



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**6 July 2025 – FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



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 / [stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07976 277059

*We are a Fairtrade parish*

### Towards the Extended Porch & Refurbished Forecourt

*Fr Michael writes...* This coming week we will confirm the contractor and start date for the long-awaited works to the porch and forecourt. The works are likely to commence towards the end of July and will last up to five months. This will bring us very close to Christmas. Prayers please that all keeps to programme!

The works will have an immediate impact. We will need to enter and leave the church via the Parish Centre, rehearse a revised fire evacuation procedure, and adapt to reduced parking. Please, if you are fully mobile, consider walking to church or parking a bit further away. This will leave what parking we have for those with limited mobility and the elderly.

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 build time available to the contractor. 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. Moreover, conscious that we have a significant number of funerals, and given the difficulties with access and parking and the disruption which building works bring, it is proposed that funerals 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 held in the church as well as the weekend masses.

As you will be aware from last week's newsletter I am also proposing to operate a revised Mass Schedule for August. What this Mass Schedule will look like and the changes outlined above are summarised below. In September we will revert to the current schedule for weekday and Sunday masses, with our weekday masses (with the exception of Monday morning and evening masses) being said at St Bartholomew's.

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 (29/30 November 2025) with the understanding that weekday morning masses (except for Monday morning) would continue to be said at St Bart's until the completion of the works.

If any of the above changes affect a mass for which you have already booked an intention, Angela, our Parish Administrator, will be in contact with you in the next couple of weeks.

### 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 Adoration, Benediction and Confessions (No Mass at 10am)

## 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 mass is 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)

**Parish Friends Tea Party** Parish Friends would like to thank all those who supported our Tea Party last Sunday. Despite the high temperatures we had a great turn out. Thanks to Diamond Years who were brilliant as always and also a big thank you to all who made cakes for the event. Despite the heat around 50 parishioners turned up and spent the afternoon eating tasty homemade cake followed by dancing to great music. A very enjoyable afternoon!

**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 [stalbans@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbans@rcdow.org.uk) or tel 01727 853585 from 9am to 1pm Monday to Fridays.

**Jubilee 2025** Cardinal Vincent Nicols is visiting two of our Jubilee Churches this weekend and all are welcome at these Jubilee events: Our Lady of Willesden on Saturday 5 July – 12.15 pm and Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City on Sunday 6 July – 3pm. Please see the Diocesan website for more details.

**Churches Together - Sunday 6 July** A service at St Leonard's Sandridge to celebrate the 1700 anniversary of the Nicene Creed through hymns. There will as usual be cream teas and homemade cake and lots of lovely fellowship.

**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.

**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.

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

**The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group** We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 15 July 2-4pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

**Parish Groups Social** On the evening of Friday 18 July at 7pm at St Bartholomew's we want to bring together representatives of all the parish groups in St Bartholomew's and St Alban & St Stephen. So we are asking every parish group – from the individual small groups right through to our music groups, Families in Faith, Parish Friends, the Finance Committee and the Parish Council to nominate a representative. It will be a social occasion with some discussion and sharing. Please could each group let Angela in the parish office know who will be representing them.

**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 24 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.

**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](mailto: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.

**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.

## 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. Contact the parish office with any queries or to notify us of any changes in circumstance in 2024/25.

**Sea Sunday 13 July** There will be a retiring collection after all masses next weekend in Support of Stella Maris.

**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 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

### Monday 7 July - feria

10am Mass Sally McNeill (RIP)

7pm Mass Julia Fagan (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 28:10-22, Psalm 90(91)

Gospel, Matthew 9:18-26

### Tuesday 8 July - feria

10am Mass Marie Courtney (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 32:23-32, Psalm 16(17)

Gospel, Matthew 9:32-38

### Wednesday 9 July - feria

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Teresa Virrueta (First Anniversary)

Reading 1, Genesis 41:55-57,42:5-7,17-24, Psalm 32(33)

Gospel, Matthew 10:1-7

### Thursday 10 July - feria

10am Mass Louis Fernandes (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 44:18-29,45:1-5, Psalm 104(105)

Gospel, John 10:7-15

### Friday 11 July - ST BENEDICT

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Richard Field (Ann)

Reading 1, Proverbs 2:1-9, Psalm 33(34)

Gospel, Matthew 19:27-29

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

### Saturday 12 July - Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Michael Clarke (RIP)

10.30am Confessions and Exposition

Reading 1, Genesis 49:29-32,50:15-26, Psalm 104(105)

Gospel, Matthew 10:24-33

**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](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

### Saturday 12 July - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Patrick Keegan (Ann)

### Sunday 13 July - FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Colin Fennessy (RIP)

8.30am Mass Cliff Staniforth (RIP)

(John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10.00am Mass Bridget (Bee) Serrano (RIP)

12 Noon Mass People of the parish

6pm Mass Michael Aylward (Ann)

Reading 1, Deuteronomy 30:10-14, Psalm 68(69)

Reading 2, Colossians 1:15-20, Gospel, Luke 10:25-37

## 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, Margaret Boylan, Mary Briffa, Morag Elliott, Sheila Melville and Maria Riccitelli.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Michael Aylward, Richard Field, Ethelreda Forster, Patrick Keegan, Edna McCarthy, Teresa Sequeira and Teresa Virrueta.

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

## Forthcoming Funerals

Alfred (Alley) Ashton - 11am Friday 11 July

Maria Riccitelli - 10am Friday 18 July

Margaret Ann Boylan - 12 Noon 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.

**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).