



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: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org

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



Contactless Giving

20 April 2025 – EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

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... In this Jubilee Year Pope Francis has invited us to be Pilgrims of Hope. It seems to me that if we are to walk the way of hope we must steep ourselves in what we celebrate this Easter Sunday – the Resurrection of Christ; the Christ who overcomes sin and redeems, the Christ who raises up the Cross from an instrument of torture to a place of victory. To be pilgrims of hope the life, death and resurrection of Christ, what we call the paschal mystery, must be a reality in our own lives. Yes, we fail, and maybe in Lent we have failed time and again in our resolutions, but instead of being shaped by failure, allowing it to pattern our lives and self-understanding, we need to begin again. We need to hold on to the fact that Christ's resurrection was absolute; that it took in every aspect of his being, body and spirit, and it was a triumph over every sin. This is what it is to be a Pilgrim of Hope, someone who looks forward, shaped by Christ's resurrection; it is allowing Christ to be for us what he desired to be and is – the one whose promises are to be trusted, the one who opens up the way to the Father, the one who makes all things new. On behalf of Fr John, Deacon Brendan and the whole Parish Team I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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:stalbans@rcdow.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

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.

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.

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.

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.

OUR PARISH GROUPS AND EVENTS

Parish Groups and Events Please see our ['Parish News'](#) webpage for more details of parish groups and events.

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)

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 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 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.

C.W.L. 2pm Thursday 1 May Richard will continue his fascinating talk on the life of Agatha Christie. All are welcome members, friends & guests £3 incl. refreshments.

Thinking Lunch Marlborough Road Methodist Church, 12.30-1.30pm Thursday 1 May. Sophie Lawrence, Community Protection Herts CC, will speak on 'Prevent: a Home Office programme - helping people vulnerable to radicalisation move away from extremism'. Half an hour talk and then discussion. Please bring your own lunch and drinks. Donations gratefully received to cover expenses. Any profits will be given to the speaker for a charity of their choice.

BINGO - Many, many thanks for the support for our recent Bingo evening in aid of "LIFE". The amount raised, including donations, amounted to £140.00. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 9 May at 8pm in the Parish Centre.

Dr Pia Matthews talk on Gender and identity: what are the issues? Thinking theologically about gender - 7.30pm Monday 19 May at St Alban and St Stephen Parish Centre hall. All are welcome. There is some parking available. Dr Pia Matthews is a senior lecturer at St Mary's University, Twickenham, and a lecturer at Allen Hall, our Diocesan Seminary, in Chelsea. The talk is organised by the Herts Circle of the Newman Association.

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 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. Closing date 28 April. Contact Angela Rowe at secretary@secularclergy.org.uk for further details.

Jubilee Pilgrimage 13 September Together 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.

A Service of Healing and Hope 2.30pm 10 May Cardinal Vincent Nichols will lead a Service of Healing and Hope at Westminster Cathedral. This is an open service to which all are welcome as a sign of solidarity, care and hope for those who have been impacted by abuse, as well as those who work with or support them. Before the service all are welcome to join in a creative workshop from 10am in the Cathedral Hall, run by LOUDFence, to make materials which will be used in the service. If you plan on attending, please bring a packed lunch.

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.

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.

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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 19 April - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

8.30pm 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 OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

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

Monday 21 April - MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

No Mass this evening due to the Bank Holiday

Reading 1, Acts 2:14,22-23, Psalm 15(16)

Gospel, Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday 22 April - TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am Mass Maria & Franciszek Frosztęga (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 2:36-41, Psalm 32(33)

Gospel, John 20:11-18

Wednesday 23 April - WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Teddy Thompson (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 3:1-10, Psalm 104(105)

Gospel, Luke 24:13-35

Thursday 24 April - THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am Funeral Mass for Peter Wilson

Reading 1, Acts 3:11-26, Psalm 8

Gospel, Luke 24:35-48

Friday 25 April - FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

7pm Mass Eileen Vasey (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 4:1-12, Psalm 117(118)

Gospel, John 21:1-14

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

Saturday 26 April - SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Acts 4:13-21, Psalm, 117(118)

Gospel, Mark 16:9-15

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 26 April - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Sarah Aiguanfo (Ints)

Sunday 27 April - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday)

8am Mass Mary Agnes Boyce (RIP)

8.30am Mass People of the parish

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass Enid Dobson (Ints)

12 Noon Mass Des Stack (RIP)

6pm Mass Chris Murphy (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 5:12-16, Psalm 117(118)

Reading 2, Apocalypse 1:9-13,7-19, Gospel, John 20:19-31

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all members of St Leonards Church.

For all the sick including Lorraine Ahern, Adelene Barfield, Fr Peter Dwyer, Stephen Matthew Geraghty, Rita Walsh and Mary Watkins.

For all those who have died recently including Christopher Colin Fennessy, Rev Francis Lau, Kathleen Rafferty and Peter Wilson.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Baxter, Maria & Franciszek Frosztęga, Luisa and Tonino Roscelli and Eileen Vasey.

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.

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.

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](#).