Holy Family Church, 194 Knightsfield, WGC AL8 7RQ. Prayers begin at 2pm with Holy Rosary, 2.45pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Confessions, 3.50pm Benediction followed by Veneration of the Divine Mercy image. Details from Lucia Federici 07933 436387.

Circle of Friends 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. There is no charge but a small donation is appreciated. Please let Maureen Kelly know if you will be attending or are in need of a lift: 07860 283743 or stars2004@btinternet.com.

Marriage Help - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 20-22 June. Tel: 0788 7296983 www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Assisted Suicide Bill - postcards available Committee Stage of the assisted suicide Bill has ended. It is now weaker and less safe than it was before. 300+ amendments that sought to strengthen safeguards in the Bill and protect vulnerable groups were rejected by Bill supporters, including protection for people with disabilities and domestic abuse victims. Please take action now - collect a red and white postcard, fill out your details and post it to your MP today!

The Secular Clergy Common Fund ('Big M') is looking to appoint a new CEO The SCCF is a fund which provides an annual grant for sick and retired secular priests across five of the southern Roman Catholic Dioceses. As part of its portfolio it looks after two Catholic cemeteries in London. The role is 0.6FTE and offers flexible working and a salary of £50k-£60k pro rata. For further details contact Angela Rowe secretary@secularclergy.org.uk Closing date 28 April

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/July 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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 12 April - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm* Mass Joe Bagge (RIP)

Sunday 13 April - PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

8am Mass Patrick Stones (RIP)

8.30am Mass Stan Phillips (Ann) (*begins in playground*)

(*John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)

10.00am* Mass Private Intention

12 Noon* Mass People of the parish

6pm* Mass Brian McHugh (RIP)

**Begins in front of the Church*

Reading 1, Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm 21(22)

Reading 2, Philippians 2:6-11, Gospel, Luke 22:14-23:56

Monday 14 April - MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

10am Funeral Mass for Sally McNeil

7pm Mass Andrew Fernandes (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 42:1-7, Psalm 26(27)

Gospel, John 12:1-11

Tuesday 15 April - TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

10am Funeral Mass for Jennifer Federer

Reading 1, Isaiah 49:1-6, Psalm 70(71)

Gospel, John 13:21-33,36-38

Wednesday 16 April - WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Elaine Gatta nee Bagge (Ann)

Reading 1, Isaiah 50:4-9, Psalm 68(69)

Gospel, Matthew 26:14-25

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Thursday 17 April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

There is no morning mass today.

9.30am Office of Readings and Morning prayer

8pm EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Followed by 'Watch and Pray' until 11.30pm

Reading 1, Exodus 12:1-8,11-14, Psalm 115(116)

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 22:23-26, Gospel, John 13:1-15

Friday 18 April - GOOD FRIDAY

No masses are celebrated today

9.30am Office of Readings and Morning prayer

10.30am Children's Way of the Cross

3pm CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Reading 1, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 30(31)

Reading 2, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, Passion John 18:1-19:42

6.30pm Stations of the Cross

7.20pm Walk of Witness to St Albans Abbey

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

Saturday 19 April - HOLY SATURDAY

There is no morning mass or devotions this morning

9.30am Office of Readings and Morning prayer

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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

8pm Mass EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

Reading 1, Genesis 1:1-2:2, Psalm, 103(104)

Reading 2, Exodus 14:15-15:1, Psalm Exodus 15

Reading 3, Isaiah 55: 1-11, Psalm Isaiah 12

Reading 4, Ezekiel 36:16-28, Psalm 41(42)

Epistle Roman 6:3-11, Psalm 117(118)

Gospel, Luke 24: 1-12

Sunday 20 April - EASTER SUNDAY

8am Mass Ewan Keppie (RIP)

8.30am Mass Deacon Steve Pickard (RIP)

(*John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)

10.00am Mass Luisa and Tonino Roscelli (Ann)

12 Noon Mass Susan Myerscough (RIP)

There is no evening mass today

Reading 1, Acts 10:34,37-43, Psalm 117(118)

Reading 2, Colossians 3:4 OR 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Gospel, John 20:1-9 OR Luke 24:1-12

CONFESSIONS DURING HOLY WEEK

Saturday 12 April 10.30am, 4pm, 4.45pm*

Sunday 13 April 5.30pm

Monday 14 April 10.30am, 6.30pm

Wednesday 16 April 12.30pm*, 6.30pm

Thursday 17 March 10.30am, 12.30pm*

* at St Bartholomew's

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all members of the St Bartholomews.

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 Jennifer Federer, Christopher Colin Fennessey, Rev Francis Lau, Sally McNeil and Peter Wilson.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Baxter, Pat Brennan, Elaine Gatta (nee Bagge), Margaret Markham, Eddie O'Connell, Stan Phillips, Luisa and Tonino Roscelli.

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

Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Prayer Loving Father, as we think of the suffering Jesus and of all those carrying their cross today, we also remember the hope the resurrection of Jesus gives us, the hope of new life and of goodness overcoming evil. Help us to be instruments of your goodness and love, thereby spreading hope & comfort to all those we meet. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer as we place all our trust in you."