



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Tel: 01727 853 585

E-mail: stalban@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch>

31 August 2025 – TWENTY-SECOND 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... Two years ago I arrived in the parish at a time of change, the launch of Family in Faith, as well as the plans for the extension to the Church being discussed. Since those days, I have witnessed many young people receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. They have been filled with joy and enthusiasm, as have also the parents. The building works are also about to begin. It's a time to be upbeat especially given the tensions in the world. Our Gospel today encourages a fundamental shift from self-centred pride to humble service, trusting that God will honour true humility.

September sees the start of many young people going to new schools, colleges and universities and also the workplace. We wish them well in their endeavours.

As a parish community we continue to reach out in the many activities that are undertaken. Fr Michael and myself are also indebted to you for your continued support, so let us be mindful to continue showing hospitality to others, recognising the marginalised and in our daily prayer and Eucharistic attendance, strive to keep this community of ours, growing in the love and peace of Christ.

Jubilee Pilgrimage to Welwyn Garden City 13 September The itinerary for our Jubilee Pilgrimage has now been finalised and detailed timings are as follows:

- 9.30 am Coach arrives at St Alban & St Stephen
- 9.45 am Coach departs from St Alban & St Stephen
- 9.55 am Coach arrives at St Bartholomew's
- 10.10am Coach departs from St Bartholomew's
- Decade of the Rosary (Recited on way to Welwyn)
- 10.40 am Arrival at Our Lady Queen of Apostles
- 11.00 am Mass
- 11.45 am Exposition with an opportunity for Confession
- 12.15 pm Benediction
- 12.30 pm Lunch (Tea & Coffee provided. Please bring your own packed lunch)
- 1.30 pm Visit around the Church with Canon Norbert Fernandes
- 2.10pm Solemn Jubilee Blessing & Farewell
- 2.15pm Coach departs from Our lady Queen of Apostles

If you would like to be part of this joint parishes pilgrimage, please complete the online form by 5 September using the [this link](#). Please fill in the form whether you are travelling on the coach or making your own way to Welwyn. There is no cost for the day, but donations towards the cost of the coach and other aspects of the day are very welcome. Please see the registration form for details of how to make a donation. If you are not able to complete the form online, there are hard copies available at the back of the church. Please complete one and return it to the parish office by 5 September.

Building Works Update Our normal mass schedule resumes from Monday 3 September. For the duration of the Church building works Tuesday and Thursday 10am morning masses will be at St Bartholomew's. Mass intentions for these masses will automatically be transferred to the 10am masses at St Bartholomew's. Monday and Saturday morning masses and weekday evening masses will be held at St Alban and St Stephen. Saturday evening and Sunday mass locations remain unchanged. Please see the weekly bulletin for full details of masses. Also, during the build funerals will be held at St Bartholomew's. Unfortunately, there is no streaming facility at St Bartholomew's, but we will continue to stream masses held here in the church. We anticipate that the building works will begin this week so please bear in mind that access points to the church will be changed and car parking will be limited once the building works begin.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

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 come back with a proposal in September and 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. Registration for both sacraments closes on 16 September.

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

Parish Knit and Natter Group - supporting Bonda Orphanage in Africa The parish knit and natter group has been busy knitting baby jumpers for the babies and toddlers in the Bonda Orphanage in Africa. To date they have knitted 50 toddler size and 50 baby size and these will be taken to the orphanage in September by the missionary son of Maggie Moore, a parishioner at St Barts parish. This is an amazing achievement by the group and you can see the lovely jumpers they have made on the Parish News page of

our website. Thanks very much to the group for all their hard work!

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 in the church. Please only donate items which you would be happy to give to a family member or friend. Many thanks for all your support.

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)

Season of Creation - 1 September to 4 October 2025 This a time of sustained prayer and action which lasts a month and four days. During this time we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. 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 18 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. 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.

Parish Friends The next Parish Friends meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 September at 7pm in the Prayer Room. New members will be welcomed. Please contact Helen Bassill (07860 830340) for more details.

Fairtrade Our parish fair trade stall will be open after all Masses on the weekend of 6/7 September, and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 14 September. There are so many trouble spots in the world today and supporting fair trade is one way to help others overcome the many hardships they face.

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.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 9 September 2-4pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340

BINGO is back - Friday 12 September at 8pm in the Parish Centre. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

Circle of Friends Tea 2-4pm 24 September - 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.

CAFOD: Response in Gaza Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at cafod.org.uk.

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 December 2025. Please also be aware that weekday 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.

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 If you are a UK taxpayer and have previously signed a gift aid declaration, but no longer pay UK tax, please contact the parish office and let us know. If you have stopped paying tax, we can no longer claim gift (25p in every pound). If you do not pay sufficient UK tax and gift aid is claimed on what you give, then HMRC may seek reimbursement from the parish. If you have signed a gift aid form, your offertory donations need to come from a bank account in your name only or a joint bank account on which you are also named.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 30 August – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Louis, Jose, Tereza, Peidade & Anthony Fernandes (RIP)

Sunday 31 August – TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Mary and Paul Watkins (Ints)

11am Mass Gerry Foster (RIP)

6pm Mass Ann Ord (RIP)

Reading 1, Ecclesiasticus 3:19-21,30-31, Psalm 67(68)

Reading 2, Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24, Gospel, Luke 14:1,7-14

Monday 1 September – feria

10am Mass Sheila McDaid (RIP)

7pm Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Psalm 95(96)

Gospel, Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday 2 September – feria

10am Mass * Zofia Foster and family (Ints)

Reading 1, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6,9-11, Psalm 26(27)

Gospel, Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday 3 September – St Gregory the Great

10am No Morning Mass

7pm Mass Mary Redmond and family (Ints)

Reading 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:2-8, Psalm 95(96)

Gospel, Matthew 16:13-19

Thursday 4 September – feria

10am Mass * Gabriel Dobson (Ints)

Reading 1, Colossians 1:9-14, Psalm 97(98)

Gospel, Luke 5:1-11

Friday 5 September – feria

7pm Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

Reading 1, Colossians 1:15-20, Psalm 99(100)

Gospel, Luke 5:33-39

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

Saturday 6 September – Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Gerry Foster (RIP)

10.30am * Exposition, Confessions and Benediction

Reading 1, Colossians 1:21-23, Psalm 53(54)

Gospel, Luke 6:1-5

**at St Bartholomew Church, Vesta Avenue, St Albans AL1 2PE*

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

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 6 September – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Larry Hughes (Ann)

Sunday 7 September – TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Fintan Bergin (Ann)

8.30am Mass Susanna Mole (Ann)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10am Mass Fr Taniguchi and St Joseph's Catholic Church, Nogata, Japan (Ints)

12 Noon Mass Helen and Anthony O'Hare (Ints)

6pm Mass Eddie Stack (RIP)

Reading 1, Wisdom 9:13-18, Psalm 89(90)

Reading 2, Philemon 9-10,12-17, Gospel, Luke 14:25-33

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for the Eco church movement and heightened awareness for the care for creation.

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 Lucilla Adobatti and Joan Collins.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fintan Bergin, Kate Chronnell, Larry Hughes, Susanna Mole and Fr Richard Scriven MSC.

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

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.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer Dear Lord, please help all those who are beset by too much food, alcohol and anything else. Amen

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.