



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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YouTube: <https://youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch>

**12 October 2025 – TWENTY-EIGHTH 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](mailto:stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07976 277059

*We are a Fairtrade parish*

**Fr Michael writes...** The contractors have continued with their behind the scenes preparation over the last couple of weeks and are due to be on site early this coming week. Please can I remind you:

- that our weekday masses will be held at St Bartholomew's, with the exception of our 10am Monday morning Mass and our evening Masses
- that parking will be more limited than usual
- that you are encouraged to walk to church or park a little further away
- that parking around the church is prioritised for those with limited mobility and with very young families
- that we will be entering and leaving the church via the Parish Centre
- to listen very carefully to the notices before mass when you will be advised of the revised evacuation procedures
- that we will need to rehearse the revised evacuation procedure in the near future
- that both contactless machines are now situated on the way into and out via the Parish Centre

Finally, as the building works actually begin, I would like to thank you all for your patience and to express my ongoing appreciation for your generous support of the building Fund Appeal over the past two years and in the years to come. Without this support we wouldn't be commencing this first phase of development.

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**Next week's bulletin** Please note that next week's bulletin will be an abridged version (pages 1 and 4 only) as our administrator is on annual leave the week beginning 13 October.

**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.

**You Can Be Santa** As always, the aim of YCBS is to help children/families in our community who may not otherwise enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. 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. Please note we will not be collecting One4All vouchers or any online Amazon vouchers this year. 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 via the Presbytery on your behalf. Please note there will also be a YCBS collection after each Mass on 1 & 2 November. 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](mailto: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](mailto:stalbensycbs@rcdow.org.uk)

**Lampedusa Cross displayed against the Lectern** We are privileged to have this unique crucifix made on the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa from wood from a boat carrying refugees to the island. God our loving Father, we pray for the wellbeing of all people seeking peace and safety. Prayer cards are available as you leave the church.

**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 1 November 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. 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

**David Edwards' Award** Congratulations to David Edwards who has been recognised with a Long Service award from the Society of St Vincent de Paul for more than 35 years of charitable service in our parish. He will be presented with a certificate at Mass this weekend citing his "humanity and dedication to the valuable work".

**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.

**Soup and film event** Many thanks to everyone who helped make this event such a success. £430 was raised and has been donated to the CAFOD harvest fast day appeal.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:stalbands@rcdow.org.uk) with your child's name, date of birth and home address together with a contact telephone phone 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.

**Inclusive Masses for Children and Adults with Additional Needs** Our Lady Queen of the Apostles, Welwyn Garden City, invites parishioners and visitors to a Mass for Children and Adults with Additional Needs celebrated by Fr Norbert Fernandes on Saturday 18 October at 6pm In addition, Fr.

Fernandes will be opening a New Saturday Club for individuals with learning disabilities, their friends, and families. The first session will take place on Saturday 11 October, 2 - 4pm, and the club will continue every second Saturday of the month. This special celebration and club are open to all, and especially welcome to those with additional needs, together with their families, friends, and carers.

**Fair trade** Our parish fair trade stall will be open after all Masses at church over the weekends of 18/19 October and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre this weekend. As well as the usual range of items, we will also have Advent Calendars and some charity Christmas cards.

**Loreto College (St Albans)** We are delighted to welcome you to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 15 October (6 - 8pm). You will have the opportunity to partake in a guided tour of the College and to meet staff and students. Please use the entrance in Upper Lattimore Road.

**CTSA Forum looking at how we can help prisoners before and after release** 7:30pm Wednesday 15 October Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Avenue. With the Governor and Heather Ryan, Managing Chaplain HMP The Mount, and other key leaders and experts.

