



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

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

11 May 2025 - FOURTH 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 / stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes... In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that his sheep will hear his voice, 'I know them', he says, 'and they follow me'. In our first and second readings we are reminded that the sheep whom the Lord calls are drawn, not from a single nation or people, but from a multitude of peoples. In the first reading Paul and Barnabas turn their attention to the Gentiles and then in the second reading from the Book of Revelation John sees standing before the throne 'a great multitude ... from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages'.

These past weeks, with the death of Pope Francis and the Conclave to elect his successor, we have had a powerful reminder of the universality of the Church; a Cardinal from this part of the world, a Cardinal from that part of the world, all reminders that the Church, the Body of Christ, is what the readings speak of 'a great multitude' from every corner of the earth. And now this weekend we have the great joy of praying for and with our new Holy Father, Pope Leo, as he follows the Lord's call to shepherd the Church.

In his first words to the world Pope Leo asked that the peace Christ wished for us might enter into the hearts of all; inviting us to be one people at peace, building bridges 'with dialogue, with encounter'. However, the unity, the peace, which the Holy Father has called us to - the bridge building, dialogue and encounter - is not a unity among ourselves, among the diverse members of the Church, rather it is a unity, a peace that must touch the whole of humanity. 'I ... would like', he said, Christ's 'greeting of peace to enter your heart, to reach your families, to all people, wherever they are, to all peoples, to all the earth'.

Today with the ongoing wars in the Ukraine, the Holy Land and the Sudan, and now the conflict between Pakistan and India, the Holy Father's call for bridge building and peace is as urgent as ever. Indeed, it is a sad fact that our celebration of VE Day and the ending of the World War II takes place against this backdrop of war and conflict. So, as we give thanks for the gift of a new Holy Father, let us take up his invitation to be unifiers, bridge builders, missionaries of the peace and unity that the world so desperately needs. God bless the Pope! God bless Leo XIV!

PRIESTS TRAINING FUND The annual collection for the Priests Training Fund takes place this weekend. There are currently 50 men studying at Allen Hall, the Westminster Diocesan Seminary. Thirteen of these are training for our own Diocese, 2 of whom are deacons soon to be ordained priest. Westminster also has 2 seminarians at the Royal English College in Valladolid. Last year 3 deacons who studied at Allen Hall were ordained priests. The priests training fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. You can also visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests.

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 in 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 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 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 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.

Thank you from the FIF Youth Group FiF Youth are very grateful for the amazing support and encouragement they received from the parish last weekend for their car wash. The generosity of Halfords and Marshall VW who donated our materials and shampoo, means all funds received went straight to the charity so a fantastic £550 was raised for the Tiplyang Project. For more details about this charity please see: <https://handstogether.org.uk/background/>

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.

Christina Aid Concert 7:30pm 10 May Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Avenue AL4 9QL. An evening of musical entertainment with a collection.

Fair trade Our parish fair trade stall will be open 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.

Mothers' Prayers We will meet in room 2 at 8pm on Monday 11 May. Anyone wishing to join us is welcome. Information from office@mothersprayers.org.

Men's Pizza, Drinks and Film Evening 7.30pm Friday 16 May All men of the parish are welcome to join us and chat over a pizza and beer. We will then watch "The Two Popes", a 2019 film based on an imaginary conversations between Popes' Benedict and Francis, starring Anthony Hopkins and Jonathan Pryce. Please feel free to invite along others who might enjoy the evening. For more details please message Richard on 07976 252309.

Jumble Sale 10am Saturday 17 May - proceeds to St Bart's HCPT Group for Easter 2026 pilgrimage Good quality jumble - lots of bargains - donations most welcome [but no large or electrical items, thank you] - please leave in St Bart's Parish Centre entrance hall, Vesta Avenue, St Albans, between 9am and 8pm on Friday 16 May - queries to Barbara Bliss (01727 873672).

CTM Christian Aid Market St Mary's Marshalswick Saturday 17 May 10am-1.30pm Refreshments, lunches, live music; bottle tombolas, book cake and plant stalls To donate or to volunteer on the day contact Christine 07900260190 or Maureen 0778968654.

Newman Talk 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. 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.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 20 May 2-4pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Circle of Friends Tea 2-4pm 28 May - St Barts' 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.

Prayer for Evangelisation from the Ascension to Pentecost Dates: 29 May - 8 June This is a great way to follow the example of the apostles, who came together, with Our Lady to wait on the Lord in prayer. You can pray for evangelisation in general, or keep five people you know in prayer over these twelve days. You could simply pray the Our Father, a Hail Mary or pray in your own words for them each day.

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.

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

Villa Scalabrini We are a non for profit Roman Catholic residential Care Home in Shenley, founded by Fr Alberto Vico, and are pleased to announce our two annual fund raising events: Classics at Villa 1 June and Scampagnata on 29 June. Please see the posters in the porch for more details.

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 12noon. Further information is available on the poster in the porch.

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.

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 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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

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

Monday 12 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Annie Coakley (Ann)

7pm Mass Alan Wood (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 41(42)

Gospel, John 10:1-10

Tuesday 13 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Pat Duggan and family (Ints)

Reading 1, Acts 11:19-26, Psalm 86(87)

Gospel, John 10:22-30

Wednesday 14 May - ST MATTHIAS

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Margaret Canty (Ints)

Reading 1, Acts 1:15-17,20-26, Psalm 112(113)

Gospel, John 15:9-17

Thursday 15 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Winnie & Jack Chidgey (RIP)

Reading 1, Reading 1, Acts 13:13-25, Psalm 88(89)

Gospel, John 13:16-20

Friday 16 May - Easter feria

7pm Mass Marcos Montoya (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 13:26-33, Psalm 2

Gospel, John 14:1-6

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

Saturday 17 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Elizabeth Ingman (Ann)

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Reading 1, Acts 13:44-52, Psalm, 97(98)

Gospel, John 14:7-14

Saturday 17 May - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Sumner family (Ints)

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.

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

Sunday 18 May - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Sheik Fareed Ilam Tafajoul (First Anniversary)

8.30am Mass Arthur and Catherine Ball (Ann)

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass People of the parish

12 Noon Mass Philip Craven (RIP)

6pm Mass Maura Ruane (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 14:21-27, Psalm 144(145)

Reading 2, Apocalypse 21:1-5, Gospel, John 13:31-35

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray especially during Christian Aid week for all communities facing poverty and lacking basic essentials for life.

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 Jose Miguel and Ellen Mary Quinn.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Arthur and Catherine Ball, Annie Coakley, Eric Harber, Elizabeth Ingman, Marcos Montoya, Sheik Fareed Ilam Tafajoul and Alan Wood.

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

Christian Aid Week 11-17 May This year, the focus is on the poverty in the communities of Burundi, where over 70% of people face hunger and poverty every day. For more information and resources see [Christian Aid Week 2025 | Teaching Resources and Information](#).

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer
Gracious God, open our hearts to our failings before we leap to judge others in anger to build a more compassionate world.

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.