



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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29 June 2025 – SAINTS PETER AND PAUL



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...

Rarely am I lost for words. Indeed, if you gave him the chance, my brother would readily tell you that I've always had too much to say for myself. But this week of celebrations, with the Mass and celebration at St Alban and St Stephen on Sunday, and the noon day Mass and lunch-time sparkle at St Bartholomew's on the day of my Silver Jubilee, has left me a little overwhelmed; overwhelmed by the kindness of your words, by the various gifts I have received, and by the presentation from the parishes as a whole. I will look to using it in a little while when replacing my car. Thank-you!

Thank-you also to everyone who had a hand in organising the liturgical and social celebrations marking these twenty-five years. They have been everything I wanted them to be; parish celebrations reflective of what we do Sunday by Sunday and day by day.

As you know, Michael Larmer is to be ordained to the permanent diaconate next Saturday morning at Westminster Cathedral at 10.30am. Deacon Michael will deacon the 12 Noon Mass on Sunday 13 July. Parishioners are warmly invited to both occasions. Please keep Michael in your prayers.

Finally, when we partnered with St Bartholomew's in January I said that we would review the new Mass schedule in July. If you have anything you would like to share; an observation or suggestion about the current mass schedule, or a reflection on how you are experiencing the partnering with St Bartholomew's, please email the parish office at stalbens@rcdow.org.uk or speak with myself or Fr John.

Finally, finally (I mean it this time), conscious that people go away in August, and that Mass attendance in August generally falls, I am proposing to reduce the number of Sunday and Weekday Masses for the month of August when Fr John and myself will be taking our summer breaks. We will still need the assistance of a supply priest at weekends, but finding one weekend supply priest in August is a more realistic goal, than finding the two supply priests which maintaining the current mass schedule would require.

Saturday 5 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 July.

Peter's Pence There will be a retiring collection after all masses this 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.

Sea Sunday 6 July There will be a retiring collection after all masses next weekend in Support of Stella Maris. Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously.

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 to find out more.

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, starting at 7.30pm. 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)

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 Open Day on Thursday 3 July Our Prep Open Morning is the perfect opportunity for families to explore life at St Columba's College. Come and see our school in action, meet our Head, and hear first-hand from our pupils as they guide you on a tour of our facilities. Please book your place via [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 stalbands@rcdow.org.uk or tel 01727 853585 from 9am to 1pm Monday to Fridays.

C.W.L. Thursday 3 July A Strawberry Tea to be held at 7 Cunningham Ave. 3pm-5pm. In aid of ‘Friends of the Holy Land’. All are welcome, members, guests and parishioners. Cost £7 including raffle. Tel Sheila 01727 853100

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 8pm Friday 11 July In the Parish Centre for the Knights of St. Columba. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

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.

Mothers' Prayers Monday 14 July At 8pm in the meeting room. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from; office@mothersprayers.org.

Fair Trade The parish fair trade stall will be open 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.

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 24th July. If you can volunteer to be present(not to cook) for a couple of hours between about midday and 6 pm that would be a great help. Please call Mary on 07976 277 059.

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 Priory entrance). To book, please contact Geraldine on: 07971028415 or at 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 We have been advised that this event has unfortunately been cancelled.

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 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.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols response to the End of Life Bill The Cardinal has responded to the vote in the House of Commons in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. For the full text see [here](#).

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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 28 June – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Joseph Collins (RIP)

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

Monday 30 June – feria

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Andrea Avvinti

7pm Mass Eddie Croke (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 18:16-33, Psalm 102(103)

Gospel, Matthew 8:18-22

Tuesday 1 July – THE DEDICATION OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

10am Mass Funeral Mass for Kitty Sheehan

Reading 1, Genesis 19:15-29, Psalm 25(26)

Gospel, Matthew 8:23-27

Wednesday 2 July – feria

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 21:5, 8-20, Psalm 33(34)

Gospel, Matthew 8:28-34

Thursday 3 July – ST THOMAS

10am Mass Terry Reilly (RIP)

Reading 1, Ephesians 2:19-22, Psalm 116(117)

Gospel, John 20:24-29

Friday 4 July – feria

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Bridget (Bee) Serrano (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 23:1-4, 19, 24:1-8, 62-67, Psalm 105(106)

Gospel, Matthew 9:9-13

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

Saturday 5 July – Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

No Morning Mass due to ordination of Dcn. Michael Larmer

No Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29, Psalm 134(135)

Gospel, Matthew 9:14-17

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer We pray for peace, healing & forgiveness in our world. Give us your peace in our hearts & in our families. May the sense of truth, hope & love increase in the heart of every person you've created.

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

Saturday 5 July – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Sunday 6 July – FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Sweeney family (Ints)

8.30am Mass Nicole Brun (RIP)

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass Ethelreda Forster (Ann)

12 Noon Mass Teresa Sequeira (Ann)

6pm Mass Dorothy Norman (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 66:10-14, Psalm 65(66)

Reading 2, Galatians 6:14-18, Gospel, Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all the members of St Marys Church, Marshalswick.

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 Alfred Ashton, Andrea Avvinti, Morag Elliott, Sheila Melville, Maria Riccitelli and Kitty Sheehan.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Paddy Crowley, Kathleen Fahy, Ethelreda Forster, Sam Johnston, Maureen Lerwill, Fr Jerome O'Hanlon MSC and Teresa Sequeira

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.

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

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.