



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

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26 October 2025 - THIRTIETH 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

November is the month of the Holy Souls and we will hold our annual Novena of Masses for the Holy Souls from 2-10 November, praying the Novena Prayer at all masses. Please note that the mass for all those who have died in the past twelve months will be offered on Friday 7 November at 7pm. During this Mass the names of all listed below will be called out and a votive candle will be lit in remembrance. You and your family are most welcome to attend and to come forward and light this candle in prayer for and remembrance of the family member who has died in the past year. If you are unable to attend, a candle will still be lit for your family member. If you would like to add the name of somebody who has died in the last twelve months, please [email](#) his or her name to the parish office.

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED - NOVEMBER 2024 to OCTOBER 2025

Alfred Ashton	Christopher Daniel L'etandrine	Johnnie Maloney	Ogo Orah
Andrea Avvinti	Damien Mearns	Joseph Bagge	Pauline Lowell
Angelika Hughes	Edmund Leung	Josephine Scoley	Peter Cadisch
Ann Kearns	Eileen Ann Davey	Joyce Moran	Peter Wilson
Anna-Marie Wilson	Ellen Mary (Elma) Quinn	Kathleen McCormack	Rosemary Lyon
Anne McCluskey	Fatemeh Bibi	Kitty Sheehan	Sally McNeill
Antonia Lamonaca	Gerard O'Neill	Lucilla Vittoria Adobatti	Salvatore Realmuto
Bernice Tominey	Ignacio Ponce de Leon	Madeleine Griffin	Thomas Screene
Breda Hughes	Jennifer Federer	Margaret Ann Boylan	Tristan Bernard Kilkenny
Br Ivy Le Blanc	Jim Dalley	Maria Riccitelli	William Lawley-Yorke
Casey Hennessey	Joan Mary Antonia Collins	Mary Watkins	
Catherine Murphy	John Connolly	Michael Francis Kennelly	
Christopher Colin Fennessey	John Joseph Kilbane	Nuala Buckley	

During November, several of the Holy Souls masses will be offered for a particular intention, as listed below:

Sunday 2 November 12 Noon	Monday 17 November 7pm
For deceased benefactors	For deceased victims of violence
Friday 7 November 7pm	Saturday 22 November 5pm
For all who have died in the past year	For deceased parents and grandparents
Sunday 9 November 12 Noon	Tuesday 25 November 10am
For those who have died in war	For deceased priests and religious
Wednesday 12 November 7pm	Friday 28 November 7pm
For deceased brothers and sisters	For deceased spouses
Sunday 16 November 8am	
For deceased children/sons and daughters	

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 will also be available on the parish website, or via [this link](#), but please feel free to email your Holy Souls list to stalbens@rcdow.org.uk

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.

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 2025/2026 Sunday 6pm Mass on 9 Nov, 7 Dec, 25 Jan, 8 Feb, 22 Mar, 10 May, 14 June and 5 July.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

This weekend after all masses - Olive Wood Carvings from the Holy Land We are the Good Shepherd Company from the Holy Land (Bethlehem) which is based in Nottingham. Our goal is to support and help the Christian families in the Holy land to stay at work, as olive wood carving is one of the most important source of income for them. 90% of the Christians rely on this sale. By selling their produce here on their behalf, it prevents Christians from leaving the country in search of better work opportunities.

You Can Be Santa To help children/families in our community who may not otherwise enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. We are 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, 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 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 stalbansycbs@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 stalbansycbs@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 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.

Christmas Cards for those in Prison Next weekend, 1/2 November, 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.

Thank you from the Parish Friends! We would like to thank all those who attended the Autumn Tea Party last Sunday. The numbers were down slightly but the weather was not good and people may have been put off by the building work. Big thanks to the new band led by Jacquie Fowler who entertained us brilliantly and thank you also to all the cake makers. A great selection was enjoyed by us all.

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.

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. Susan Calthorpe from Citizens Advice will give a talk on help available with energy costs, saving energy around the home and applying for the priority register. She can also give contacts for help with other issues. 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.

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.

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

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 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

BINGO A big "Thank You" for the support for our recent Bingo evening. A total of £100.00 was raised in aid of CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 14 November at 8pm in the Parish Centre.

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 stalbandsbc@rcdow.org.uk to take part.

Please save the dates for forthcoming Advent Talks There will be more details in next week's bulletin:

St Alban & St Stephen Parish Advent Talks focussing on the Holy Land. At 7.45pm in the parish centre on Mondays 1 and 8 December.

South St Albans Churches Ecumenical Advent Talks "Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in our Time." Wednesday evenings 7.30-9pm 26 November, 3, 10 and 17 December at St Bartholomew's Church Hall, 47 Vesta Ave.

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 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.

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.

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 25 October – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass George & Perry Taites (RIP)

Sunday 26 October – THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass Jean Bergin (Ann)

8.30am Mass Bryden Black (RIP)

(*St John Fisher School, Marshalswick*)

10am Mass Josephine Egan (RIP)

12 Noon Mass Angelika Hughes (RIP)

6pm Mass Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

Reading 1, Ecclesiasticus 35:12-19, Psalm 33(34)

Reading 2, 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18, Gospel, Luke 18:9-14

Monday 27 October – feria

10am Mass Simon Healy (First Anniversary)

7pm Mass Thomas Kiely (Ann)

Reading 1, Romans 8:12-17, Psalm 67(68)

Gospel, Luke 13:10-17

Tuesday 28 October – ST SIMON AND ST JUDE

10am Mass * Peter and Jane McGeeney (Ann) (*at St Barts*)

Reading 1, Ephesians 2:19-22, Psalm 18(19)

Gospel, Luke 6:12-16

Wednesday 29 October – Blessed Martyrs of Douai

7pm Mass Sofia Sancho De Cruz (Ints)

Reading 1, Romans 8:26-30, Psalm 12(13)

Gospel, Luke 13:22-30

Thursday 30 October – feria

10am Mass * Leonard Gibbins (RIP) (*at St Bart's*)

Reading 1, Romans 8:31-39, Psalm 108(109)

Gospel, Luke 13:31-35

Friday 31 October – feria

7pm Mass Christina Wong Wai Tseung (Ann)

Reading 1, Romans 9:1-5, Psalm 147

Gospel, Luke 14:1-6

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

Saturday 1 November – Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Holy Souls

Reading 1, Romans 11:1-2,11-12,25-29, Psalm 93(94)

Gospel, Luke 14:1,7-11

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 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 - Remembering especially those 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

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for the members of the Society of Friends (Quakers).

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, Frances Boak, Sheila Hansen, Catherine Murphy, William Lawley-Yorke, Fatima Tanha and Mary Watkins.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Jean Bergin, Mary Comer, Brian Freeney, Simon Healy, Thomas Kiely, Peter and Jane McGeeney, Tonino Roscelli, Reginald Salisbury and Christina Wong Wai Tseung.

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

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.

Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Group Let us pray that the fragile peace now in place in The Holy Land will grow into a permanent peace for Israel and Gaza, so that everyone can live without fear, and flourish.

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.