



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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20 July 2025 – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Contactless Giving

Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Boy - Assistant Priest: Fr John Casey

Permanent Deacons: Rev. Brendan Day & Rev. Michael Larmer

Parish Administrator: Mrs Angela Gray - Catechetical Coordinator: Mrs Joan Egenes

Safeguarding Lead: Mary Harber / stalbensg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes... One might be tempted to read today's Gospel as a commentary on the active and contemplative lives; treating Christ's affirmation of Mary's sitting at his feet, as opposed to Martha's rushing around doing the serving, as an affirmation of the contemplative life. It is a temptation better resisted.

When Jesus arrived at Mary & Martha's house he had already told his disciples of his impending death, not once but twice. Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem for his final agony. Sitting down and listening to Christ it was Mary who was paying attention to his real needs.

There are no blueprints for how we should be or what we should do, a kind of one size fits all approach, save that we serve Christ in others, however in order to 'serve' that serving must be rooted in an active listening, not to our own pre-occupations or thinking as to what of is needed, but to that mature voice within us that says there is a time and a place for everything. Another day, Martha, in all her busyness, may have chosen the better part.

Please remember that next weekend's bulletin will be the last bulletin before the summer break. The first bulletin after the holidays will be for the week beginning 31 August. Finally, we are still awaiting to confirm a start date for the building works, but my understanding is that the contractors appointment will have been confirmed by time you read this bulletin and that we will have a firm start date during the coming week. In preparation for the works, and in order to protect it from being damaged by dust, the organ will be professionally covered at the end of July. For the duration of the works we will use the keyboard by the Lady Altar.

Jubilee Pilgrimage to Welwyn Garden City 13 September We are still planning to go ahead with the pilgrimage to the Jubilee church in Welwyn on Saturday 13 September. Unfortunately planning a large walk has become much more complicated than we expected, but instead of abandoning the pilgrimage altogether, we will still meet as a group at Our Lady Queen of Apostles on Saturday 13 September and have a programme of events including exposition, confessions and Mass. There will be further details in the bulletin on 31 August.

Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation: Registrations for both of these sacraments are now open. Please access the form from the website, reading information about the journey to the sacraments beforehand to understand the commitment.

SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 2025 (Commences Saturday 2 August)

Saturday Vigil Mass		Monday	10am Mass	St Alban & St Stephen
5pm Mass	St Alban & St Stephen	Tuesday	10am Mass	St Bartholomew
6.30pm Mass	St Bartholomew	Wednesday	12 Noon Mass	St Bartholomew
			7pm Mass	St Alban & St Stephen
Sunday		Thursday	10am Mass	St Bartholomew
8.00am Mass	St Alban & St Stephen	Friday	7pm Mass	St Alban & St Stephen
9.30am Mass	St Bartholomew			
11am Mass	St Alban & St Stephen	Saturday	10.30am	St Bartholomew
6pm Mass	St Alban & St Stephen		Exposition, Benediction & Confessions (No Mass at 10am)	

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.

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.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Masses during Building Works September to December 2025 For the duration of the works, with the exception of Mondays at 10am, the daily morning masses, including Saturday morning masses, will be moved to St Bartholomew's. This is to maximise the time available to the contractor during the working day. Mass intentions for these morning masses will automatically be transferred to the 10am masses at St Barts.

The evening masses, if they cannot be said in church, will be said in the Parish Centre or what used to be the Prayer Room. Also, during the build funerals will be held at St Bartholomew's where the environment will be more conducive. Unfortunately, there is no streaming facility at St Bartholomew's, but we will continue to stream our Monday morning masses, the evening masses and the weekend masses held here.

Review of our Mass Schedule In terms of the current review of masses I am grateful for the feedback already received and would encourage people to email me, or speak with Fr John and myself, offering their feedback on our partnering with St Bartholomew's and the current mass schedule. My intention is to gather this feedback together, review it over the summer and come back with a proposal in September. The aim would be to introduce the finalised Mass Schedule from the First Sunday of Advent.

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is Saturday 6 September 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.

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. 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.

Thank You from the Tiplyang Project A big "thank you" for an amazing gift of over £1,000 from our Confirmation candidates to children in Nepal via the charity Hands Together Tiplyang project. With the encouragement of Joan Egenes, our parish catechist, and Fr John, our young people have kindly washed cars and baked and sold cakes to raise funds to provide food, toiletries and school equipment for the children of Tiplyang high up in the Himalayan mountains. The children and their families are deeply appreciative of the help given them and they delight in their school. many thanks to parishioners for your very generous support of this far-reaching project. FiF Youth are also very grateful for the incredible support from the parish for their fund raising efforts. Thankyou!

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. See [here](#) for future events.

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 11am-12.30pm. Parents/carers and children can socialise and share in singing, story time and play. Lizzie Lizzio (group lead-efkelly88@gmail.com)

Migrants' Meals Our next cooking day for local migrants who do not have access to a kitchen or to home cooking will be held on Thursday 24 July. 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.

