



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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2 November 2025 – ALL SAINTS



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 / stalbensg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes... In the coming month there are a number of retiring collections. Ours is a very generous parish, but I do not wish to take advantage of that generosity. To help you decide which retiring collections you want to support, and to what extent you want to support them, I thought it would be helpful to set out the schedule of forthcoming collections:

1/2 November: You Can Be Santa – in support of the annual initiative to provide for children whose families are not able to celebrate Christmas as all of us would wish to

8/9 November: St Vincent De Paul (SVP) – in support of our parish SVP and their work in support of families and individuals in need in and around St Albans

15/16 November: Sick & Retired Priests Fund – in support of the Diocese's provision for sick and retired priests in the Diocese of Westminster

29/30 November: Friends of the Holy Land – in support of the Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

Annual Mass for those who have died This will be offered this coming Friday 7 November at 7pm. During this Mass the names of those who have died during the year will be called out and a votive candle will be lit in remembrance.

Blessing of Graves at Hatfield Road Cemetery - Saturday 1 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 bless individual graves. Blessing of graves at London Road cemetery will take place on Saturday 15 November at 2pm.

Olive Carvings from the Holy Land The Good Shepherd Company from the Holy Land would like to thank parishioners for their kind support last weekend. Approximately £1,500 was made from the sale of olive carvings in the parish centre.

Recent Retiring Collections Thank you for your contributions to CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day collection. A total of £1,043.99 has been donated and CAFOD is deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to its recent appeal. Thank you also for your donations to the recent World Mission Sunday collection. A total of £640.42 has been received and will go to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor.

Christmas Cards for those in Prison This weekend we have the opportunity to write our first name only on Christmas cards to be sent to people in prison. Cards will be available for signing after all Masses in the Parish Centre meeting room.

You Can Be Santa Scheme We are now appealing for voucher donations (in £5, £10 & £20 denominations please, this will really help when we allocate the vouchers) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos & Amazon. If you would like to contribute to the YCBS scheme this year, please post your voucher/s through the Presbytery door in a clearly marked envelope (YCBS). If you are unable to obtain a voucher but would still like to contribute, any monetary donation would be gratefully received, and vouchers will be purchased on your behalf. Please note there will also be a YCBS collection after each Mass this weekend for voucher and cash donations. If you are aware of families within the Parish who may appreciate being a part of the scheme please ask them to contact stalbensycbs@rcdow.org.uk with their full contact details. All contact details will be kept in confidence and in accordance with data protection requirements. For more information, please email stalbensycbs@rcdow.org.uk.

St Vincent de Paul Society Over the weekend of 8/9 November, there will be a retiring collection in support of our parish SVP. The donations on this particular occasion will be used to provide help to local people in need of financial assistance with their winter fuel bills and food costs. Thanks to previous kind donations, in the last year we have been able to assist over 40 beneficiaries with furniture, household items, clothing, food and payments towards essential bills. To contribute by bank transfer the account is: SVP SS Alban and Stephen, AC 46076492, Sort code 60-60-04. If you would like to gift aid your donation, please leave a note addressed to Geoff Miller at the Presbytery.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Holy Souls Lists If you would like to include people in the Holy Souls List, which will be placed near the altar, please use one of the leaflets and envelopes available in the porch and return it to the Presbytery. Any offering you wish to make towards the masses offered for the Holy Souls can be included in these envelopes or in a plain envelope marked 'Holy Souls' and posted through the Presbytery door. The Novena Prayer and the Holy Souls leaflet are available on the parish website, or via this [link](#), but you can also email your Holy Souls list to the parish office.

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is Saturday 6 December 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.

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.

Youth Mass dates 2025/26 Sunday 6pm Mass on 9 Nov, 7 Dec, 25 Jan, 8 Feb, 22 Mar, 10 May, 14 June and 5 July.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Fair trade Our fair-trade stall will be open after all Masses this weekend 1/2 November and after Mass at SJF Mass Centre on 9 November. We will also have a second stall after all Masses over the weekend of 15/16 November. We have a wide range of Christmas cards supporting Mercy Ships, Middle Eastern Christian charities and fair-trade. Also, chocolate/non-chocolate Advent calendars as well as our usual range of items such as Palestinian dates, olive oil and soap. All proceeds go to CAFOD.

Migrants' toiletries and clothing collections 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. Donations of men's clothing are also 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.

St Albans Food Bank We currently 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 [here](#).

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 meets every Thursday morning in St Barts hall 11am-12.30pm. Lizzie Lizzio (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 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.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 4 November 2-3.30pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

C.W.L. 2pm Thursday 6 November An afternoon of Scottish entertainment by a local Scotsman, Songs, poems and music both funny and relaxing. All are welcome. Cost £3 to include refreshments.

Men's Breakfast, Saturday 8 November 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 and discipleship by Dr Edward Siri and a discussion. No pre-booking required and for more details please message Richard on 07976 252309

Blessing of Graves Fr Kevin Moule will be blessing graves on Sunday 9 November: 12.30pm London Road; 1.30pm St Peter's, London Colney, 1.45pm Shenley, 2.15pm Radlett.

Mothers' Prayers We will meet on Monday 10 November at 8pm. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome

Funeral Arrangements for former parishioner, Frances Boak - 10am Friday 14 November, St Saviour's Church, Abbots Langley WD5 0DS. Committal service 11:30am London Road Cemetery, St Albans. Celebration of Life Verulam Golf Club, 1-4pm, 226 London Road, St Albans, Please email p.boak@icloud.com to confirm attendance.

