



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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**21 September 2025 – TWENTY-FIFTH 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 Michael writes...** In today's Gospel, we hear Christ's account of the dishonest manager who, when faced with the prospect of being sacked, decided to curry favour with those who were in his master's debt, by inviting them to falsify their accounts to their own advantage. On one level, Christ seems to praise the dishonest steward. 'The master', he says 'commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness'. It would be a mistake however to assume that Christ is praising the manager for his deception; on the contrary, what he is praising, is not the manager's deception of his master, but the manager's ability to read the writing on the wall, and having read the writing on the wall, to use everything at his disposal to secure what he perceives to be his long term interests.

In all of this there is a straightforward question for each of us about the management of all God has given to us; with the gift of life, the world in which we live, the blessings we have received, and not least, the Word and revelation God has given to us in the person of his Son. Have we used these gifts to immerse ourselves in this world or have we used them for the knowing, glory and service of God? If our management, has been characterised by selfishness, then Christ in this Gospel issues us with the same wake-up call that the master issued to his manager at the beginning of the Gospel. Render me, he says, loudly and clearly, an account of your management. What have you done with the world I entrusted to you and with the free choice I bestowed on you?

**Evangelii Gaudium Sunday 14 September** Formerly known as Home Mission Sunday, Evangelii Gaudium Sunday is celebrated each year on the Third Sunday of September. The work of encounter and evangelisation is promoted through the Directorate for Mission. Through this directorate, the vision of the Holy Father is embraced in a fuller way and promotes the whole ideal of proclamation, evangelisation, dialogue and catechesis. There will be a retiring collection after all masses this weekend to support this work.

**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 4/5 October. Gift Aid envelopes will be available if required.

**Revised Mass Schedule** Please be aware that the following schedule of Weekday Masses will be introduced 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)
Saturday	No Morning Mass	

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. The weekend mass schedule remains unchanged. Please see last week's bulletin for full details of the rationale behind the new mass schedule.

**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.

## 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:** Registration for both of these sacraments has now closed.

**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.

**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 11am 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 sanitary towels (not tampons), shower gel, toothpaste, shampoo, baby wipes, adult toothbrushes, deodorant, bars of soap, baby shower gel and shampoo. 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 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.

**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 [stalbands@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbands@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.

**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](mailto: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.

**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](#) or contact May Masters at [masters.m@stcolumbascollege.org](mailto: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](http://www.loreto.herts.sch.uk).

**Churches Together** An interactive weekend exploring creative ways to worship led by the Wild Goose Resource Group of the Iona community is coming to St Albans URC, Homewood and Greenwood 3-5 October. To book places contact Gill Elliott [gilldotelliott@gmail.com](mailto:gilldotelliott@gmail.com).

**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!

**Stay Safe Online Talk** Join us at 2pm Thursday 9 October Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Ave AL4 9QL

**Bingo** - A big thank you for the support and donations for the recent Bingo, that raised £145.00 for the Knights of St. Columba. The next Bingo evening will be on Friday 10 October at 8pm in the Parish Hall.

**Men's Breakfast, Saturday 11 October 8.15-10am** in the Parish Centre. We will start with conversation over coffee and pastries, followed by a 20 minute video on the Christian living by Dr Edward Siri and a discussion. No pre-booking required. For more details contact Richard on 07976 252309

**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.

**Migrants' Meals** Many thanks to all the parishioners who have helped us to arrange 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 23 October. 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

**Blessing of Graves at Hatfield Road Cemetery - Saturday 1 November and London Road Saturday 15 November** Please meet beside the cemetery chapel at 2pm. There will be a short prayer service after which Fr Michael, Fr John and Deacons Brendan and Michael will be available to bless individual graves.

**St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School and Nursery Admissions** For nursery and primary admissions please contact the school office to book a place on one of our tours. More information can be found [here](#).

**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 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 normally be included for eight weeks, unless the request to have their name included is renewed.



## 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

### Monday 22 September – feria

10am Mass Eric Harber (RIP)

7pm Mass Liber Marzo (Ann)

Reading 1, Ezra 1:1-6, Psalm 125(126)

Gospel, Luke 8:16-18

### Tuesday 23 September – St Pius of Pietrelcina

10am Mass \* Gerry Foster (RIP) (*at St Bartholomew's*)

Reading 1, Ezra 6:7-8,12-20, Psalm 121(122)

Gospel, Luke 8:19-21

### Wednesday 24 September – OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

7pm Mass Mary Curran (RIP)

Reading 1, Ezra 9:5-9, Psalm Tobit 13

Gospel, Luke 9:1-6

### Thursday 25 September – feria

10am Mass \* Harold Kingham (RIP) (*at St Bartholomew's*)

12 Noon Funeral Mass for Ogo Orah (*at St Bartholomew's*)

Reading 1, Haggai 1:1-8, Psalm 149

Gospel, Luke 9:7-9

### Friday 26 September – feria

7pm Mass Mary Kiely (Ann)

Reading 1, Haggai 1:15-2:9, Psalm 42(43)

Gospel, Luke 9:18-22 (*On Fridays Mass is celebrated in St Albans Cathedral at Noon*)

### Saturday 27 September – St Vincent de Paul

10am Mass Nigel Appleyard (Ann)

Reading 1, Zechariah 2:5-9,14-15, Psalm Jeremiah 31

Gospel, Luke 9:43-45

10.30am Exposition, Confessions and Benediction

*\*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](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 27 September – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Brendan and Denise Kearns (Ann)

### Sunday 28 September – TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the parish

8.30am Mass Jim Dalley (RIP)

(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)

10am Mass Martin and Bridget Cloherty (Ann)

12 Noon Mass James Hadlow (RIP)

6pm Mass Mary Naughton (RIP)

Reading 1, Amos 6:1,4-7, Psalm 145(146)

Reading 2, 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Gospel, Luke 16:19-31

## PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all members of the Lutheran Congregation of St Albans Cathedral.

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 Ana Feliciano, Damien Mearns, Ogo Orah and Josephine Scoley.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Nigel Appleyard, Fintan Bergin, Martin and Bridget Cloherty, Mary Kiely, Liber Marzo, Susanna Mole, Hannah Moore, Jim Naisbitt, Danny Onn and Fr Liam O'Callaghan MSC.

*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** St Therese of Lisieux invites us to practice the little way of love, to never miss the opportunity to smile, to make any small gesture that sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness.' Pope Francis, Laudato Si para 230.

**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).