



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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12 April 2026 - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



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 / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr John writes... I was deeply moved at the Rite of Election in Westminster earlier this year, in front of Archbishop Richard, to see many hundreds of people both young and older gathered at the formal start of their journeys towards Easter. This journey continued for them, as they prepared and prayed for a deepening understanding of how God was working in their lives and how they were being asked, individually to respond to that call.

At the Easter Vigil in both parishes this year, and also in the parish of St Vincent de Paul in Austin, Texas, thirteen adults who have been prepared through our RCIA group have been baptised or received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Now clearly it is not about numbers, but it is very encouraging that we, as a community, are open to supporting in whatever ways we can sacramentally those who tentatively step forward each year to begin a profound journey of heart, mind and soul, which culminates in the beginning of a new journey with Christ at the Easter Vigil when they receive the sacraments.

Those who have journeyed are not only thirteen individuals. They have been supported by their families and friends, catechists and also through your prayers. The journey into faith for each of them has not always been straight forward. They have asked questions not only of themselves but of each other. It has been both delightful and rewarding for the catechists to see how each one of them, in their own time and way, has found a way of expressing the importance of God in their lives and a desire to grow in love of God. Each of them has found a way to belong to their respective communities and recognise the working of God in their lives. As a community we grow together and respond to the calling of our baptism, to bring others to personal contact with our Blessed Lord, through our conversations, our prayers and through having the conviction to speak about our faith. So please continue to pray for those who are new in our communities, and also, for those who are questioning and discerning if they want to begin a journey in the Catholic faith, assuring them, that as a community, we will make them most welcome.

Volunteer Safeguarding Training A reminder that the Diocese has asked that anyone undertaking a volunteering role within a parish setting completes a safeguarding training session, consisting of an online module, provided by Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). 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 this link: <https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/course/safeguarding-for-volunteers-in-the-catholic-church-l3>

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 also email the parish office to let us know that you have completed the training and forward a copy of your training certificate. If you are unable to access this online training, please get in touch with the parish office and

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.

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.

SACRAMENTAL & LITURGICAL

Sacramental Preparation For more information about sacramental preparation in the parish, or for enquiries about becoming a Catholic, please see the parish website or contact the parish office by phone or email.

Masses for children, families and young people 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 Sarah via the parish office.

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.

Our Parish Youth Masses take place at 6pm on Sunday evening on 10 May, 14 June and 5 July.

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 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.

Marshalswick Mass Centre Rota 2026-2027 This is now available to download from the parish website under [Groups/Liturgy](#).

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.

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 can be found [here](#).

Migrants' toiletries and clothing collections On the third Sunday of each month. 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.

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. It would be lovely to have more volunteers to help serve the teas and coffees. Anyone interested can leave contact details with the parish office.

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.

Divine Mercy Service 2-4pm Sunday 12 April At Holy Family Church, 194 Knightsfield, Welwyn Garden City AL8 7RQ. (Rosary, Hour of Divine Mercy, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Confessions, Veneration of Divine Mercy Image)

Fair trade The parish fair trade stall will be open after all Masses at church after Mass at Marshalswick Mass centre on 12 April. Please try to take a moment to look at the wide range of items available and see if there is something you could buy to support people in the developing world.

Tool and Equipment Collection for Young People in Africa This includes tools for carpentry, dressmaking, gardening etc and is being organised by Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, to take place at Lourdes Hall, Southdown Road, Harpenden AL5 1PD 2-4.30pm on Sunday 19 April. Further details [here](#) or by contacting 07905 797729 or Elizabeth.hines@gmail.com.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 21 April 2.15-3.45pm. Please note change of time, All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Men's' Breakfast Saturday 25 April 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 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.

Carlo Acutis: Jeans, Science, and Miracles 5-7:20pm Monday Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School 20 April Colney Heath Ln, St Albans AL4 0TT We are delighted to welcome Prof Vincenzo Tamma (University of Portsmouth) and Jacquie Stacey (Carlo Acutis National Apostolate) to our school community. This evening will be all about the laws of nature, the story of St Carlo Acutis, and his website on Eucharistic miracles. There will be an opportunity for veneration of a first-class relic of St Carlo and benediction. Drinks and nibbles will be served and followed by a roundtable activity and a Q&A. All are welcome to this free event. Please email the project co-director Miss Gallego with questions (gallegom@nbs.herts.sch.uk). Link to register [here](#).

