



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 Website: www.albanstephen.org

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

15 February 2026 – SIXTH 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...

The Diocese of Westminster has a commitment to promoting the culture of safeguarding in all that it does. To this end the Diocese has provided access to a safeguarding training session and asks that everyone undertaking a volunteering role within a parish setting completes it.

The training consists of an online module, provided by Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) via its website. The module consists of a series of videos and it should take 60 – 75 minutes to complete. It doesn't require any writing, other than to tick boxes in answer to questions, and should be accessible on a PC, laptop, tablet or phone. The training session doesn't have to be done in one session and any progress made is saved automatically so that you can just pick up where you left off.

If you are volunteering for a role which requires you to have a DBS certificate, for example, as a catechist or a eucharistic minister taking communion to people in a residential setting, please could you use this link to access the online training module:

<https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/course/westminsterarchdiocese>

If you are a parish volunteer, but not engaged in a role that requires you to have a DBS certificate, please could you use the following link to access the relevant safeguarding training module:

<https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/course/safeguarding-for-volunteers-in-the-catholic-church-13>

If you are unsure which module to access, please get in contact with the parish office.

Once you have completed the training module, you will be given a certificate as evidence of completion. You should print or download this for your records. Please could you also email the parish office to let us know that you have completed the training. If you are able to forward a copy of your training certificate, that would also be helpful. If you are unable to access this online training, please get in touch with the parish office and we can provide assistance.

The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of the Church's mission. As such, it is important that all those working or volunteering for the Diocese, have the necessary training to allow them to support the Church in this endeavour. I would ask that you please find the time to complete this important training module. Thank you for taking the time to do so as well as for all that you do in and for the parish.

Fire Safety For the duration of the current works, if the number of people in church exceeds 230 we will need to utilise the main hall as an overflow. Furthermore, following additional advice from the Fire Safety Advisor, we would ask anyone with impaired mobility, or who would need assistance to evacuate the building and who is unaccompanied, to make themselves known to the welcomers or the priest and to sit in the area and benches nearest to the confessionals. We are also asking for volunteer Fire Marshals as we need more in order to run a rota and be absolutely certain of our having the required number at each mass. Volunteer Fire Marshals will only be required to do something in the unlikely event of a fire. There are instructions and there will be training. Please think seriously about volunteering for this.

Offertory Promise Envelopes If you currently use planned giving envelopes to make your weekly offertory donation, please contact the parish office on 01727 853585 or by emailing stalbens@rcdow.org.uk to let us know whether you would like us to order envelopes for the year from April 2026 for you.

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. Thank you to all those who have registered as new parishioners.

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

PALM CROSSES Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent will soon be with us. Please could you return your Palm Crosses from last year so that they can be burnt and the ashes used for Ash Wednesday.

Way of the Cross during Lent Every Saturday in Lent at 9.30am, before 10am Exposition, the Way of the Cross will be followed in Church with a different emphasis each week. On 21 February, the theme will be 'A Way of the Cross in a Time of Conflict'. You can also view the Stations online and the text will be available to help you reflect on this journey through our Lord's passion and death.

Lent 2026 Course: 'The Creed' Thursday evenings 26 February, 5, 12, 19 and 26 March 7.30-9pm. On the 1700 anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, a film series which explores the Nicene Creed to reveal the intellectual and spiritual depths of Christian faith will be shown in the hall. Please come and understand our core Catholic doctrine, beyond just facts, to a personal, transformative belief. Refreshments available

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is Saturday 7 March 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 for everyone after mass.

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.

RCIA Group A group for those who wish to explore the Catholic faith further with the possibility of being baptised/received into the church or, for those of you who are already baptised Catholic, with a view to being confirmed. Please [email](#) or speak with Fr John.

Youth Mass dates 2025/26 Our Parish Youth Masses take place at 6pm on Sunday evening on the following dates: 22 March, 10 May, 14 June and 5 July.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

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.

