



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>

26 April 2026 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



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

Deacon Brendan writes ... It has been a privilege for Fr John and I to journey this last year with those who were baptized or received into the church at this year's the Easter Vigil. They have spent much time in preparation, and with those who were confirmed, are now fully initiated members of God's family, the church. Our sincere hope is that they continue their journey of faith, growing to know God and themselves better.

At times the exploring and living out of our faith can involve real challenges, challenges that can deter us from practicing our faith, even prevent us from attending mass on a regular basis. Moreover the habit of coming to mass can at times be just that, a 'habit', which, when interrupted, falls away. Sadly, this seems to be the case with the Covid pandemic after which a number haven't returned to Sunday mass.

If you are reading this bulletin piece because someone has shared it with you, you've received it by email, or because you are reading it in church or via the internet, and you consider yourself "lapsed" or at best, your mass attendance is very irregular, then I would like to offer you an open ear. I'd like to understand what our community might be able to do to change that situation, and help you, if possible, to return to regular mass attendance.

I don't have any magic pills, I don't cast spells, I might not be able to help in anyway whatsoever, but I'd like to know more about why you no longer attend mass and receive the sacraments on a regular basis.

You can't be unbaptized. In baptism the baptized become members of God's family, and once part of that family you remain part of that family, part of that community, no matter how distant you might be from it. At Easter we celebrated as the members of this year's RCIA group were initiated into the life and mission of the Church. For the Church their joining is joy, and just as any family suffers when there is some kind of break or division, the Church suffers when its members, for one reason or another, keep their distance.

If even a tiny part of you is missing mass, missing being part of our community, then please consider getting in touch. You will find an open, non-judgmental ear, and who knows what might happen. Please speak to me, or email the parish office in confidence with just your name / contact number, and the email will be forwarded to me.

Priest Training Fund - Supporting Future Priests Today, on Good Shepherd Sunday, there is a second collection for the Priest Training Fund. This fund supports the formation of men who are responding to God's call to serve as priests in our diocese. Their journey involves years of preparation – human, spiritual, and pastoral – equipping them to serve parish communities in the years ahead. Your support helps make this formation possible. It is a direct way of strengthening the life of the Church and ensuring that future generations will continue to receive the sacraments and pastoral care. If you are able, please give generously in today's collection. You may also donate via www.rcdow.org.uk/PriestTrainingFund. Please continue to pray for vocations and for those currently in formation

Planned Giving Envelopes for 2026 / 2027 These are now available to collect from the parish office.

Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster Please [see here](#) for a copy of the Pastoral Letter for the Fourth Sunday of Easter from the Archbishop.

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.

Children's Liturgy Please note that, due to a shortage in volunteers to run children's liturgy, we unfortunately will only be able to run it twice a month to the end of this term. If any parent would like to help with this wonderful service to our younger community, then please contact Joan Egenes (stalbanscc@rcdow.org.uk). The ideal is to have enough volunteers so they only need to help once a month. 10 minutes are required to read the prepared lessons, 15 minutes are required to set up before Mass and 10 minutes are to tidy up after Mass. Volunteers will require a Diocesan safeguarding check and one off online safeguarding training of approximately 50 minutes. Dates: 3 May, 17 May, 7 June, 21 June, 5 July and 12 July.

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 (termtime only - children's liturgy: dates as above). 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.

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

FIF Youth Thanks to the parish for its wonderful support last weekend, for the FIF Youth car wash. They raised £510 pounds for St Mary's School in Nigeria. The FIF Youth group will be providing cake and serving tea/coffee after some Masses in the next few weeks and look forward to your continued support.

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 please contact 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.

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.

CELEBRATE Trust We are excited to announce two new webinars for parents and carers of teenagers:

Confident parenting in a world of screens 8pm 29 April Worried about the impact of phones and social media on your teen? A helpful webinar with Kate Duroux from Care for the Family, offering practical advice for supporting teenagers growing up in a digital world.

