



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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1 June 2025 – SEVENTH SUNDAY 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 / stalbensg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes... Once a month, early in the morning, the ministers and representatives of the various City Centre Churches meet together for a prayer breakfast. We meet together, we pray together, we share breakfast together and we catch up on what is happening in each other's community. If you know me you will be aware that I am not really a 'morning' person, but joining together with the ministers and representatives of the neighbouring churches is something I really enjoy. Along with the work of Churches Together St Albans, Churches Together Marshalswick, Churches Together South St Albans and the ecumenical chaplaincy at St Albans Abbey, our prayer breakfast is an important way of witnessing to Christ's prayer and hope that all who believe in him may be one. Indeed in today's Gospel we are reminded by Christ that the unity of the church, of all who believe in him, is key to our being convincing witnesses, capable of leading people to Christ and that crucial understanding of their being loved by God.

'The glory that you have given me', says Jesus to the Father, 'I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me' (John 17: 22-23).

Thank you from the St Vincent de Paul Society Our parish SVP group would like to thank the parish for their generous response to the collection that was held on Maundy Thursday and raised almost £650. Your donations will help in our work of supporting local families with food, fuel bills and other practical assistance. On Wednesday 18 June, the 7pm Mass will be offered for the intentions of the SVP. If you are interested in joining us, or would just like to find out more about the work we do, you are very welcome to join us after this Mass in the Parish Centre Meeting Room 1 for coffee. We would love to meet you!

Building Update Tenders for the work to be done on the Church Porch and Forecourt are now being considered by our Quantity Surveyor who will issue a report which will be considered by our Property and Finance Groups. Hopefully, it will not be too long now before we can confirm who the builders will be and a start date for the works.

Fr Michael's Silver Jubilee On 24 June 2025, Fr Michael will celebrate the twenty fifth anniversary of his ordination in 2000. Everyone is warmly invited to commemorate Fr Michael's Silver Jubilee with him at the 12 noon mass here at St Alban and St Stephen church on Sunday 22 June. After mass there will be drinks and cake in the parish centre and everyone is welcome to come along and celebrate this special occasion. If you would like to contribute towards a gift for Fr Michael, there will be an opportunity to do so after all masses over the next two weekends - 7/8 and 14/15 June. Alternatively you can post an envelope through the presbytery door, using the reference, 'Fr Michael - gift' or you can make a bank transfer to the parish account using the same reference. If you would like to send a card, please post this through the presbytery door, with Fr Michael's name on it.

Gift Aid 2024/25 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.

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 7 June 2025 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 We are still looking for help at the 10am Saturday morning mass and the 10am Sunday mass. Please contact the office if you can help.

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 men's clothing are 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. The donations to date have been lovely and very much appreciated; many thanks for all that you do to support the local migrant community.

Coffee and Tea After Mass Refreshments are available in the Parish Centre 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.

St Bart's Baby and Toddler Group The St Barts baby and toddler group is now up and running every Thursday morning in St Barts hall between 11am-12.30pm. Parents/carers and children can socialise and share in singing, story time and play. We looking forward to seeing you there! Lizzie Lizzio (group lead-efkelly88@gmail.com)

Fair Trade The parish fair-trade stall will be open after all Masses at Church over the weekend of 31 May/1 June and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on Sunday 8 June. If you have time, please come and look at the stall and see if there is something you could buy to help those less fortunate in the Developing World.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 3 June 2-4pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

C.W.L. 2pm Thursday 5 June Weather permitting we will meet by Father Tom's seat near the cricket pitch in Clarence Park. Anyone requiring a lift should meet in the Church car park. If the weather is inclement we will meet for tea in the parish hall. Tel: 07957 281248.

Migrants' Meals Many thanks to all the parishioners who have helped us to arrange monthly cooking days for local migrants who do not have access to a kitchen or to home cooking. Our next cooking day will be held on Thursday 5 June. If you can volunteer to be present (not to cook) for a couple of hours between about midday and 6pm that would be a great help. Please call Mary on 07976 277 059.

Men's Breakfast Saturday 8.15-10am 7 June in the Parish Centre. We will start with conversation over coffee and pastries, followed by a video on the gospel of St John and a

discussion. No pre-booking required and for more details please message Richard on 07976 252309.

Pax Christi AGM & 80th Anniversary Celebration, Saturday 7 June Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent Euston NW1 1LY. Members and non-members welcome. 10.30am for 11am start with guest speaker Oliver McTernan, Director of Forward Thinking, working on conflict prevention through dialogue and mediation. The formal AGM will take place from 1.45pm to 4.30pm. Please bring your own lunch. Tea, coffee, juice and biscuits will be provided. To attend in person email: info@paxchristi.org.uk. To join on zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/bdcv888j>. Please see the poster in the church porch.

Mothers Prayers We will meet on Monday 9 June at 8.30 pm in room 2. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from office@mothersprayers.org.

