



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**22 June 2025 - THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)**



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 coming week will see the twenty-fifth anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood at St Mary's, East Finchley, my home parish. I will be marking my anniversary in a particular way at the 12 Noon Mass this weekend. Everyone is warmly welcome. There will be drinks and cake in the parish centre afterwards. If you have been to an earlier mass you can always come back for the refreshments!

Much like these past few days, my ordination day was a gloriously sunny day. My overwhelming recollection of the day was of 'joy'; the joy of being surrounded by family, friends, parishioners and the joy at the ministry ahead. That ministry has included parish ministry in Kentish Town, Somers Town and now St Albans as well as appointments to Westminster Cathedral, the Diocesan Agency for Evangelisation and, before coming to St Albans, Allen Hall, the Diocesan Seminary.

It has been a very varied ministry for which I give thanks to God. As I do, I am conscious of all the people; parishioners, priests, friends and family, both living and dead, who have been a part of my journey to priesthood and my ministry since. Thank you for your kindness to me in these days of celebration, for all that I have learned from you about priesthood, and above all, for the privilege of walking with you.

Ps. Fr John was also ordained on 24<sup>th</sup> June and will be two years ordained this week. Please keep us both in your prayers.

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**Michael Larmer** During the week Cardinal Vincent confirmed that one of our parishioners, Michael Larmer, will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am. Parishioners are welcome to attend. In preparation for his ordination Michael will make his public profession of faith at the 8am Mass on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June. He will deacon his first Sunday Mass here at St Alban & St Stephen on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 12 Noon. After that Mass there will be an opportunity to congratulate and celebrate with Michael in the Parish Centre. Please keep Michael in your prayers as he enters into these final weeks of preparation.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July** To enable Fr John and myself to attend Michael Larmer's ordination to the permanent diaconate there will be no morning mass, confessions or Exposition on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July.

**Peter's Pence** There will be a retiring collection after all masses next weekend for Peter's Pence. Peter's Pence is the name given to the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church and for the relief of those most in need.

**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 12 July 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 – Sunday Evening at 6pm** The next youth masses are on 22 June and 13 July.

**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.

**Children's Liturgy Group at Marshalswick** We are looking for volunteers to help lead our children's liturgy group at Marshalswick 8.30am mass. It is a lovely opportunity to guide the children in their faith journey, with creative activities to help them understand the gospel. The group runs term time only and is on a rota basis. Please speak to Sally or Anne-Marie after mass if you are interested and would like to know more.

**Recommissioning of Ministers of the Eucharist** Our Ministers of the Eucharist will be recommissioned at all Masses on the Feast of Corpus Christi - the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on Sunday 22 June.

## 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 so please do come along.

## 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.

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

**Churches Together in St Albans AGM and Forum 7.30pm Wednesday 25 June** St Albans URC Greenwood Church Come and hear about plans for 2025/26. Followed by a Forum on how to make a Dementia Friendly Church, with Maggie Dodd of the Anna Chaplaincy. Everybody welcome!

**Parish Friends Tea Party Sunday 29 June 2.30-4.30pm.** All parishioners are welcome and please note the earlier start. We are delighted that Diamond Years are playing for us again so it is sure to be a great afternoon. We will have a small raffle with prizes supplied by Parish Friends - so no other gifts are required. Offers of homemade cakes would be welcome. (Please include details of ingredients). Offers of drivers would also be appreciated- please let us know in plenty of time if you require a lift. Contact Helen 07860 830340 for more information.

**Fair Trade** The parish fair trade stall will be open after all Masses at Church over the weekend of 28/29 June and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 13 July. Supporting fair trade, either through this Parish venture or from your usual shops, helps transform lives and gives many families hope for the future. Please try to take a moment to see what is available.

**The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group** We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 1 July 2-4pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

**St Columba's College Prep and Senior School Open Day on Thursday 3 July** A wonderful opportunity to have a full tour of the school by current students and to hear from the Leadership Team. Please register using the [this link](#).

**The Chosen** 'The Chosen' is a historical drama series based on the lives of Jesus and those who knew him, set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in 1st century Israel. The drama draws on our knowledge of Jesus from the gospels and suggests what may have been some of the back stories of the characters around at that time. Following the showing of the first 6 episodes of 'The Chosen' during Lent, the Adult Faith Formation Group will show the next 6 episodes on Thursday mornings after 10am mass, beginning on 3 July. Each session will last about an hour and a half, including refreshments and discussion. If you would like to join in, please give your name to the parish office by email [stalbins@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbins@rcdow.org.uk) or tel 01727 853585 from 9am to 1pm Monday to Fridays.