**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.

**The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group** We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 21 October 2-4pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

**St Bartholomew Parish Retreat 10am - 1pm Saturday 25 October - 10am to 1pm** in the Chapter Room, St Albans Abbey & Cathedral, Led by Deacon Anthony Curran The theme for the morning is St. Augustine's "Lord, make me holy, but not yet", about his desire to be a good and holy person. The retreat day will be a time to think, review, and discover where we are on our faith journey. We will have a few short talks and the opportunity to explore our creative side along with time to reflect, think, chat, and pray. We will have plenty of opportunities to connect with the long history of spirituality and prayer in this place of monastic discipleship. To register online, please use this [link](#). Printed registration forms are also at the back of the church - please return any completed forms to the SS Alban & Stephen presbytery. Any queries, please contact Jackie Tominey 07702 948585 [stalbanssouthpcc@rcdow.org](mailto:stalbanssouthpcc@rcdow.org)

**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

**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](mailto:stars2004@btinternet.com).

**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.

**ASCAT vacancy for clerk to Academy Council** The All Saints Catholic Academy Trust is currently recruiting for a Clerk to the local academy council at St Bernadette Catholic Primary School in London Colney. This is an excellent opportunity for professional development and to support your local Catholic community, in a role that offers flexibility. If you are interested in the role, please see [here](#) below or contact the Director of Governance and Compliance, Christina Reffold, at [governance@ascat.co.uk](mailto:governance@ascat.co.uk).

**Blessing of Graves** Fr Kevin Moule will be blessing graves on Sunday 9 November as follows:

- 12.30pm at London Road Cemetery
- 1.30pm at St Peter's Cemetery, London Colney
- 1.45pm at Shenley Cemetery
- 2.15pm at Radlett Cemetery

## 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 11 October – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Pat Sherlock (Ann)

#### Sunday 12 October – TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Graham Smith (Ann)

8.30am Mass Ray Hill and family (Ints)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10am Mass Agnes and Michael Walsh (Ann)

12 Noon Mass People of the parish

6pm Mass Patricia Conway (Ann)

Reading 1, 2 Kings 5:14-17, Psalm 97(98)

Reading 2, 2 Timothy 2:8-13, Gospel, Luke 17:11-19

#### Monday 13 October – ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR

10am Mass David Thurlow (RIP)

7pm Mass Nan Maloney (Ints)

Reading 1, Romans 1:1-7, Psalm 97(98)

Gospel, Luke 11:29-32

#### Tuesday 14 October – feria

10am Mass \* Margaret Johnson (Ints) (at St Barts)

Reading 1, Romans 1:16-25, Psalm 18(19)

Gospel, Luke 11:37-41

#### Wednesday 15 October – St Teresa of Jesus

7pm Mass Pierce Hackett (RIP)

Reading 1, Romans 2:1-11, Psalm 61(62)

Gospel, Luke 11:42-46

#### Thursday 16 October – feria

10am Mass \* Anne and Henry Green (RIP) (at St Bart's)

Reading 1, Romans 3:21-30, Psalm 129(130)

Gospel, Luke 11:47-54

#### Friday 17 October – St Ignatius of Antioch

7pm Mass Dermot Cawley (RIP)

Reading 1, Romans 4:1-8, Psalm 31(32)

Gospel, Luke 12:1-7

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

#### Saturday 18 October – ST LUKE

10am Mass Dawn St Teresa (Ints)

Reading 1, 2 Timothy 4:10-17, Psalm 144(145)

Gospel, Luke 10:1-9

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 18 October – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass David Griffin (Ann)

#### Sunday 19 October – TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass People of the parish

8.30am Mass Jim Dalley (RIP)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10am Mass Bridget Ridge (Ann)

12 Noon Mass Pope Francis (RIP)

6pm Mass Robert David Eldred (Ann)

Reading 1, Exodus 17:8-13, Psalm 120(121)

Reading 2, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2, Gospel, Luke 18:1-8

### PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all members of St Peter's 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 Nuala Buckley, Ana Feliciano, Ray Hill, Br Ivy Le Blanc, Rosemary Lyon, John Maloney Snr, Ellen McKay and Ignacio Ponce De Leon,

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Lydia Centala, Patricia Conway, Robert David Eldred, John Feeney, Harold Green, David Griffin, Jerry Griffin, Polly Lee, Jennifer Pearman, Bridget Ridge, James Sinclair, Pat Sherlock, Graham Smith, Agnes and Michael Walsh.

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

**Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Group** There are so many millions of migrants across the world. Ordinary people hoping for a better life. Let us pray, as we reflect on our own migrant journey to our hoped-for homeland, that all of us will find what we are looking for.

**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).