



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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7 September 2025 – TWENTY-THIRD 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 / stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes...

Review of our Mass Schedule In terms of the current review of masses I am grateful to all those who have emailed me, or spoken with Fr John and myself, offering their feedback on our partnering with St Bartholomew's and the current mass schedule. My intention is to share details of the proposed changes to our mass schedule next weekend with a view to introducing the finalised Mass Schedule from the First Sunday of Advent.

Building Works Update Our normal mass schedule has been resumed from Monday 3 September. From now and for the duration of the Church building works Tuesday and Thursday 10am morning masses will be at St Bartholomew's. The 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 at St Alban and St Stephen.

We hope to finalise the contract this week and to begin building works very soon. The start has been delayed as we have been exploring with the contractor ways to reduce the build cost. Once the building works start please bear in mind that church will be accessed via the Parish Centre and that car parking will be more or less limited to the spaces behind the presbytery.

Jubilee Pilgrimage to Welwyn Garden City 13 September The full itinerary for our Jubilee Pilgrimage and detailed timings are listed on the [Parish News](#) page of our website and can also be found in last week's bulletin. If you have not yet signed up but still wish to be part of the Pilgrimage, please complete the [online form](#) on our website. Places are limited so please register as soon as possible. The coach departs from St Alban and St Stephen Church at 9.30am and mass at Our Lady Queen of Apostles in Welwyn begins at 11am.

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. We are always on the lookout for new readers.

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.

Public testing of the Emergency Alerts system - Upcoming national test on 7 September The Government will be carrying out a national test of the UK Emergency Alerts system on 7 September 2025 at 3pm. The test alert will be sent to all compatible 4G and 5G mobile phones and compatible tablets across the UK. The test is not intended to alert you to real danger and you will not need to take any further action. An emergency alert looks and sounds very different to other types of messages you might receive on your phone. You'll hear a loud, siren-like sound and your phone or tablet will vibrate. If you have a vision or hearing impairment, audio and vibration attention signals will let you know you have received the test. More information can be found [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.

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 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. See stalbandsurcgreenwood@gmail.com for more information.

Season of Creation - 1 September to 4 October 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. 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.

Fairtrade Our parish fair trade stall will be open after all Masses this weekend, and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 21 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.

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.

C.W.L. Thursday 11 September at 2pm We will meet for tea and cake and find out what has been happening during the summer. New members and visitors are very welcome, Cost £3 to include raffle.

BINGO 8pm Friday 12 September Parish Hall 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.

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 between 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.

MARRIAGE HELP - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 17-19 October. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983

St Albans Abbey - Ecumenical Chaplain At Evensong at 4pm on Sunday 19 October St Alban's Abbey will formally welcome Fr John Deehan as an Ecumenical Chaplain. As with Mgr. Canon Harry Turner, his predecessor, Fr John will be responsible for the co-ordinating of the Friday midday

masses which have taken place at the Abbey for over forty years. As we give thanks for Mgr. Turner's ministry, we welcome Fr John who has lectured in scripture for many years and who, before his retirement from full-time parish ministry, was parish priest of Our Lady Help of Christians, Kentish Town. Both Fr Michael and Fr John will continue to take their turn on the rota of priests available to say the Friday noon masses at the Abbey.

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.

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 charges and facilities.

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.

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 6 September – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass People of the parish

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

Monday 8 September – THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10am Mass Mary Thomasena Fitzpatrick (Ann)

7pm Mass John Tayler (RIP)

Reading 1, Micah 5:1-4, Psalm 12(13)

Gospel, Matthew 1:1-23

Tuesday 9 September – feria

10am Mass * Mgr. Turner (Ints)

Reading 1, Colossians 2:6-15, Psalm 144(145)

Gospel, Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday 10 September – feria

12 Noon * Funeral Mass for Lucilla Adobatti

7pm Mass Canon Jeremiah Cronin (First Anniversary)

Reading 1, Colossians 3:1-11, Psalm 144(145)

Gospel, Matthew Luke 6:20-26

Thursday 11 September – feria

10am Mass * Holy Souls

Reading 1, Colossians 3:12-17, Psalm 150

Gospel, Luke 6:27-38

Friday 12 September – feria

7pm Mass Daniel Brudney RIP

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 1:1-2,12-14, Psalm 15(16)

Gospel, Luke 6:39-42

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

Saturday 13 September – St John Chrysostom

10am Mass Theresa Alexander (RIP)

No Exposition, Confessions and Benediction this morning

Reading 1, 1 Timothy 1:15-17, Psalm 112(113)

Gospel, Luke 6:43-49

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 13 September – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Hughie Scollan (Ann)

Sunday 14 September – THE EXULTATION 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

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all members of Churches Together in St Albans.

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, Joan Collins, Ogo Orah and Josephine Scoley.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fintan Bergin, Kate Chronnell, Canon Jeremiah Cronin, Mary Thomasena Fitzpatrick, Larry Hughes, Polly Lee, Thomas and Mary Miskell, Susanna Mole, Hughie Scollan and Fr Richard Scriven 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 As we enter the time of the season of creation, we recall Isaiah's words: My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. Lord, guide us and lead us to appreciate that only through caring for our world and each other can we live 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.