**IGNITE A discipleship event for Catholics aged 14-18 across Hertfordshire - Saturday 5 July 6-8.30pm** beginning with the Vigil Mass at Holy Rood Catholic Church, Watford. An opportunity to connect with other young Catholics from Watford, Hemel & St Albans, and grow in faith through teaching, discussion, prayer, doughnuts and games you thought you were too old to enjoy but end up loving as you cry tears of joy into a packet of Haribo! Contact the parish office for more information and to register your attendance.

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

**Jubilee Pilgrimage to St Edmund's College, Ware led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols** We have been advised that this pilgrimage planned for Saturday 12 July has been cancelled.

**Pro-Life Pilgrimage to Walsingham, led by Rt. Rev. John Keenan, Bishop of Paisley - Saturday 2 August** The coach departs from Harpenden at 7.30am, St Bartholomew's, Vesta Avenue at 7.50am and St Hugh's Church, Letchworth at 8.35am. Adults £30, Child/Student £12 (which also includes Priority entrance). To book, please contact Geraldine on: 07971028415 or at [mgeraldine\\_ward@hotmail.com](mailto:mgeraldine_ward@hotmail.com). Please also see the poster in the porch for more details.

**Emmaus Jubilee Youth Festival, 2-3 August 2025 at SPEC Retreat Centre** Aimed at young people unable to travel to and coinciding with the Jubilee of Youth in Rome. Organised by SPEC Retreat Centre of Westminster Youth Ministry, the festival will feature: live Praise & Worship by One Hope Project, engaging panels and interactive workshops, fellowship and reflection at campfires, Eucharistic Adoration and closing Mass celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. For more information and registration please see [here](#).

**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 [stalbins@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbins@rcdow.org.uk). We need 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 September 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.

**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 21 June – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Kathleen Bamford (Ann)

### Sunday 22 June – CORPUS CHRISTI

8am Mass People of the Parish

8.30am Mass Martin Flannaghan (RIP)

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass Holy Souls

12 Noon Mass Fr Michael O'Boy (Silver Jubilee)

6pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 14:18-20, Psalm 109(110)

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Gospel, Luke 9:11-17

### Monday 23 June – feria

10am Mass Christy Small (Ann)

7pm Mass Eileen O'Neill (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 32(33)

Gospel, Matthew 7:1-5

### Tuesday 24 June – ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

10am Mass Fr John Casey – 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Ordination

Reading 1, Isaiah 49:1-6, Psalm 138(139)

Acts 13:22-26, Gospel, Luke 1:57-66,80

### Wednesday 25 June – feria

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Antoinetta Caldeira (Ann)

Reading 1, Genesis 15:1-12,17-18, Psalm 104(105)

Gospel, Matthew 7:15-20

### Thursday 26 June – feria

10am Mass Jack Ruane (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 16:1-12,15-16, Psalm 105(106)

Gospel, Matthew 7:21-29

### Friday 27 June – THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Nicoletta and Giuseppe Barba (Ann)

Reading 1, Ezekiel 34:11-16, Psalm 22(23)

Reading 2, Romans 5:5-11, Gospel Luke 15:3-7

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

### Saturday 28 June – The Immaculate Heart of Mary

10am Mass Noreen Donohue (RIP)

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, 2 Timothy 2:22-26, Psalm 36(37)

Gospel, John 17:20-26

### Saturday 28 June – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Joseph Collins (RIP)

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer** As we end Migrants' Week, may we open our eyes and hearts to the God-given dignity of all your people. Move us to welcome our neighbours, and to bear witness to your love.

**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.

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Sunday 29 June – SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

8am Mass Maureen Lerwill (Ann)

8.30am Mass Sam Johnston (First Anniversary)

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass Kathleen Fahy (First Anniversary)

12 Noon Mass Antonio and Antonietta Visconti (RIP)

6pm Mass Paddy Crowley (Ann)

Reading 1, Acts 12:1-11, Psalm 33(34)

Reading 2, 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18,

Gospel, Matthew 16:13-19

## PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all the members of Dagnall Street Baptist 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 Andrea Avvinti and Kitty Sheehan.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Kathleen Bamford, Nicoletta and Giuseppe Barba, Antoinetta Caldeira, Paddy Crowley, Joan Egan, Kathleen Fahy, Sam Johnston, Maureen Lerwill, Fr Jerome O'Hanlon MSC and Christy Small.

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

## Forthcoming Funerals

Andrea Avvinti: 10am Monday 30 June

Kitty Sheehan: 10am Tuesday 1 July

**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](mailto:cantonmassessea@gmail.com).

**Mass in Polish** Mass in Polish takes place here at 4pm on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. All are welcome.

**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.