BINGO Friday 14 November 8pm in the Parish Hall for the Knights of St. Columba. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

Musical Afternoon Sunday 23 November at 1.30 for 2pm at Our Lady Of Lourdes Hall Southdown Road Harpenden AL5 2QH All welcome to a performance by soprano Alison Langer of classical and popular songs, followed by afternoon tea, hosted by The Newman Association. Tickets £15. Payment to account 70645427, sort code: 20-74-09 Please use the reference 'Surname - Music Aft' then email Madeleine Hopkins to arrange ticket delivery or for queries.

Circle of Friends Tea 2-4pm 26 November - St Bart's Parish Hall Parishioners and friends of St Barts or St Alban & St Stephen welcome. 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 email here.

Calling singers and musicians for St Alban & St Stephen Carols by Candlelight Practices as follows:

- Saturdays 29 Nov, 6 Dec, 13 Dec: BAND in Church 1.30-3.15pm, SINGERS in Hall 3- 4.40pm (in Church on 13 Dec).
- Saturday 20 December 1.30-4.30pm Band AND Singers
- Monday 22 December 7-9.30pm Dress rehearsal
- Tuesday 23 December 5.45pm warm up for 7.30pm service.

Please email stalbanscbc@rcdow.org.uk to take part.

St Alban & St Stephen Parish Advent Talks 2025 This year's Advent Talks will focus on The Holy Land. Fr John Deehan, Ecumenical Catholic Chaplain at St Albans Cathedral, will speak on 'The Holy Land - Gift or Entitlement?' at 7.45pm on Monday 1 December. The talk will focus on the Biblical Theology of the Holy Land, drawing mainly on the Old Testament scriptures. Fr Paul McDermott, Parish Priest, St Edward the Confessor, Golders Green and Director of the Diocesan Holy Land Pilgrimage will reflect with us on the holy places Jesus visited in 'The Word was Made Flesh Here', at 7.45pm on Monday 8 December. Refreshments available and everyone is welcome to join us in the parish hall. The talks will follow a Parish Appeal on behalf of Friends of the Holy Land after all masses on the weekend of 29/30 November.

South St Albans Churches Ecumenical Advent Talks 2025 South St Albans Churches (SSAC) have organised a series of four ecumenical Advent Talks with the theme of "Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in our Time." Our speakers are the Very Rev'd Dean Jo Kelly-Moore and Rev'd Kevin Walton, from St Albans Cathedral, Fr Richard Parsons, RC Priest and Rev'd Graham Clarke, Baptist Minister. These will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7.30-9pm, 26 November 3, 10 and 17 December at St Bartholomew's parish hall and all are

welcome. A bible may be useful for some of the talks but is not essential. Please contact cmjdl@aol.com for queries.

Cards for Good Causes Christmas Charity Christmas Card and Gift Shop St Peter's Church, St Peter's St. Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm, Sunday 11am-4pm.

PARISH SCHOOLS

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 stalbans@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.

St Columba's College Prep School Open Morning on Friday 7 November 9-11am A wonderful opportunity to have a tour of the Prep School by current pupils and to hear from Mr McCann, the Head of the Prep School, about his vision for the future of the Prep School. Please register using the following link. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Masters at masters.m@stcolumbascollege.org.

St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery We are currently seeking a KS2 Teaching Assistant to join their dedicated and supportive team. For more information and to apply, please visit here.

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 February 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 1 November – ALL SAINTS

5pm Mass Holy Souls

Sunday 2 November – ALL SAINTS

8am Mass People of the Parish

8.30am Mass Holy Souls (*St John Fisher Sch, Marshalswick*)

10am Mass Holy Souls

12 Noon Mass Holy Souls - especially deceased benefactors

6pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14, Psalm 23(324)

Reading 2, 1 John 3:1-3, Gospel, Matthew 5:1-12

Monday 3 November – THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)

10am Mass Holy Souls

7pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 26(27)

Reading 2, Romans 5:5-11, Gospel, Luke 7:11-17

Tuesday 4 November – St Charles Borromeo

10am Mass * Holy Souls (*at St Barts*)

Reading 1, Romans 12:5-16, Psalm 130(131)

Gospel, Luke 14:15-24

Wednesday 5 November – feria

7pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Romans 13:8-10, Psalm 111(112)

Gospel, Luke 14:25-33

Thursday 6 November – feria

10am Mass * Holy Souls (*at St Bart's*)

Reading 1, Romans 14:7-12, Psalm 26(27)

Gospel, Luke 15:1-10

Friday 7 November – feria

7pm Mass Holy Souls - Remembering especially those who have died in the past year

Reading 1, Romans 15:14-21, Psalm 97(98)

Gospel, Luke 16:1-8

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

Saturday 8 November – Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Romans 16:3-9,16,22-27, Psalm 144(145)

Gospel, Luke 16:9-15

10.30am Exposition, Confessions and Benediction

* *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.

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 8 November – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Holy Souls

Sunday 9 November – THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

8am Mass People of the Parish

8.30am Mass Holy Souls (*St John Fisher Sch, Marshalswick*)

10am Mass Holy Souls

12 Noon Mass Holy Souls - Remembering especially those who have died in War

6pm Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12 Psalm 45(46), Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11,16-17, Gospel, John 2:13-22

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for the members of Marshalswick Mass Centre.

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 Fatemeh Bibi, Sheila Hansen, William Lawley-Yorke, Justin Quinn, Fatima Tanha and Mary Watkins.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fr Michael Buckley MSC, Mary Comer, Peter Dsouza, Maurice Egan and Brian Freeney.

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

Welcome to all new parishioners! Please see our [website](#) for useful information for those who are new to our parish. Please also 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.

Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Group We pray for our community; following the example of the saints, may we work for peace and hunger for what is right so that our words and actions always point to Jesus.

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.