



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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19 April 2026 - THIRD 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 / stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes... We had hoped to have all the works completed on the porch and forecourt before Easter, but as you will see that hasn't been possible. We now have a revised completion date towards the end of May. Even so, as you enter the church complex you will see that the refurbished forecourt is really taking shape and that a clear idea of what the final product will look like is now emerging. Although you cannot see inside to the works on the church porch these too have progressed quite significantly. The new storage cupboards, kitchen, toilet, flooring and electrics are more or less in place and significant progress has been made in terms of the decoration. The contractors are now turning towards the woodwork and the installation of the new glazing and glass doors.

Thank you for bearing with all of these works; in particular your patience when leaving the church and your initiative in terms of alternative parking. Thank you also for your continued generosity. In recent months, alongside the contributions already pledged, the Building Fund Appeal has been boosted by over £150,000 in one-off donations and a legacy. There is still a need to raise funds but your generosity to date will enable us to look confidently towards the next phases of the development project; the insulation and re-glazing of the presbytery, and then the refurbishment of the sanctuary and re-decoration of the Church. Once these last two phases are complete we will then look to the internal refurbishment of the presbytery.

Finally, this weekend I am happy to make available the [Financial Accounts for 2025](#). In presenting them please be aware that they must be treated as provisional until the Diocesan Accounts are approved later in the year. We do not anticipate any significant changes so we are presenting them now as we are already well into 2026. The accounts are accompanied by a commentary, but if you have any questions please do come back to me michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk

The Dignity of Life This Sunday afternoon (Sunday 19 April) the Bishops of England and Wales have asked Catholics throughout England and Wales to pray for the dignity of all human life as peers in the House of Lords continue to debate whether to make Assisted Suicide lawful. Please take some time on Sunday afternoon between 4.30pm and 5.30pm to pray for this intention and to unite yourself to the entire Catholic Community in these lands.

Priest Training Fund Next Weekend is Good Shepherd Sunday and there will be a second collection for the Priest Training Fund. This fund plays a crucial role in supporting those who are discerning and preparing for the priesthood. Their formation includes academic study, spiritual development, and pastoral training – all of which are essential for their future ministry. As we reflect on Christ as the Good Shepherd, we are reminded that He continues to call shepherds for His Church today. Please keep our seminarians and those being called to priesthood in your prayers.

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 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.

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 the 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.

Toddler Group Volunteers Wanted It would be lovely to have more volunteers to help serve the teas and coffees at the Toddler Group on Monday mornings. 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.

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 People's Emergency Briefing Screening at 6pm Sunday 19 April, St Albans Cathedral. What's happening with climate and nature? How does it affect everyday life in the UK? Book [here](#).

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.

Prison Awareness Part 1 Wednesday 22 April, Christ Church, High Oaks. Explore what it means to welcome prison leavers into our community. Free/no need to book.

Carlo Acutis: Jeans, Science, and Miracles 5-7:20pm Monday 20 April Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School, AL4 OTT. This evening will be all about the laws of nature, the story of St Carlo Acutis, and his website on Eucharistic miracles. There will 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](mailto:gallegom@nbs.herts.sch.uk) the project co-director Miss Gallego gallegom@nbs.herts.sch.uk with questions. Link to register [here](#).

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. For further details message Richard on 07976 252309.

Circle of Friends April Invitation The next Circle of Friends tea will be in 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 very welcome. 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.

C.W.L. Thursday 2pm 7 May We are pleased to have Melanie talk about "Plants and Medicine". All welcome to attend - members, guests and parishioners. Cost £3 to include refreshments.

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 gratefully received to cover expenses. Profits will be given to the speaker for a charity of their choice. Thursday 7 May Reverend Hendry Ponniah will speak on Tribal Mission in Borneo.

BINGO Many, many thanks for the support for our recent Bingo evening that raised £100 for World Youth Day. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 8 May at 8pm in the Parish Hall.

Visit of the Relics of St Gerard Majella On Friday 15 May at 7pm, our church of St Alban and St Stephen will have the privilege of hosting the relics of St Gerard Majella on their tour around England and Wales to celebrate the saint's 300th anniversary. St Gerard was a Redemptorist lay-brother from the South of Italy, born in 1726. He died at only 29, but was known as a great wonder-worker even during his lifetime. He's popularly invoked as a patron of mothers, particularly expectant mothers, couples trying to conceive, and those looking for work. Come along to pray in front of his relics, participate in Mass, and receive a blessing with his relics.

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

Fire Safety During the current works, if the people in church exceed 230 we will need to use 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.

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 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 2026/2027 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.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 19 APRIL 2026

Saturday 18 April

5pm Mass

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

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) (RIP)

St Alban & St Stephen

Monday 20 April

Easter feria

10am Mass

Holy Souls

St Alban & St Stephen

12 Noon Mass

Keith Bradly (Ann)

St Bartholomew

Tuesday 21 April

Easter feria

10am Mass

John and Bridie Gildea (Ints)

St Bartholomew

Wednesday 22 April

Easter feria

10am Mass

Rita Kydd (Int)

St Bartholomew

10.30am

Exposition and Confessions

St Bartholomew

7pm Mass

Dorothy Fernandes (RIP)

St Alban & St Stephen

Thursday 23 April

ST GEORGE

10am Mass

Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

St Bartholomew

Friday 24 April

Saints Erkenwald and Mellitus

12 Noon Mass

No Intention

St Albans Cathedral

7pm Mass

Foster family (Ints)

St Alban & St Stephen

Saturday 25 April

ST MARK

10am

Exposition and Confessions

St Alban & St Stephen

10.45am

Benediction

St Alban & St Stephen

Saturday 25 April

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass

Sheehan and Guinnelly families (RIP)

St Alban & St Stephen

6pm Mass

Kathleen Healey (Ann)

St Bartholomew

Sunday 26 April

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass

Sara and Ian Nash (Ints)

St Alban & St Stephen

8.30am Mass

Eileen Vasey (Ann)

St John Fisher School

9.30am Mass

James & Teresa McMahan (Ann)

St Bartholomew

10am Mass

Azcona Lacalle family (Ints)

St Alban & St Stephen

12 Noon Mass

Enid Dobson (Ints)

St Alban & St Stephen

6pm Mass

People of the parish

St Alban & St Stephen

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 Mary Deirdre Crossley, Christine Dawson, Mary Mackenzie, Franco Onofrio and Maria Salas.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Keith Bradly, Maria Frosztega, Kathleen Healey, Margaret Markham, James & Teresa McMahan, Edward O'Connell, Luisa Roscelli, Teresa Trzeciak and Eileen Vasey.

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