



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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27 April and 4 May 2025 – SECOND AND THIRD SUNDAYS OF EASTER



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 John writes... On Monday, we began nine days of mourning on hearing of the death of Pope Francis, who throughout his pontificate sought to foster ties with people of all faiths and constantly proclaimed that the dignity of every person should be recognised. Cardinal Vincent said on Monday that "Pope Francis was called to priesthood through his experience of the mercy and compassion of God. This remained the core of his ministry, as Priest, Bishop and Pontiff. Only in understanding the love and mercy of God towards each one of us can we fashion societies and communities that bear the mark of the 'kingdom of God'. This same focus," continues Cardinal Vincent, underpinned Pope Francis' emphasis on "membership of the Church as being rooted in 'missionary discipleship'" providing "a dynamic and powerful vision for every Christian and every community".

Pope Francis, from the beginning of his pontificate, desired that no one should be marginalised, whilst recognising that the Church had sometimes got things wrong. He saw the Church, not as an institution that had arrived, but as a people on a journey together and brought to the Catholic Church the idea of synodality from the Greek word meaning "walking together". He imagined a Church that listens, that learns, and that moves forward not as individuals, but as a community. As we pray for the repose of his soul, many throughout the world are in shock, many uncertain about the future direction of the Church but as we pay our respects in prayer we will note that he will be buried in a simple wooden coffin and be buried at the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome.

Many may have watched the film Conclave this year. The Conclave of 138 Cardinals from around the world will gather to elect a new Pope, let us pray that his successor will continue the legacy that Pope Francis has left the Church to recognise that everyone should feel welcome in the Church. Let us open our hearts to pray for the experience of inner peace that Pope Francis so passionately spoke of throughout his papacy.

At our Easter Vigil this week, Bishop Paul McAleenan baptised two adults, received two adults into the Church and confirmed six adults in total. Let us continue to pray for them as they continue to grow in faith and may they like us continue to encounter Christ in and through each other. May the Holy Spirit guide all in the Church at this time of loss, mindful that we are all called to be disciples spreading the good news that Pope Francis so eloquently did throughout his life.

Priest Training Fund 2025 Sunday 4 May is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently **50** men studying at Allen Hall seminary, **13** of whom are from our own Diocese. **2** of these are deacons for Westminster. We also have **2** seminarians at the Royal English College in Valladolid. Last year **3** deacons who studied at Allen Hall were ordained priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back on 3 or 4 May with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

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 are welcome but it would be useful to have some idea of numbers so please [email](mailto:stalban@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

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)

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation group We meet on the third Thursday of each month in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

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 and guests £3incl. 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 lunch and drinks. Donations gratefully received to cover expenses. Any profits will be given to a charity of the speaker's choice.

Fair trade Our parish fair trade stall will be open after all Masses in the Church over the weekend of 3/4 May and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 11 May. So many of our sisters and brothers live in poverty and deprivation; every item we sell helps them improve their lives. Please take a moment to look at the stall to see if there is something you might be able to buy. All proceeds go CAFOD to help their work in developing countries.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 6 May 2-4pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

BINGO - Friday 9 May at 8pm, parish centre in aid of CAFOD - Myanmar Earthquake Emergency Appeal. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. All welcome.

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.

Dr Pia Matthews will speak on Gender and identity: what are the issues? Thinking theologically about gender at 7.30 pm Monday 19 May at Ss Alban and 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

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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all members of St Luke's Church and St Albans United Reform Church.

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 Christopher Colin Fennessy, Michael Hornby, Nigel Luscombe-Whyte, Rev. Francis Lau, Prima Nevard and Kathleen Rafferty.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Baxter, Karen Brennan, Pat Brennan, Fr Joe Colbert MSC, Maria & Franciszek Frosztęga, Callum Gathard, Fr Brendan Hanley MSC, Tony Harding, Alice Healey, Fr Michael O' Leary MSC, Terry Mahabir, Eddie O'Connell, Helene and John Pickard, Stuart Pohler, 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

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 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

Monday 28 April - ST GEORGE, Patron of England

10am Mass Helene and John Pickard (Ann)

7pm Mass Callum Gathard (Ann)

Reading 1, Apocalypse 12:10-12, Psalm 125(126)

Reading 2, Romans 8:31-39, Gospel, John 15:18-21

Tuesday 29 April - ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

10am Mass Eddie O'Connell (First Anniversary)

Reading 1, 1 John 1:5-2:2, Psalm 102(103)

Gospel, Matthew 11:25-30

Wednesday 30 April - Easter feria

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Mary Penhalagan (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 5:17-26, Psalm 33(34)

Gospel, John 3:16-21

Thursday 1 May -Easter feria

10am Mass Alice Healey (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 5:27-33, Psalm 33(34)

Gospel, John 3:31-36 OR Matthew, 13:54-58

Friday 2 May - St Athanasius

7pm Mass Terry Reilly (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 5:34-42, Psalm 26(27)

Gospel, John 6:1-15

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

Saturday 3 May - ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES

10am Mass Dawn, St Teresa's (Ints)

No Confessions and Exposition this morning

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Psalm, 18(19)

Gospel, John 14:6-14

Saturday 3 May - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Sheehan and Guinnelly families (RIP)

Sunday 4 May - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Violet Rankin (RIP)

8.30am Stuart Pohler (First Anniversary)*

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass Leisha Dobson (Ints)

12 Noon Mass Consecration of the Church in 1977/People of the Parish

6pm Mass Terry Mahabir (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 5:27-32,40-41, Psalm 29(30)

Reading 2, Apocalypse 5:11-14, Gospel, John 21:1-19

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Monday 5 May - ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH

10am Mass Karen Brennan (Ann)

7pm Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 6:8-15, Psalm 118(119)

Gospel, John 6:22-29

Tuesday 6 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Pat Brennan (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 7:51-8:1, Psalm 30(31)

Gospel, John 6:30-35

Wednesday 7 May - Easter feria

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 8:1-8, Psalm 65(66)

Gospel, John 6:35-40

Thursday 8 May - Easter feria

10am Funeral mass for Christopher Colin Fennessy

Reading 1, Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 65(66)

Gospel, John 6:44-51

Friday 9 May - Easter feria

7pm Mass Martin Flanagan (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 9:1-20, Psalm 116(117)

Gospel, John 6:52-59

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

Saturday 10 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Senan Lowe (Ints)

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Acts 9:31-42, Psalm, 115(116)

Gospel, John 6:60-69

Saturday 10 May - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Madeleine Griffin (RIP)

Sunday 11 May - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Maisie McCann (RIP)

8.30am Mass People of the parish

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass Kevin Foley (RIP)

12 Noon Mass Rita Caparelli and family (Ints)

6pm Mass Dick O'Neill (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 13:14,43-52, Psalm 99(100)

Reading 2, Apocalypse 7:9,14-17, Gospel, John 10:27-30

* Service of Word and Communion, led by Deacon
Brendan Day

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 cantonmassessea@gmail.com.

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