Adult Faith Formation Group The AFF group exists to help parishioners develop a greater understanding of their faith, through which they come to know God better. AFF promotes this learning through events and talks, and we

are actively seeking new members to broaden our experience and help develop new ways of learning. Ideally, every parishioner should be contributing to parish life on a regular basis, over and beyond regular mass attendance, and many do. If you are looking for a way to support your community, and can spare one hour a month, then please contact either Melanie O'Neill or Dcn. Brendan, in person or via the parish office. Parishioners from St Bartholomew's are welcome also, as we strive to develop a greater closeness.

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. 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 St John Fisher Mass centre, on the first Sunday of each month. The principal demand remains for long life items (milk and fruit juice), tinned items (fruit, veg, meat, fish and puddings), cooking sauces, coffee, teabags, cereals and jam. More details of the St Albans Food bank can be found [here](#).

PARISH GROUPS & EVENTS

Parish Groups and Events Please see our ['Parish News'](#) webpage for more details of parish groups and events.

Faith and Family Group We meet in the parish hall on the first Tuesday of the 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. 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)

St Albans URC Memory Café Sociable afternoon for those with dementia 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.

Through Lent with St Matthew The London Jesuit Centre offers a daily prayer through Lent taken from the Gospel of St Matthew. Each day of Lent there will be a reading, a suggestion for a way of praying the Scripture, a related piece of religious music and picture, and also a

reflection on the Gospel. You can choose to follow this retreat online or with a colour booklet. There will also be an optional weekly discussion group on Fridays, 6-7pm starting on 13 February for those who wish to share what the daily reflections have meant to them. Registration free. Details at www.londonjesuitcentre.org

CTM: an event for the start of Lent Life in all Abundance with Jenny Mills, Deputy General Secretary for the United Reformed Church 5pm Sunday 15 February at Marshalswick Baptist Free Church.

CAFOD Soup and Film event Saturday 21 February Everyone is invited to the Hall to have a simple lunch [from noon] and watch The Penguin Lessons [12] from 1pm - a comedy based on the story of a disillusioned Englishman going to work in Argentina in 1976. Donations in support of the Lent CAFOD family fast day.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 24 February 2.15-3.45pm. Please note change of time, All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day Friday 27 February Everyone is invited to join in this fast day through prayer, fasting and giving. The theme this year is loving your neighbour as yourself [Mark 12: 31]. If possible, try to only have one main meal and consider donating the money saved to those facing hunger because of droughts and floods. There will be a retiring collection that weekend with gift aid envelopes available; you can make a contactless donation on the day or donate at [CAFOD Lent appeal 2026](#)

Men's Breakfast Saturday 28 February 8.15am to 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 of the Augustian Institute. We will conclude with a discussion and finish by 10am. No pre-booking required and, for more details, please message Richard on 07976 252309

CTSA Prison Forum #2 7:15pm for 7:30pm, Wednesday, 4 March, Christ Church, High Oaks AL3 6DJ. All welcome.

St Albans Quakers Film Event 7.30pm Tuesday 10 March Friends Meeting House 7 Upper Lattimore Rd. AL1 3UD. Award winning film from Bereaved Families Forum - The Narrow Bridge . "This moving documentary shows 4 people, Palestinian and Israeli, who have been bereaved by the violence in Israel and Palestine and who have chosen to work for peace and reconciliation". [Here](#) is the trailer for the film. Quakers are asking for donations to the film's costs and any extra will go to support the work of the [Bereaved Families Forum](#). Suggested donation is at least £5. Follow [this link](#) to get a ticket.

Westminster Diocese Justice & Peace Lecture 25 March The second annual Justice and Peace Lecture which will be given by Charles Wookey, formerly CEO of Blueprint for Business, and for the last three decades advisor on social and ethical issues to archbishops of Westminster and BCE&W. He will speak on the topic 'Living out Catholic Social Teaching in Today's Britain'. A response will be given