Circle of Friends April Invitation The next Circle of Friends tea will be in the St Barts Parish Hall on Wednesday 29 April 2-4pm. If you are living alone or would like to join for a tea and a chat you are welcome to attend. The tea gives an opportunity to meet with others and an activity will be included. There is no charge for the tea but a small donation is appreciated. Please let Maureen Kelly know if you are attending or need of a lift: stars2004@btinternet.com /07860 283743.

Craft Activities and Prayer in Local Care Homes To commemorate the 800th anniversary of St Francis's death in 1226, our two parishes have been asked to lead four sessions in local care homes celebrating Creation – nature wildlife and the seasons. These interactive sessions will include a craft activity, a short Scripture reading and prayer. Please would you spare a couple of hours to help with planning and /or to assist a resident with simple artwork? Please speak to Sara Nash or contact the parish office for more information.

Thinking Lunch Marlborough Road Methodist Church 12.30-1.30pm Please bring your own lunch and drinks. Half an hour talk and then discussion. Donations will be gratefully received to cover expenses, any profits will be given to the speaker for a charity of their choice. Thursday 7 May Reverend Hendry Ponniah Tribal Mission in Borneo.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT If you are just in a rut or for more serious issues – Retrouvaille could be the solution. www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Fire Safety During the current works, if the people in church exceed 230 we will need to utilise the hall as an overflow. Also, following advice from the Fire Safety Advisor, we would ask anyone 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 more volunteer Fire Marshals to ensure we have 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 seriously consider volunteering.

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 July 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.

Planned Giving Envelopes for 2026/27 These are now available to collect from the parish office.

Hiring the Parish Centre Please email the parish office with booking requests or queries and visit the [Parish Centre Hire](#) page of our website for more details of hire charges and the range of facilities available.

Donating to our Parish Please consider making your offertory contribution by standing order and gift aiding your donations, if you do not already do so. Please see our website or click here for a standing order, gift aid form and our bank details. If you register as a gift aiding donor on one of our contactless devices, please ensure you add both your first and surname, in full, and your full address, including road name, so that your gift aid declaration meets the standards for gift aid reclaim required by HMRC.

Gift Aid for 2025-26 The 2025-26 tax year ended on 5 April 2026 and we will be submitting the parish gift aid claim in the weeks to come. If you are a UK taxpayer and have previously signed a gift aid declaration, but no longer pay UK tax, please contact the parish office and let us know. If you have stopped paying tax, we can no longer claim gift aid (25p for every pound donated). If you do not pay sufficient UK tax and gift aid is claimed on what you give, then HMRC may seek reimbursement from the parish. If you have signed a gift aid form, your offertory donations need to come from a bank account in your name only or a joint bank account on which you are also named. If you do pay tax and would like to gift aid donations you make to the parish, but have not completed a gift aid form, please contact the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 12 APRIL 2026

Saturday 11 April	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Mary Watkins (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Elizabeth McAndrew (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 12 April	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	
8am Mass	Patrick Hampton (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	People of the parish	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	John Leslie Fryatt (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	John Doran (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Pat Bambury (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Julie Dove (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Monday 13 April	Easter feria	
10am Mass	Jimmy Gaynor (Ints)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Mattie Weaver (RIP)	St Bartholomew
Tuesday 14 April	Easter feria	
10am Mass	Seiglinde Wilson (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Wednesday 15 April	Easter feria	
10am Mass	Carole Pilkington (RIP)	St Bartholomew
10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	Johnny and Bridgie Joyce (Ints)	St Alban & St Stephen
Thursday 16 April	Easter feria	
10am Mass	<i>No Mass this morning</i>	St Bartholomew
Friday 17 April	Easter feria	
12 Noon Mass	No Intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Ramzan (Ints)	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 18 April	Easter feria	
10am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
10.45am	Benediction	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 18 April	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Joseph Collins (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Teresa Trzeciak (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 19 April	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	
8am Mass	People of the parish	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Jim Dalley (RIP)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Life of the unborn	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Maria Frosztega (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Tommy McCarthy (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Elaine Gatta (nee Bagge)	St Alban & St Stephen

Details of the readings for this week's Masses are available online [here](#) or on our [website](#).

PLEASE PRAY

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 Franco Onofrio and Maria Salas.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Maria Frosztega, John Leslie Fryatt, Catherine Mannion, Elizabeth McAndrew, Bishop James O'Brien, Edward O'Connell, Luisa Roscelli, Teresa Trzeciak and Seiglinde Wilson.

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