



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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14 September 2025 - THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



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 / stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes... Over the last months I have asked for your feedback on the current Mass Schedule and your thoughts about the pairing of St Alban & St Stephen and St Bartholomew's. Thank you to everyone who has written in or taken the time to speak to a member of the Parish Team. My sense, from what has been shared, is that the pairing of the parishes has begun well, that there is a genuine willingness to work together, and a pragmatic acceptance of the realities that a good many parishes are having to engage with.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your generous response to the pairing of our parishes. I would also like to thank you for your words of appreciation for all that is taking place in both parishes, and for bearing with both the revised Summer Schedule and the changes in venue necessitated by the preparation for building works at St Alban & St Stephen.

The one key theme that has come across time and again in the feedback we have received is that our Mass Schedule needs to be manageable for the clergy now serving two parishes. Reflecting on this it has struck me that there are two mass cycles in every parish. A Sunday cycle of masses and a weekday cycle of masses. Of the two, it seems to me that the first of these, the Sunday cycle of masses, must take priority, and that in order to create space and lighten the load on the parish clergy it makes more sense, at this stage, to reconfigure the weekday schedule. This being so, and mindful that it is not unusual for priests in our diocese to celebrate three Sunday masses on Sunday itself, I am proposing to:

- retain the existing schedule of Sunday Masses for 11 months of the year
- adopt a revised 'Summer Mass Schedule' for the month of August, and
- introduce the following schedule of Weekday Masses from **Monday 1 December 2025**:

Monday	10am	(St Alban & St Stephen)	12 Noon	(St Bartholomew's)
Tuesday	10am	(St Alban & St Stephen)	No Evening Mass	
Wednesday	10am	(St Bartholomew's)	7pm	(St Alban & St Stephen)
Thursday	10am	(St Alban & St Stephen)	No Evening Mass	
Friday	No Morning Mass		7pm	(St Alban & St Stephen)

In effect St Alban & St Stephen will lose two of its weekday masses (Monday evening and Saturday morning) and St Bartholomew's will lose one of its weekday masses. If you have booked a mass intention for one of the weekday masses affected by these changes our parish administrators will be in touch with you to confirm a new date and time. Exposition, Confessions and Benediction will take place at St Bartholomew's on a Wednesday morning, beginning at 10.30am, and at St Alban & St Stephen on a Saturday morning, beginning at a new earlier time of 10am.

I am conscious that these last months have seen quite a lot of change to the routines in both parishes, and with the building works at St Alban and Stephen (now with a confirmed start date of 6 October) a sense of unsettledness will remain. Please, if you have any questions, especially regarding the proposed changes to the weekday schedule, come back to me.

School Applications & Certificates of Catholic Practice If you are a parent, guardian or carer who needs a Certificate of Catholic Practice to accompany your child's application for a primary, secondary or nursery school place, please could you email the parish office on stalbens@rcdow.org.uk with your child's name, date of birth and home address together with a contact telephone number for yourself. It would also be appreciated if you could indicate which school(s) you are applying for as not all catholic schools require the Certificate of Catholic Practice. Fr Michael will then arrange an appointment for you to meet with him.

Education Sunday, 14 September On Education Sunday Churches Together in England are reflecting on the parables of the lost sheep and of the lost coin (Luke 15.1-10). For more information see [here](#).

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is Saturday 4 October 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 closes on 16 September. 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.

Youth Mass dates for the next school year Sunday 6pm Mass on 14 Sept, 12 Oct, 9 Nov, 7 Dec, 25 Jan, 8 Feb, 22 Mar, 10 May, 14 June and 5 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.

Readers There will be a short training / refresher session for readers (no more than an hour) at 11.00 am on Saturday 27 September at St Bartholomew's Church, 49 Vesta Avenue, AL1 2PE. This is an opportunity for all current readers to review their practice and for potential readers to learn what is involved. If you think you might be willing to read at Sunday masses, please do join us.

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. While the building works are taking place, there will be a collecting point for these items on the third Sunday of each month.

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. Please only donate items which you would be happy to give to a family member or friend. Many thanks for all your support. While the building works are taking place, there will be a collecting point for these items on the third Sunday of each month.

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)

Phillips Grief Café Phillips the undertakers are running a **Grief Café** 10am-Noon on the first Thursday of the month in the parish centre foyer. A place for people to come together to share and discuss their experiences of grief and loss, and connect with others who understand.

St Albans URC Memory Cafe Sociable afternoon for those with dementia [however mild/severe] and accompanied by their live-in carers - Chiswell Green URC Hall, Watford Road, Chiswell Green on the first Thursday of the month - 1.30-3.30pm. Email [here](#) for more information.

Season of Creation - 1 September to 4 October 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 costs about £5 and can be ordered through any book shop or obtained online e.g. [www.worldofbooks.com](#) or eBay etc. We will consider the

Introduction and chapters 1 - 15 at the first meeting. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch. If you intend to come or if you need a lift call Mary on 07976 277 059.

Mercy Associates We will be meeting next Wednesday 17 September in Room 1 of the Parish Centre at 10.30am. Sr Maura will be joining us.

RCIA Meeting Our first session will begin on Wednesday 17 September at 7.30pm in the parish hall.