will be given by the young scholar, Dr Charlotte Bray of the University of Manchester. Farm Street Church of the Immaculate Conception, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH, on 25 March at 7pm. Access to the church is from Farm Street or Mount Street. After the lecture in the church all are invited to a buffet reception in the Arrupe Hall. Please email justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk by 1 March to attend.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham On the Feast of the Annunciation on Wednesday 25 March. Join us on a coach leaving from St Bartholomew's church at 7.45am. Holy Mass will be celebrated in Walsingham at 12 noon in the Basilica, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. We will walk or ride (if preferred) the Holy Mile and visit the site of the original Holy House and pray the Prayer for England. The cost is £27 for adults and it is free for children. Please contact Rosemary Roscoe 07723 546642 Rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com or Margaret Leahy margleahy@gmail.com 01727 763832 for further details.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony, Westminster Cathedral 2.30pm Saturday 23 May The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please email the parish office by Friday 17 April with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal and email addresses (or telephone number, if no email).

Thank you from the Doran family The Doran family would like to thank all those who attended the Mass for John Frederick Doran and for all the Mass and sympathy cards and letters of support. Also thanks to Father Michael and Fr John.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Mass Intentions Mass intentions can be booked by phoning or visiting the parish office from 9am to 1pm any weekday. Outside these times, please email the 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 May/June 2026. Please also be aware that weekday morning masses (excluding Mondays) will be held at St Bartholomew's 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, is needed. Names will normally be included for eight weeks, unless the request is renewed.

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 14 February – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Angelika Hughes (Ann)

Sunday 15 February – SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

8am Mass People of the parish

8.30am Mass Ainsley Lambert (Ann)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10am Mass Antonio Gramengna (Ann)

12 Noon Mass Salvatore Realmuto (First Anniversary)

6pm Mass Anne Smet (RIP)

Reading 1, Sirach 15:16-21, Psalm 118(119)

Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 2:6-10, Gospel, Matthew 5:17-37

Monday 16 February – feria

10am Mass Damien Mearns (RIP)

Reading 1, James 1:1-11, Psalm 118(119)

Gospel, Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday 17 February – feria

10am Mass * Peter Beeson (RIP)

Reading 1, James 1:12-18, Psalm 93(94)

Gospel, Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday 18 February – ASH WEDNESDAY

7am Mass Holy Souls

10am Mass Jack and Ita O'Mahoney

7pm Mass Mary Agnes Boyce (Ann)

Reading 1, Joel 2:12-18, Psalm 50(51), Reading 2,

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Gospel, Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Thursday 19 February – Lent feria

10am Mass * John Joyce (Ann)

Reading 1, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1

Gospel, Luke 9:22-25

Friday 20 February – Lent feria

7pm Mass Tommy McCarthy (RIP)

Reading 1, Isaiah 58:1-9, Psalm 50(51)

Gospel, Matthew 9:14-15

On Fridays Mass is celebrated in St Albans Cathedral at Noon

Saturday 21 February – Lent feria

9.30am Way of the Cross

10am Confessions and Exposition only, no morning Mass

Saturday 21 February – VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Frank Donohue (RIP)

Sunday 22 February – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

8am Mass Mary Watkins (RIP)

8.30am Mass Arthur & Catherine Ball (Ann)

(St John Fisher School, Marshalswick)

10am Mass People of the parish

12 Noon Mass Domenico Sellechia (Ann)

6pm Mass Annette Campbell (RIP)

Reading 1, Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7, Psalm 50(51)

Reading 2, Romans 5:12-19, Gospel, Matthew 4:1-11

* Mass takes place at St Bartholomew's Church, Vesta Avenue

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans we pray for all members of the Salvation Army.

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 Mary O'Reilly and Mathilde Weaver.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Arthur & Catherine Ball, Mary Agnes Boyce, John Comer, Bridget Feeney, Ernest and Hermina Gaufrond, Antonio Gramengna, Angelika Hughes, John Joyce, Angela Kent, Ainsley Lambert, Robert Markham, Salvatore Realmuto, Domenico Sellechia and Teresa Trzeciak.

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

St Bartholomew's Parish Information 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.

Pope's prayer of the month Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. In February, let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer Thank you, Lord, for blessing me with health and resources: food, clothing, and prosperity. And thank you for good health and care in times of illness. Bless all I have met today with your love and compassion. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Mass in Polish Mass in Polish takes place here at 4pm on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

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.