



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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27 July 2025 – SEVENTEENTH 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 / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr John writes... This Sunday is the fifth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly (27 July 2025), and Pope Leo has written the following text on the theme "Blessed are those who have not lost hope":

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2025/07/10/250710b.html>

Pope Leo reminds us to 'praise God for his goodness, cultivate unity with our loved ones, open our hearts to those who are far away and, in particular, to all those in need. In this way, we will be signs of hope, whatever our age'.

We as a community need to be mindful, especially due to parliamentary legislation, that those who are older are not a burden on society but a blessing. Many of you might be planning journeys near and far as the holiday season begins. Maybe this is an occasion to visit those relatives and friends, especially those who live alone, to spend some time resting with them.

It's important, as I am constantly reminded by others, to find time to rest. Now for some this rest might mean lying on a beach, chilling out in bars and clubs or just time away from work. Part of that rest time, I hope, will be finding time for prayer. In our Gospel today, the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Holidays might seem for some, an occasion, to switch off from prayer. Please resist this temptation! The usual day to day pressures may ease for you during the holidays but this can be a time for spiritual growth, so don't be afraid to take a prayer book, bible or spiritual reading with you on your travels. Find moments to rest with God and thank him for all the graces and blessings that you receive.

Anyone interested in RCIA beginning in September, please speak to one of the priests after any mass.

May God Bless you and keep you safe.

Season of Creation - 1 September to 4 October 2025 To mark Season of Creation the Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation group invite you to read the pamphlet 'Finding God in a Leaf' by Brian Grogan SJ and to meet at 1pm at St Bart's Hall on Thursdays 25 September and on 2 and 9 October to discuss the book and other SoC matters. The book can be ordered through any book shop or obtained online e.g. via www.worldofbooks.com or eBay etc. It costs just under £5 new. Each chapter is very short. We aim to consider the Introduction and (the very short) chapters 1 - 15 at the first meeting. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch. If you intend to come or need a lift call Mary on 07976 277 059.

Please remember that this 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. Please note that the parish office will be open as normal over the summer period.

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

Saturday Vigil Mass

5pm Mass St Alban & St Stephen

6.30pm Mass St Bartholomew

Sunday

8.00am Mass St Alban & St Stephen

9.30am Mass St Bartholomew

11am Mass St Alban & St Stephen

6pm Mass St Alban & St Stephen

Monday

10am Mass St Alban & St Stephen

Tuesday

10am Mass St Bartholomew

Wednesday

12 Noon Mass St Bartholomew

7pm Mass St Alban & St Stephen

Thursday

10am Mass St Bartholomew

Friday

7pm Mass St Alban & St Stephen

Saturday

10.30am St Bartholomew

Exposition, Benediction & Confessions (No Mass at 10am)

St Bartholomew's Parish Please see the St Bartholomew's website at [St Bartholomew - Roman Catholic Parish of St Albans South](http://StBartholomew-RomanCatholicParishofStAlbansSouth) 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.

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.

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: shower gel, toothpaste, shampoo, baby wipes, adult toothbrushes, deodorant, bars of soap, baby shower gel and baby shampoo. Please only donate requested items.

St Albans Food Bank Once the building works start, we will stop collecting grocery items in the porch. Instead we will have a food collection point at all masses, including the Marshalswick Mass centre on the first Sunday of each month. The principal demand remains for long life milk, long life juice and tinned fruit. More details of the St Albans Food bank can be found using this [link](#).

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.

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. Lizzie Lizzio (group lead-efkelly88@gmail.com)

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](#) here.

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.

Pax Christi vigil and prayers Remembering the bombs dropped on Japan 80 years ago, at 11am to 1pm on Wednesday 6 and Saturday 9 August at Westminster Cathedral Piazza and Pax Christi annual service of commemoration of Franz Jagerstatter at 5pm on Saturday 9 August at Westminster Cathedral Crypt.

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.

CELEBRATE FESTIVAL Catholic festival for all the family 'Witness to Hope' 16-20 August 2025 at Worth School, West Sussex. For full details visit celebratetrust.org/festival. There is the opportunity to come for the weekend if you can't make the whole festival. A Weekend Camping Ticket allows arrivals on Friday 15/8 from between 15.00 & 20.00 or on Saturday 16/8 between 09:00 & 12:00 - pitch your tent, relax in the beautiful surrounding of Worth School, get to know other CELEBRATE campers, have a time of prayer in the Abbey and let Papa Dutch Café provide delicious food for you.

The price of a weekend ticket for a family of 2 adults and children (in school year 13 or under) with camping is £350, not including your food or travel. The parish have a weekend camping ticket sponsorship for one family for free - for a family who may not be able to afford this but would love to go!. Please contact the parish office before 1pm Wednesday 30 July if you wish to be considered.

March for Life in London Saturday 6 September We need to oppose the recent Parliament votes for both abortion up to birth and assisted suicide and state publicly that all life is precious from conception until natural death. Find out more at marchforlife.co.uk info@marchforlife.co.uk, 07773 501721.

Jubilee Pilgrimage to Welwyn Garden City 13 September Instead of walking to Welwyn, we will now 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.

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.

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 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

Monday 28 July – feria

10am Mass John Sweeney (Ints)

7pm Mass Louise Aldred (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 32:15-24,30-34, Psalm 105(106)

Gospel, Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday 29 July – St Mary, St Martha and St Lazarus

10am Mass Jim Dalley (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 33:7-11;34:5-9, 28, Psalm 102(103)

Gospel, Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday 30 July – feria

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Angela Fardella (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 98(99)

Gospel, Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday 31 July – St Ignatius of Loyola

10am Mass Tom Bagge (RIP)

Reading 1, Exodus 40:16-21,34-38, Psalm 83(84)

Gospel, Matthew 13:47-53

Friday 1 August – St Alphonsus Liguori

7pm Mass Kitty Sheehan (RIP)

Reading 1, Leviticus 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,34-37, Psalm 80(81)

Gospel, Matthew 13:54-58

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

Saturday 2 August – Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am No Mass in August

10.30am Adoration, Benediction and Confessions at St Bartholomew Church, Vesta Avenue, St Albans AL1 2PE

Reading 1, Leviticus 25:1,8-17, Psalm 66(67)

Gospel, Matthew 14:1-12

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 2 August – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Mary Naughton (RIP)

Sunday 3 August – EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Hutchins family (Ints)

8.30am No mass in August at SJF School

11am Mass Peit Guerin (RIP)

6pm Mass Nancy Roache (RIP)

Reading 1, Ecclesiastes 1:2:21-23, Psalm 89(90)

Reading 2, Colossians 3:1-5,9-11, Gospel, Luke 12:13-21

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all the members of Churches Together in Hertfordshire.

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 Anne Kearns, Ogo Orah and Jean Mary Sugars.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Paddy Chronnell and Michael Feeney.

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 give thanks for the gift of grandparents and older people. Lord, bless them and give them serenity. Help them to rely on you as their source of strength, hope, wisdom and understanding.

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.

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. David 07543 400650

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