Fairtrade Our parish fair trade stall will be open after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 21 September.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 23 September 2-4pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

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.

Talk by Newman Association member Carole Cox on Notre Dame de France - Pilgrimages to Lourdes and to Notre Dame, 2pm 25 September in the The Undercroft, Our Lady of Lourdes, Rothamsted Ave, Harpenden AL5 2DB. All welcome. You are invited to stay on afterwards to raise a glass to our 'own' Doctor of the Church, Cardinal St John Henry Newman. Pope Leo XIV has confirmed that he will declare St John Henry Newman the 38th Doctor of the Catholic Church.

Jumble Sale 10am Saturday, 27 September - proceeds to St Bart's HCPT Group for Easter 2026 pilgrimage Good quality jumble. Donations welcome [but no large or electrical items, thank you] - please leave in St Bart's Parish Centre entrance hall, Vesta Avenue 9am - 8pm on Friday 26 September - queries to Barbara Bliss [01727 873672]

St Columba's College Prep and Senior School Open Day Saturday 27 September 9am - 1pm We also have a Reception 2026 activity session on that day. This is a wonderful opportunity to have a full tour of the school by current students and to hear from the Leadership Team. Please register using the following [link](https://masters.m@stcolumbascollege.org) or contact May Masters at masters.m@stcolumbascollege.org.

Loreto College Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3RQ The Open Evening for prospective pupils applying to Loreto College for September 2026 will take place on Tuesday 30 September from 4 to 7pm. Please use the entrance in Upper Lattimore Road. More details are available on the school website www.loreto.herts.sch.uk.

Cafod family fast day. Friday 3 October. If you are able, please support this day as an act of solidarity with the millions in our world who regularly go without. Try to only have one meal and donate any money saved to the Cafod

collection over the weekend of 4/5th October. Gift Aid envelopes will be available if required. Donate online [here](#).

Fancy a free lunch? Please come to our simple bread/soup lunch at noon on Saturday 4 October. After lunch, at 1pm, we will show 'The Guernsey literary & potato peel pie society' [12]. This event supports the CAFOD harvest fast day and there will be a collection at the event. All welcome.

St Alban and St Stephen's School Autumn Fair 4 October 1 - 4pm Please put the date in your diaries!

Parish Friends Autumn Tea Party on Sunday 19 October 3-5pm in the Parish Hall We have a new band entertaining us "Jac-out-the box" Please come along and show your support. We will have our usual raffle. Everyone welcome. Offers of cakes would be appreciated. Contact Helen 07860 830340.

St Adrian's Catholic Primary School Admissions For nursery and reception admissions please contact the school office to book a place on one of our tours. More information can be found [here](#). The application deadline is 15 January.

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 / January 2026. 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.

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 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.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 13 September - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Hughie Scollan (Ann)

Sunday 14 September - THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

8am Mass People of the parish

8.30am Mass Polly Lee (Ann)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10am Mass Thomas and Mary Miskell (Ann)

12 Noon Mass Gennaro and Guisepppe Capparelli (RIP)

6pm Mass Pauline, Bella & John Taites (RIP)

Reading 1, Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 77(78)

Reading 2, Philippians 2:6-11, Gospel, John 3:13-17

Monday 15 September - Our Lady of Sorrows

10am Mass Joseph Chi Kin Fong (Ann)

7pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Psalm 27(28)

Gospel, Luke 2:33-35

Tuesday 16 September - St Cornelius and St Cyprian

10am Mass * David Williams (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Psalm 100(101)

Gospel, Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday 17 September - feria

7pm Mass Alban and Peggy Brampton (Ann)

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Psalm 110(111)

Gospel, Luke 7:31-35

Thursday 18 September - feria

10am Mass * Mike Walton (RIP)

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Psalm 110(111)

Gospel, Luke 7:36-50

Friday 19 September - feria

7pm Mass Deceased members of the Moore family

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 6:2-12, Psalm 48(49)

Gospel, Luke 8:1-3

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

Saturday 20 September - St Andrew Kim Tae-gon, St Paul

Chong Ha-Sang and Companions

10am Mass Bernard Doran (RIP)

10.30am Exposition, Confessions and Benediction

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 6:13-16, Psalm 99(100)

Gospel, Luke 8:4-15

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

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.

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 20 September - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass John Paton (RIP)

Sunday 21 September - TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the parish

8.30am Mass Danny Onn (Ann)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10am Mass Jim Dalley (RIP)

12 Noon Mass Jim Naisbitt (Ann)

6pm Mass Siobhan Clancy (RIP)

Reading 1, Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 112(113)

Reading 2, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Gospel, Luke 16:1-13

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans on Education Sunday we pray and celebrate everyone involved in the world of education.

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 Betty Dublino, Joan Collins, Damien Mearns, Ogo Orah and Josephine Scoley.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Alban and Peggy Brampton, Fintan Bergin, Arminda Domingos, Joseph Chi Kin Fong, Polly Lee, Thomas and Mary Miskell, Susanna Mole, Hannah Moore, Jim Naisbitt, Danny Onn, Hughie Scollan, Fr Pat Sullivan MSC and David Williams.

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

Compassionate and loving God, you created the world for us all to share, a sacred world of beauty and plenty. Create in us a desire to live simply and sustainably with thought and care to re-use and avoid waste.

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.