



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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18 May 2025 – FIFTH 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

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We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr John writes...

In today's Gospel reading from John, we hear Jesus's words spoken at the last supper before his death and Resurrection. John's Gospel unlike the other Gospels, does not include an institution of the Eucharist narrative; instead, Jesus washes his disciples' feet. Jesus announces that the Son of Man will be glorified in his death on the cross and in his Resurrection, and the disciples will glorify Jesus in the love they show.

John's Gospel does not present a sentimental view of love but a love that is shown in service and sacrifice. Jesus says: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another". Love is very important in the building up of the Church. In the Acts of the Apostles, it is clear that Christian love is the hallmark of Christianity. It was demonstrated to us through the witness of the martyrs and lives of the saints. We see it in the holy women and men who live and love daily, making small and large sacrifices for others, which we are called to do.

Pope Leo's first words in his blessing to the world, centred on the importance of love. He said "God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! All of us are in God's hands. So, let us move forward, without fear, together, hand in hand with God and with one another other".

The question we could ask ourselves today, is 'How can I live out this great commandment'? 'How can I love my neighbour as myself'? How often do I try to complicate things, when in fact all I need to be, is to be open to the other? The simple hello, offers an opportunity to begin a dialogue and every day we meet people in many different circumstances but without our openness to others, we cannot expect to grow in our understanding of love.

So, let us renew our commitment to love one another, in order to build a better community, one built on trust, friendship and love, so that everyone of us, as part of that rich tapestry of life, seeks to grow in love of the other.

Lord, you teach us that loving our neighbour goes beyond the boundaries of loving those nearest to us. Help us to see our neighbour in those who are far away, in the stranger, the marginalised, the disadvantaged, the poor and the vulnerable. Amen.

Wednesday 21 May - Feast of Blessed Franz Jagerstatter Executed in Austria in August 1943 for his refusal to serve in Hitler's army, he is revered as a peacemaker. Prayer leaflets will be available after mass this weekend.

Priests Training Fund The annual collection for the Priests Training Fund took place last weekend and £868.07 was donated by parishioners. Thank you for your generosity and 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 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.

St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Primary School Academisation Consultation The governors of St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery have taken the decision to initiate the consultation process regarding the acquisition of academy status and joining the All Saints Catholic Academy Trust (ASCAT) with our partner Catholic schools in the Deanery. The consultation closes on 23 May 2025. A consultation does not mean we have taken a final decision to convert to an Academy, but that we wish to seek the views of all our community to inform the final decision. A consultation FAQ leaflet is available on the website <https://www.ssas.herts.sch.uk/academisation-consultation/> Included in the leaflet is a response sheet / questionnaire which you may wish to complete and return to the School Office before 23 May 2025 so that your opinions are considered as part of the consultation process. You can also share your opinions via this [Google form](#) or email your response to consultation@ssas.herts.sch.uk.

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.

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.

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 7.30pm Monday 19 May at St Alban and St 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.

BINGO Many thanks for the support for our Bingo evening on Friday. The amount raised including donations for CAFOD - Myanmar Earthquake Appeal, came to £90.00. Unfortunately we will not be having a Bingo evening in June - our next session will therefore be on Friday 11 July in the Parish Centre.

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 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 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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 17 May - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Sumner family (Ints)

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

Monday 19 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Jim Warrilow (RIP)

7pm Mass William Sammon (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 14:5-18, Psalm 113B(115)

Gospel, John 14:21-26

Tuesday 20 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 14:19-28, Psalm 144(145)

Gospel, John 14:27-31

Wednesday 21 May - Easter feria

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Eric Harber (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 15:1-6, Psalm 121(122)

Gospel, John 15:1-8

Thursday 22 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Terry Reilly (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 15:7-21, Psalm 95(96)

Gospel, John 15:9-11

Friday 23 May - Easter feria

7pm Mass David and Brian Williams (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 15:22-31, Psalm 56(57)

Gospel, John 15:12-17

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

Saturday 24 May - Easter feria

10am Mass Claire Sunta (Ann)

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Acts 16:1-10, Psalm, 99(100)

Gospel, John 15:18-21

Saturday 24 May - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Tom Bagge (Ann)

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 25 May - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Frances Quinn (RIP)

8.30am Mass People of the parish

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass Friends and family of Pat Brennan (Ints)

12 Noon Mass Bob Canty (Ints)

6pm Mass Freda and Margaret Clancy (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 15:1-2,22-29, Psalm 66(67)

Reading 2, Apocalypse 21:10-14,22-23,

Gospel, John 14:23-29

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all members of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship.

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 Jim Dalley, Ann McCluskey, Jose Miguel, Frederico Morques and Ellen Mary Quinn.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Tom Bagge, Arthur and Catherine Ball, Freda and Margaret Clancy, Eric Harber, Marcos Montoya, Dorothy Salisbury, Claire Sunta and Sheik Fareed Ilam Tafajoul.

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 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. Lord, open my heart to your love, help me to love.

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.

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.