



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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6 April 2025 – FIFTH 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

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*We are a Fairtrade parish*

**Fr Michael writes...** This weekend we have a pastoral letter from the Cardinal concerning the proposed legislation on assisted suicide. Having restated the Catholic community's principled objection to assisted suicide the Cardinal highlights the lack of parliamentary scrutiny. Mindful of every MP's duty to ensure that legislation is properly scrutinised he points out, among other things, that the proposed legislation on assisted suicide, which will have a profound impact on society and key relationships, has received less attention and scrutiny from the House of Commons than the ban on fox hunting. Moreover, he asks that we write to our MPs asking them to vote against the proposed legislation, not only on principle, but also because Parliament has failed to approach this issue in an adequate and responsible manner. If you can write, please do. Copies of the Cardinal's pastoral letter are available in the porch for you to take home and read more closely. For online readers a copy of the letter can be read [here](#).

If you don't feel able to write you might wish (in the coming weeks) to sign a petition we will be sending to Daisy Cooper, our local MP, objecting to the bill in principle and asking her to be mindful of the avenues the proposed legislation will open up, the impact this bill will have on our society, and whether or not the proposed legislation has received from Parliament the level of responsible scrutiny that such a profound change demands.

Finally, you might also consider sending to your MP the card produced by 'Not Dead Yet UK' a network of disabled people opposed to the legalisation of assisted suicide. As with the Cardinal's letter, copies of this post-card are available in the porch.

Next weekend the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Alban and St Stephen (Saturday 10.30am) and at St Bartholomew's (Saturday 4.45pm) will be specially designated as times of prayer for the protection of life.

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**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](http://www.cafod.org.uk/myanmar) or by calling 0303 303 3030.

**Market Stall: Parish Easter Cards** Volunteers are wanted to spend 30 minutes between 8.30am and 3.30pm at the market on Wednesday 9 April to distribute invitations to our Easter celebrations. Please contact Mary to volunteer. 07976277059

**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.

**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](#) 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. 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 12 April the Stations have a CAFOD theme and will be led by our JPIC 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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:spodehouse@hotmail.com) or text 07999 957665.

**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.

**Congratulations!** Congratulations to Will Mountfield of St Columba's College on winning the regional Catholic Schools Sixth Form Public Speaking Competition organised by local Catenians. Will beat 17 other competitors in his speech, and the chairman of the judges was Bishop Paul McAleenan. Good luck Will in the National final in Manchester in September'. Congratulations also to Ellyce Break from Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School who came third with her presentation.

## 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 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](mailto:office@mothersprayers.org).

**Walk of Witness Good Friday 7:20pm** Join Christians from different churches as we unite to help carry the Cross through the town from Ss Alban & Stephen RC church to the Cathedral Abbey for the 8:00pm Unity at the Cross service on the theme of waiting. It'll have been a long day, you may be tired, and there's a cross to carry.

**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.

**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.

**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](mailto:stars2004@btinternet.com).

**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](mailto: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/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.



## 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 Truglio (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 125(126)

Reading 2, Philippians 3:8-14, Gospel, John 8:1-11

### Monday 7 April – Lent feria

10am Mass Veronica Smith (RIP)

7pm Mass Catherine Mannion

(Ann)

Reading 1, Daniel 13:1-9,15-62, Psalm 22(23)

Gospel, John 8:12-20

### Tuesday 8 April – Lent feria

10am Mass Philomena Ruane (First Anniversary)

Reading 1, Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 101(102)

Gospel, John 8:21-30

### Wednesday 9 April – Lent feria

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Reading 1, Daniel 3:14-20, 24-25,28,

Psalm Daniel 3:52-56, Gospel, John 8:31-41

### Thursday 10 April – Lent feria

10am Mass Floryse Chan-Fat (Ann)

Reading 1, Genesis 17:3-9, Psalm 104(105)

Gospel, John 8:51-59

### Friday 11 April – Lent feria

7pm Mass Deceased members of the Darby family

Reading 1, Jeremiah 20:10-13, Psalm 17(18)

Gospel, John 10:31-42

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

### Saturday 12 April – Lent feria

9.30am Stations of the Cross

10am Mass Jeremiah Burke (RIP)

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Ezekiel 37:21-28, Jeremiah 31:10-13

Gospel, John 11:45-56

## 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)

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass Private Intention

12 Noon Mass People of the parish

6pm Mass Brian McHugh (RIP)

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

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

## PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all members of the Cornerstone 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 Eileen Davey, Jennifer Federer, Sally McNeil and Peter Wilson.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Baxter, Pat Brennan, Floryse Chan-Fat, Catherine Mannion, Oswald McCarthy, Bishop James O'Brien, Eddie O'Connell, Stan Phillips, Philomena Ruane, 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** We recognise that we are all sinners. Help us to see the good in those who sin against us and welcome them back with open arms.

**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](mailto: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](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.