



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Tel: 01727 853 585

E-mail: [stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk) Website: [www.albanstephen.org](http://www.albanstephen.org)

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

**5 October 2025 - TWENTY-SEVENTH 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...*

We are blessed in St Albans, across the two parishes, to have a steady stream of baptisms. They usually take place on Saturday afternoons at 1pm. Baptism comes to my mind because of the words we find at the end of today's second reading; 'By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you'. During the baptism ceremony the parents and Godparents are handed a lighted candle as the priest or deacon says these words:

Parents and Godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. ... May he/she keep the flame of faith alive in his/her heart. When the Lord comes, may he/she go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

In presenting a child for baptism or agreeing to be a godparent, both parents and godparents accept the responsibility of nurturing the faith gifted to the child in baptism. Indeed this is the primary responsibility of any parent or godparent. In today's second reading we are reminded that the nurturing of faith, both our own and the faith of others, begins with an attentiveness to the Holy Spirit that lives within us. Faith is a gift and our attentiveness to the Holy Spirit gives us the key to the opening up, exploration and growth of that gift.

\*\*\*

**You Can Be Santa** This year, 'You Can Be Santa' will run once again as a voucher scheme. As always, the aim of YCBS is to help children/families who may not otherwise enjoy the full spirit of Christmas. The feedback from families who took part last year was very positive. They were very thankful for the generosity of the Parish. If you are aware of families within the Parish who may appreciate being a part of the scheme, please mention it to them. Encourage them to contact YCBS by emailing [stalbensycbs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbensycbs@rcdow.org.uk) with their full contact details. Assure them that all contact details will be kept in confidence and in accordance with data protection requirements. We will be appealing for voucher donations in the next couple of weeks and will be asking for vouchers (in £5, £10 & £20 denominations) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos & Amazon (please note we will not be collecting One4All vouchers or any online Amazon vouchers this year). For more information please email [stalbensycbs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbensycbs@rcdow.org.uk).

**CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal 3 October** There will be a retiring collection after all masses this weekend in support of CAFOD. 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](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10.

**Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (Home Missions Sunday)** A total of £539.70 was donated in last weekend's retiring collection. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

**Parish Accounts 2024** A summary of our parish income and expenditure for 2024 can be found [here](#). Printed copies are available in the church porch.

**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

**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 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.

**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.

**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

**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 our wonderful 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.

**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).

**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 Barts HCPT Group** Huge thanks to all those generous St Alban and St Stephen/St Bart's parishioners who helped/donated/supported our recent jumble sale - a very acceptable £695.13 on the day was raised towards our 2026 pilgrimage, taking children and young people with additional needs to Lourdes next Easter. The next jumble sale will be in January.

**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 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

#### Monday 6 October – feria

10am Mass Evelio Azcona (RIP)

7pm Mass Josephine Egan (RIP)

Reading 1, Jonah 1:1-2:1, 11, Psalm Jonah 2

Gospel, Luke 10:25-37

#### Tuesday 7 October – Our Lady of the Rosary

10am Mass \* Br Ivy Le Blanc (RIP) (at St Barts)

Reading 1, Jonah 3:1-10, Psalm 129(130)

Gospel, Luke 10:38-42

#### Wednesday 8 October – feria

7pm Mass Edmund Leung (RIP)

Reading 1, Jonah 4:1-11, Psalm 85(86)

Gospel, Luke 11:1-4

#### Thursday 9 October – ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

10am Mass \* James Ladley (RIP) (at St Bartholomew's)

Reading 1, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, Psalm 144(145)

Gospel, Matthew 13:47-52

#### Friday 10 October – feria

10am \* Funeral Mass for Damien Mearns (at St Bartholomew's)

7pm Mass David Williams (RIP)

Reading 1, Joel 1:13-15, 2:1-2, Psalm 9

Gospel, Luke 11:15-26

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

#### Saturday 11 October – Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am Mass Geraldine Little (Ints)

Reading 1, Joel 4:12-21, Psalm 96(97)

Gospel, Luke 11:27-28

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 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

### PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for members of St Marys Church, Childwick Green.

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, Ray Hill, Br Ivy Le Blanc, Rosemary Lyon, Ellen McKay, Damien Mearns and Ignacio Ponce De Leon.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Nigel Appleyard, Fintan Bergin, Martin Brosnan, Lydia Centala, Patricia Conway, Patrick Curran, John Feeney, Harold Green, Lorraine McLoughlin, Jennifer Pearman, 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** Dear Lord, for those who have been able to afford a holiday and for those who have not, please give them solace in nature and their surroundings.

**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).