Mass for Monsignor Canon Harry Turner Msgr Canon Harry Turner will be celebrating his last Mass as Catholic Chaplain, St Albans Abbey, on Friday 25 July at 12pm. He will be succeeded by Fr John Deehan. All are welcome to the Mass in the Abbey. Do remember Msgr Turner and Fr John in your prayers - we are very grateful to our priests for their service and wish them both well for the future.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 29 July 2-4pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340

St Bartholomew's Circle of Friends Summer Party 2pm St Bartholomew's Parish Hall Wednesday 30 July. Any Parishioner wanting to join is welcome. This invitation includes members of our paired CWL too. Spouses and partners are welcome too. It is planned to include tea, songs and a quiz as well as a jolly meet up by all. There is no charge but a contribution towards costs if you are able is welcomed. Please let Maureen Kelly know if you will be attending or are in need of a lift: 07860 283743 or [e mail](#)

Fairtrade Our parish fair trade stall will be open after all Masses at the Church on 2/3 August. Fairtrade offers a chance for people in the developing world to enjoy the fruits of their labours and to hope for improved education, healthcare, housing and so many things we take for granted. Please take a moment to see if you can support this venture.

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.

Fifteen minutes of prayer for Peace 3pm Sunday 10 August At the Peace Obelisk in Sumpter Yard by St Albans Cathedral followed by a cuppa in the Abbot's Kitchen. The people of Japan gave the peace obelisk to St Albans in gratitude to the then Dean, Dean Thicknesse, who, unlike the other Deans in England, refused to ring the bells to celebrate victory at the end of WW2, in recognition of the terrible loss of life & suffering from nuclear bombs in Hiroshima & Nagasaki in August 1945. All welcome.

BINGO - Despite the effects of the heat wave (no Bingo!), £90-00 was raised from a number of generous donations, for the Knights of St. Columba - who are very, very grateful. Our next Bingo will be on Friday 12 September.

Ss. Alban and Stephen school PTA lottery winners If you have contact details for the following, could you please ask them to get in touch with me. Mrs. B. Keegan, L. Argiolas, Eleen Quek and Angela Moyle. Thank you. David 07543 400650.

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. Please also be aware that weekday and Saturday morning masses (excluding Mondays) will be held at St Barts for the duration of the building works.** 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.

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 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. Please contact the parish office with any queries or to notify us of any changes in circumstance.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 19 July – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass David and Anne Myles (Ints)

Sunday 20 July – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Young family (Ints)

8.30am Mass Edna McCarthy (Ann)

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass People of the parish

12 Noon Mass Salvatore Realmuto (RIP)

6pm Mass Prima Nevard (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 18:1-10, Psalm 14(15)

Reading 2, Colossians 1:24-28, Gospel, Luke 10:38-42

Monday 21 July – feria

10am Mass Patrick and Mary White (Ann)

7pm Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 14:5-18, Exodus 15

Gospel, Matthew 12:38-42

Tuesday 22 July – ST MARY MAGDALENE

10am Mass Elma Quinn (RIP)

11.30am Funeral Mass for Margaret Ann Boylan (at St Barts)

Reading 1, Song of Songs 3:1-4, Psalm 62(63)

Gospel, John 20:1-2, 11-18

Wednesday 23 July – ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Richard Field (RIP)

Reading 1, Galatians 2:19-20, Psalm 33(34)

Gospel, John 15:1-8

Thursday 24 July – feria

10am Mass L and A Dobson (Ints)

Reading 1, Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20, Daniel 3

Gospel, Matthew 13:10-17

Friday 25 July – ST JAMES

7pm Mass Kevin Barry (Ann)

Reading 1, 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Psalm 125(126)

Gospel, Matthew 20:20-28

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

Saturday 26 July – St Joachim and St Anne

10am Mass Jim Dalley (RIP)

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Exodus 24:3-8, Psalm 49(50)

Gospel, Matthew 13:24-30

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.

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 26 July – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Micheal O'Hare (RIP)

Sunday 27 July – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Margaret Sweeney (RIP)

8.30am Mass John Taylor (RIP)

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass People of the parish

12 Noon Mass Kathleen O'Brien (RIP)

6pm Mass Josie and John Sheehan (Ints)

Reading 1, Genesis 18:20-32, Psalm 137(138)

Reading 2, Colossians 2:12-14, Gospel, Luke 11:1-13

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for the members of Park 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 Margaret Boylan, Ogo Orah and Jean Mary Sugars.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Kevin Barry, Paddy Chronnell, Michael Feeney, Edna McCarthy and Patrick and Mary White.

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 Lord, we pray that, with your help, we be more and more of Christian values that underpin our society. We pray for the church which guides and supports us on our Christian pilgrimage in a world that embodies many challenges.

Forthcoming Funerals

Margaret Ann Boylan – 11.30am Tuesday 22 July (St Barts)

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