Parish Friends The next meeting of Parish Friends is at 7pm on Tuesday 10 June in the Conference Room (rear of the presbytery). If anyone would like to join our group, or just come for a taster session, you will be very welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340 for more details.

BINGO We will not be having a Bingo evening in June - our next session will be on Friday 11 July in the Parish Centre.

Refugee Week 16 - 22 June Volunteers needed St Albans will be celebrating local migrants in our communities, and we have been asked to volunteer at two events: Saturday 21 June, 3 - 6 pm: a welcome party for resettled Syrian and Afghan families; Sunday 22 June Community as Superpower at St Albans Museum and Gallery 11am - 3pm. If you can help at either event for any period of time, and for further details please call Mary on 07976 277 059.

Circle of Friends Tea 2-4pm 25 June - St Bart's Parish Hall Parishioners and friends of St Barts or St Alban & St Stephen 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.

Villa Scalabrini We are a non for profit Roman Catholic residential Care Home in Shenley, founded by Fr Alberto Vico. Please see the posters in the porch for more details of our annual fund raising event 'Scampagnata' on 29 June.

Jubilee Pilgrimage to St Edmund's College, Ware led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols Cardinal Nichols will lead a Pilgrimage to St Edmund's College, Ware, on Saturday 12 July and all are encouraged and invited to attend. The day will commence with Mass in the grounds at 12 noon. Further information is available on the poster in the porch.

Jubilee Pilgrimage to Welwyn Garden City 13 September

If you would like to join parishioners from here and St Bartholomew's walking to the jubilee church at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City on Saturday 13 September please will you email the parish office at stalbans@rcdow.org.uk We need to plan and would like to gauge the level of interest before arranging the practicalities. If you are unable to walk, but would like to join the group at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, please also let the parish office know that you would like to be included as a non-walking pilgrim.

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 August 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.

Offertory Promise Envelopes 2025/26 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.

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.

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

Saturday 31 May - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Mary Dolan (RIP)

Sunday 1 June - SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Kathleen Leddin (RIP)

8.30am Mass Cliff Staniforth (RIP)

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass James and Theresa Noonan (Ann)

12 Noon Mass Joyce Moran (RIP)

6pm Mass Ellen and Thomas Lawless (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 96(97),

Reading 2, Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20,

Gospel, John 17:20-26

Monday 2 June - Easter feria

10am Funeral Mass for Anne McCluskey

7pm Mass Ellen Small (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 19:1-8, Psalm 67(68)

Gospel, John 16:29-33

Tuesday 3 June - St Charles Lwanga and Companions

10am Mass Gabriel Sequeira (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 20:17-27, Psalm 67(68)

Gospel, John 17:1-11

Wednesday 4 June - Easter feria

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Mary and Paul Watkins (Ints)

Reading 1, Acts 20:28-38, Psalm 67(68)

Gospel, John 17:11-19

Thursday 5 June - St Boniface

10am Mass Richard Sumner (Ints)

Reading 1, Acts 22:30,23:6-11, Psalm 15(16)

Gospel, John 17:20-16

Friday 6 June - Easter feria

7pm Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 25:13-21, Psalm 102(103)

Gospel, John 21:15-19

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

Saturday 7 June - Easter feria

10am Mass Ann Lowe (Ints)

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Acts 28:16-20,30-31, Psalm 10(11)

Gospel, John 21:20-25

Saturday 7 June - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Anthony and Jacquie Sumner (RIP)

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 8 June - PENTECOST SUNDAY

8am Mass Teresa Cahill (Ann)

8.30am Mass Priest's Intention

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass Anne Buttery (RIP)

12 Noon Mass People of the Parish

6pm Mass Priest's Intention

Reading 1, Acts 2:1-11, Psalm 103(104)

Reading 2, 1 Romans 8:8-17, Gospel, John 14:15-16,23-26

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all the members of St Luke's 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 Louise Aldred, Andrea Arvinti, Peter Cadisch, Jim Dalley, Anne McCluskey, Jose Miguel, Joseph P Morillon, Frederico Morques and Ellen Mary Quinn.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Tom Bagge, Teresa Cahill, Freda and Margaret Clancy, James and Theresa Noonan and Gabriel Sequeira.

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

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer

'Blessed are the peacemakers (Matt 5.9): ...Peace begins with each one of us: in the way we look at others, listen to others and speak about others. In this sense, the way we communicate is of fundamental importance: we must say "no" to the war of words and images, we must reject the paradigm of war.' (From Pope Leo XIV 's Papal Address to Media Representatives 12.05.25).

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.

Calendar of Events: The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation posts a quarterly calendar of forthcoming events in the Diocese, town and parish. It can be found on the website at Groups/Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. Inevitably it is always incomplete. Please let the group know of any forthcoming events which may be of interest by emailing marytharber@gmail.com heading your email JPIC Calendar.

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.