



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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25 May 2025 - SIXTH 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...* Before Jesus departed from his disciples he promised them that they would not be left alone. This promise must have helped them to prepare for his immanent departure, but we can only imagine what that must have felt like for them at the time. At the same time Jesus makes clear what he expects of his followers. 'If anyone loves me,' he says, 'he will keep my word'. And if they do, 'My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him'.

It may appear in today's world as if everyone is keyed into technology, a technology which has the power to unite, but even so, many people are very lonely and isolated. Profound loneliness can be a difficult experience to live with. The disciples might have feared such isolation and loneliness as their teacher and friend prepared to leave them. However, Jesus does not leave them alone. He has been preparing them and now, on the eve of his departure, he talks to them about the Holy Spirit, the advocate whom the disciples will need if they are to love as they are called to love.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is something we all need to live out our Christian lives and which we celebrate in the Sacrament of Confirmation. In our diocese Confirmation is usually celebrated in years 9 and 10, but it may be that you are an adult who has never been confirmed. If this applies to you, I would like to encourage you to come forward and take the step of being prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Between now and the end of September we will run a course for adults wanting to be confirmed and will strive to fit it around the pattern of people's work and home life.

For those of you who have been baptised in another Christian tradition, who may be visiting to find out more, or who may have been coming for quite some time, now may well be the time to consider whether becoming Catholic is for you. If so, the RCIA course (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) beginning in September may be for you. Feel free to chat with the priests about your ongoing journey.

For me, one of the most striking moments in this weekend's Gospel is when Jesus bestows peace on his disciples; 'Peace I leave you', he says 'my peace I give to you'. Peace is one of the greatest gifts that Christ bestows. Moreover, it is a mark of true discipleship. Indeed working for peace in our lives and in our relationships with others, will allow us, no matter what our calling in life might be, to live true lives of faithfulness.

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**Holy Day of Obligation** Thursday of this coming week is the Solemnity of the Lord's Ascension into Heaven. It is a Holy Day of Obligation when we are asked to attend Mass. There will be a Vigil Mass, fulfilling the obligation, at 7pm on Wednesday evening here at St Alban & St Stephen, with Masses at 7am and 10am on Thursday itself. There will be three Masses at St Bartholomew's on Thursday at 9.30am, 12 Noon and 7pm.

**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.

**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.

**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](mailto: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. Please note that there are no refreshments after mass this Monday, 26 May.

## 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)

**Circle of Friends Tea 2-4pm 28 May - 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](mailto: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.

**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.

**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](http://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 [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@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.

**Have you considered joining the Catenians?** The Catenian Association is an international Catholic organisation established over 100 years fostering the values of faith, family and friendship and it is hoped that men from our parish will consider joining the Catenians and encourage each other in our shared faith and charitable works and

activities. The local group meets every month at Harpenden Golf Club at 7pm for an informal meeting and supper. More information available on our [website](http://website) or [simon-davies9@sky.com](mailto:simon-davies9@sky.com) or [George.jarzab@gmail.com](mailto:George.jarzab@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 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.

**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.

**Gift Aid** If you are a UK taxpayer and have previously signed a gift aid declaration, but no longer pay UK tax, please contact the parish office and let us know. If you have stopped paying tax, we can no longer claim gift (25p in every pound). If you do not pay sufficient UK tax and gift aid is claimed on what you give, then HMRC may seek reimbursement from the parish. If you have signed a gift aid form, your offertory donations need to come from a bank account in your name only or a joint bank account on which you are also named.



## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Saturday 24 May - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Tom Bagge (Ann)

### 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

### Monday 26 May - St Philip Neri

10am Mass Billy Lawless (RIP)

*Bank Holiday - no evening mass*

Reading 1, Acts 16:11-15, Psalm 149

Gospel, John 15:26-16:4

### Tuesday 27 May - ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

10am Mass Winnie & Jack Chidgey (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:2-8, Psalm 116(117))

Gospel, Luke 10:1-9

### Wednesday 28 May - Easter feria

*10am No Morning Mass*

### Wednesday 28 May - THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

7pm Mass Gaudencio Mendoza (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 17:15,22-18:1, Psalm 148

Gospel, John 16:12-15

### Thursday 29 May - THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

7am Mass People of the Parish

10am Mass Roberto Virrueta (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 46(47)

Reading 2, Hebrews 9 :24-28,10:19-23, Gospel, Luke 24:46-53

### Friday 30 May - Easter feria

11am Funeral Mass for Ellen Mary Quinn

7pm Mass Joyce Moran (RIP)

Reading 1, Acts 18:9-18, Psalm 46(47)

Gospel, John 16:20-23

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

### Saturday 31 May - THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10am Mass Michael Lowe (Ints)

*10.30am Confessions and Exposition*

Reading 1, Romans 12:9-16, Psalm, Isaiah 12

Gospel, Luke 1:39-56

### Saturday 31 May - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Mary Dolan (RIP)

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### 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

## PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray especially for Christians across the world as they unite in prayer as part of Thy Kingdom Come, an international, ecumenical movement that brings Christians together to pray and encounter the love of Jesus Christ.

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, Anne McCluskey, Jose Miguel, Frederico Morques and Ellen Mary Quinn.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Tom Bagge, Freda and Margaret Clancy, Gaudencio Mendoza, James and Theresa Noonan, Dorothy Salisbury and Roberto Virrueta

*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** We pray for the people of the Middle East, for an end to conflict, suffering and violence. May hatred be transformed into love, anger into compassion, and violence into understanding.

**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 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.