



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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28 September 2025 – TWENTY-SIXTH 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... The works to the Church porch and forecourt will commence on Monday 6 October. They are expected to last for five months. The onset of works will mean a number of practical changes to our usual routine. Here, I want to say a few words about the most pressing practical changes.

During the week, the Monday morning and evening masses will be said in church, while the 10am on Tuesdays and Thursdays will be said at St Bartholomew's. Similarly, weekday funerals will also be held at St Bartholomew's.

From Monday 6 October the only way into and out of the church will be via the Parish Centre and the side door beside the Sacred Heart statue. In an emergency, where the Church needs to be evacuated, there will be three emergency exits: the emergency exit beside the Lady Chapel, the emergency exit/temporary main entrance beside the Sacred Heart statue, and an emergency exit built into a new temporary screen which will section off the works from the main body of the Church.

On weekdays public parking will be limited to the parking spaces at the rear of the presbytery. At weekends it will also be possible to use the parking spaces running parallel to the presbytery. Loreto car park will still be available to us, but please, if you can walk to church, consider walking. Alternatively, if you are fit and able to walk, please consider parking a little way from the Church. The priority in terms of parking should be those with restricted mobility and very young families.

The contactless giving machines will be relocated to the Parish Centre foyer while the weekly bulletin, mass books, hymns books and children's books will be located close to the confessionals. As already notified in the weekly bulletin, the various collections of clothing, toiletries and food stuffs for the food bank will take place on specific Sundays of the month. Where possible refreshments will continue to be served from the tea/coffee bar in the foyer with people being asked to consume refreshments in the ground floor meeting room. On occasions where the tea/coffee bar is needed for other purposes e.g. the Fairtrade stall, refreshments will be served in the main hall upstairs.

Finally, whilst the builders will make every effort to seal off the works from the main body of the Church, there will be dust and dirt. The regular group of Friday morning cleaners has agreed to come in and clean on Friday afternoons at 4.30pm so as to ready the Church for the weekend. New volunteers would be very welcome. Just come along.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal 3 October Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10.

Jubilee Pilgrimage to WGC 13 September Thanks to all who took part and were involved in the organisation of this very successful event. We had over 70 parishioners attending from both parishes. Huge congratulations to the hardy parishioners who made the pilgrimage on foot! Fr Norbert Fernandes led a moving and memorable service where exposition, confession, and benediction were all on offer. Thanks also to the WGC CWL for the refreshments.

Revised Mass Schedule Please see our website [news page](#) for details of the revised mass schedule from 1 December.

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 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.

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 Café 2 October 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 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 email the parish office on stalbands@rcdow.org.uk with your child's name, date of birth and home address together with a contact telephone number for yourself. Please 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 to meet you.

Season of Creation 1/9/25 - 4/10/25 The SA&S 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 2 and 9 October (after 12 o'clock Mass) to discuss the book and other SoC matters. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch. If you intend to come or need a lift call Mary on 07976 277 059. Please also see Pope Leo's letter, [Seeds of Peace and Hope](#)

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 on the school [website](#).

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.

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!

IGNITE A discipleship event for Catholics aged 14-18 across Hertfordshire 5 - 7.30pm Sunday 4 October An opportunity to connect with other young Catholics from Watford, Hemel & St Albans, and grow in faith through teaching, discussion, prayer and games. Our Lady Queen of All Creation, Hemel. Beginning with the Vigil Mass. Organised by the ASCAT Youth Ministry Team. Contact the parish office for more information and to register your attendance for safeguarding purposes. Free to attend.

Fair trade Our parish fair trade stall will be open after all Masses at church over the weekends of 4/5 and 18/19 October and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 12 October. As well as the usual range of items, we will also have Advent Calendars and some charity Christmas cards. Please try to take a moment to see if there is anything you might be able to buy; all proceeds go to help those in the developing world live a more dignified life.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 7 October 2-4pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

C.W.L. 2pm Wednesday 8 October We will welcome Brendan Day to address our meeting. All are welcome members, visitors and guests. Cost £3 to include refreshments. NB Please note change of date

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

Bingo 8pm Friday 10 October in the Parish Centre in aid of CAFOD. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is most welcome

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.

Circle of Friends Tea 2-4pm 29 October - 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.

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 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

Monday 29 September – SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL

10am Mass Damien Mearns (RIP)

7pm Mass Elma Quinn (RIP)

Reading 1, Daniel 7:9-10,13-14, Psalm 137(138)

Gospel, John 1:47-51

Tuesday 30 September – St Jerome

10am Mass * George Xuereb Brennan (RIP) *(at St Barts)*

12 Noon Funeral Mass for Josephine Scoley *(at St Barts)*

Reading 1, Zechariah 8:20-23, Psalm 86(87)

Gospel, Luke 9:51-56

Wednesday 1 October – St Therese of the Child Jesus

7pm Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

Reading 1, Nehemiah 2:1-8, Psalm 136(137)

Gospel, Luke 9:57-62

Thursday 2 October – Holy Guardian Angels

10am Mass * Jim Dalley (RIP) *(at St Bartholomew's)*

Reading 1, Nehemiah 8:1-12, Psalm 18(19)

Gospel, Matthew 18:1-5,10

Friday 3 October – feria

7pm Mass Monseigneur Sylvester Pereira (Ann)

Reading 1, Baruch 1:15-22, Psalm 78(79)

Gospel, Luke 10:13-16

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

Saturday 4 October– St Francis of Assisi

10am Mass David Williams and Leonard Gibbins (RIP)

Reading 1, Baruch 4:5-12,27-29, Psalm 68(69)

Gospel, Luke 10:17-24

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. 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 4 October – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Deceased members of the Sheehan and Guinnelly families

Sunday 5 October – TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Martin Brosnan (Ann)

8.30am Mass Jim Dalley (RIP)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10am Mass Lorraine McLoughlin (Ann)

12 Noon Mass Patrick Curran (Ann)

6pm Mass Sieglinde Wilson and Pascale Al Basri (RIP)

Reading 1, Habakkuk 1:2-3,2:2-4, Psalm 94(95))

Reading 2, 1 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14, Gospel, Luke 17:5-10

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all members of the London Colney Baptist Church.

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, Rosemary Lyon, Damien Mearns and Josephine Scoley.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Nigel Appleyard, Fintan Bergin, Tom Birkin Martin Brosnan, Martin and Bridget Cloherty, Patrick Curran, Pat Egan, Brendan and Denise Kearns, Andrew Kuczmierczyk, Lorraine McLoughlin, Fr Liam O'Callaghan MSC, Monseigneur Sylvester Pereira and Fr John Roche MSC.

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

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.