Raising teenagers in a Catholic family 8pm 2 June As children enter adolescence, parenting can feel brand new. Mike and Alicia from the Messy Family Project share faith-filled wisdom and practical tools to help parents guide their tweens and teens with patience, modelling, and stronger relationships. Please book [here](#).

Fair-trade The parish fair-trade stall will be open after all Masses at Church over the weekend of 2/3 May and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre 10 May. We have plenty of chocolate, biscuits, cereals, dried fruit and other fairly traded goods. It may seem mundane to buy a bar of chocolate or a bottle of oil, but every time you do it, you help make people's lives more secure.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 5 May 2.15-3.45pm. Please note change of time, All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

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 8pm Friday 8 May in the Parish Hall in aid of PAX Christi. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Fire Safety During the current works, if the people in church exceed 230 we will need to use the hall as an overflow. Also, 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.

Financial Accounts for 2025 Please see the following link for our [Financial Accounts for 2025](#). 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 contact the parish office.

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.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer We pray for the people of Sudan, for all those who have witnessed violence and cruelty and who have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety and for all those who face hunger and disease. We pray for lasting peace and reconciliation, and for an end to famine, fear and suffering. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 26 APRIL 2026

Saturday 25 April

5pm Mass

6pm Mass

Sunday 26 April

8am Mass

8.30am Mass

9.30am Mass

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

6pm Mass

Monday 27 April

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

Tuesday 28 April

10am Mass

Wednesday 29 April

10am Mass

10.30am

7pm Mass

Thursday 30 April

10am Mass

Friday 1 May

12 Noon Mass

7pm Mass

Saturday 2 May

10am

10.45am

Saturday 2 May

5pm Mass

6pm Mass

Sunday 3 May

8am Mass

8.30am Mass

9.30am Mass

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

6pm Mass

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

Sheehan and Guinnelly families (RIP)

Kathleen Healey (Ann)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sara and Ian Nash (Ints)

Eileen Vasey (Ann)

James & Teresa McMahon (Ann)

Azcona Lacalle family (Ints)

Enid Dobson (Ints)

People of the parish

Easter feria

Donald de Cruz (RIP)

John Dolan (RIP)

Easter feria

Sarah Aiguanfo (Ints)

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

Nan Rooney (Ints)

Exposition and Confessions

Callum Gathard (Ann)

Easter feria

Funeral Mass for Francesco Onofrio

St Joseph the Worker

No Intention

Angela Kent (Ann)

St Athanasius

Exposition and Confessions

Benediction

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

Margaret Moloney (Ints)

Vera O'Neill (RIP)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Noreen Drummond (First Anniversary)

Stuart Pohler (Ann)

People of the Parish

Maura Doyle (RIP)

Mary Gallagher (Ann)

Terry Mahabir (Ann)

St Alban & St Stephen

St Bartholomew

St Alban & St Stephen

St John Fisher School

St Bartholomew

St Alban & St Stephen

St Alban & St Stephen

St Alban & St Stephen

St Alban & St Stephen

St Bartholomew

St Bartholomew

St Bartholomew

St Bartholomew

St Alban & St Stephen

St Bartholomew

St Albans Cathedral

St Alban & St Stephen

St Alban & St Stephen

St Alban & St Stephen

St Alban & St Stephen

St Bartholomew

St Alban & St Stephen

St John Fisher School

St Bartholomew

St Alban & St Stephen

St Alban & St Stephen

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, Maria Galasso, Mary Mackenzie, Franco Onofrio and Maria Salas.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Louise Aldred, Keith Bradly, Fr Joe Colbert MSC, Felipe Cruz Diaz, Mary Gallagher, Callum Gathard, Tony Harding, Alice Healey, Kathleen Healey, Angela Kent, Terry Mahabir, James & Teresa McMahon, Joseph Morillon, Fr Michael O'Leary MSC, Stuart Pohler and Eileen Vasey.

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