



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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29 March 2026 – PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



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... In the next few days, if not already, the schools will be breaking up for the Easter Holidays and a well-earned break for our school communities. Many will also be stopping work to spend time with family and friends over the Easter weekend. Any change in our daily routine has a way of upending the balance of things – ask any parent trying to arrange holiday care for young children. However, the holidays we are about to begin are the most important in the Christian calendar, they are quite literally Holy Days, days when we recall the central mystery of our Christian faith; the living, dying and rising of Christ. Before they are a break from work, school and our regular routine, before they are an opportunity to gather with friends and family, the approaching holidays are first and foremost an invitation to recall and celebrate Christ's triumph over sin and death.

There will be no newsletter next weekend so, on behalf of Fr John, myself and the whole Parish Team, may I wish you and your families every blessing.

Holy week and Easter Posters Holy Week and Easter posters are now available from the Church entrance in the Parish Centre. Please take one to put in a window and help to spread the true meaning of Easter.

Church capacity during Holy Week The building works, have reduced the church capacity, so this Holy Week comes with the added challenge of managing the numbers of people in church. The main challenge will be the 3pm Service on Good Friday. This is usually full to capacity and draws in visitors and a number of people who do not regularly attend. These will not be aware of our current works or the recent appeal we made for people to consider attending the Stations of the Cross at 12 Noon and the additional service at 5.30pm. Please could parishioners consider attending the 12 Noon Stations and 5.30pm Service on Good Friday. During Holy Week, for each service, we will establish an overflow upstairs in the main hall.

Fire Safety We have an additional fire marshal rota for Holy Week and Easter. **If you can help as a fire marshal at any of the following Holy Week services, please sign up using the sign-up sheets in the Parish Centre or contact the parish office: Good Friday 10.30am, 12 Noon and 5.30pm.**

Collections during Holy Week The collection on Maundy Thursday will be in support of our local SVP. The retiring collection on Good Friday is a special collection for the Holy Places of Palestine. This offering, called for by successive Popes, is used to support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

Easter Offering The priests of the parish do not receive a wage or salary, instead they receive a monthly stipend or allowance which is funded out of the offering received on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day, as well as for masses, baptisms, weddings and funerals. If you wish to use an envelope for this purpose these are available in the porch.

Foot Washing If you would be willing to have your foot washed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday evening please email the parish office. You would need to be present in church for 7.45pm on Thursday 2 April.

Gift Aid for 2025-26 The current tax year ends on 5 April 2026 and we will be submitting the parish gift aid claim following that date. 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 are therefore able to gift aid donations you make to the parish, but have not completed a gift aid form, please contact the parish office if you would like to become a gift aider.

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

Holy Week and Easter Services Please see the [Holy Week page of](#) our website for details of all our Holy Week and Easter Services, both here and at St Bartholomew's. Times for Confessions before Easter are also listed there.

Stations of the Cross - Good Friday The Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 12 Noon will be on the theme of the Way of the Cross for Our Time. You can also view the Stations [online](#) and the text will be available to help you reflect upon this prayerful journey through our Lord's passion and death. Children's Way of the Cross takes place on Good Friday at 10.30am.

Walk of Witness 7:20pm Good Friday Join Christians from different churches as we unite to help carry the Cross from St Alban & St Stephen RC church to the Cathedral Abbey for the 8pm Unity at the Cross service.

Easter Garden of Remembrance In this year's Easter Garden, you are invited once again to remember your deceased family and friends. Their names will be written on paper flower shapes and then displayed at the back of church. Please give the names of your loved ones to the parish office, either by email or as a written list, clearly marked Easter Garden.

Music for the Triduum As with last Holy Week, the music this coming Holy Week will be a combined effort drawing on the musicians and singers from across the various music groups from the different Sunday Masses. There will be rehearsals at 6.30pm on Maundy Thursday (2 April), 12 Noon on Good Friday (3 April) beginning in the Hall, and 5pm on Holy Saturday (4 April).

Sacrament of Baptism The next baptism preparation course is Saturday 9 May 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.

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

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Thank you from Parish Friends Parish Friends would like to thank all those who helped make the Tea Party last Sunday so successful. Huge thanks to Damien Fahy who performed solo and provided brilliant entertainment for over 70 parishioners. Thanks also to those who provided a

selection of very tasty home-made cakes and to those who worked tirelessly in the kitchen making numerous pots of tea. Our collection for Cafod raised a very generous £360. It was a lovely afternoon and Des enjoyed the party and his beautiful home-made 80th birthday cake. Des would also like to say a big thank you to all those who kindly came along to the Tea Party and helped to make it such a special day for him.

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. We specifically need 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](#).

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 you would be happy to give to a family member or friend. Tel: 07976 277059

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, on the first Thursday of the month - 1.30-3.30pm. Email [here](#) for information.

Fair trade The parish fair trade stall will be open after all Masses at church over the weekend of 28/29 March and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass centre on 12 April.

Wintershall Passion of Jesus Good Friday Trafalgar Square Free performances at 12pm and 3.15pm. A dramatic presentation of the Passion of Jesus which should not be missed. Come prepared to sit on the ground

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 7 April 2.15-3.45pm. Please note change of time, All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

BINGO - Friday 10 April at 8pm in the Parish Hall in aid of World Youth Day. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

Newman Association Day of Reflection Tuesday 14 April Focolare Centre, Welwyn Garden City. We will be holding an Easter Reflection on the Prayers and Prefaces to the Eucharistic Prayer during the Easter Season to be led by Fr John Deehan, the recently appointed Catholic Chaplain to St Albans' Cathedral. It is open to non-members. Cost £18. For more details call Mary on 07976 277 059.

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).

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.

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

Fire Safety During the current works, if the people in church exceed 230 we will need to utilise the hall as an overflow. We would ask anyone who would need help to evacuate the building and who is unaccompanied to make themselves known to the welcomers or the priest, and to sit in the area 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.

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 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.

Pope's prayer of the month For April 2026, Pope Leo XIV invites us to pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

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.

The Easter Story Puppet Show Presented by the St Bartholomew Confirmation Group. St Bartholomew's Hall Good Friday 2-3pm. Songs and activities for primary and pre-school children.

PLEASE PRAY

United with Churches together in St Albans this week we pray for blessings on the Holy Week ecumenical events.

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 Roger Johnson, Teresa Kapusta and Franco Onofrio.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Marie Noella Amadis, Mary Bergin, Annie Cawley, Mary Flavin, Catherine Mannion, Bishop James O'Brien and Marie Aline Rangasamy.

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

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Saturday 28 March - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Deceased members of the Sheehan & Guinnelly families

Sunday 29 March - PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

8am Mass Annie Cawley and Mary Bergin (Ann)
8.30am Mass Ray Hill (RIP) (*St John Fisher School*)
10am Mass Padraic Lynskey (RIP)
12 Noon Mass John Spears (RIP)
6pm Mass Tarelli and Birkin families (Ints)
Reading 1, Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm 21(22)
Reading 2, Philippians 2:6-11, Gospel, Mathew 26:14-27:66

Monday 30 March - MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

10am Mass Frances Boak (RIP)
10.30am *Confessions (St Alban & St Stephen)*
Reading 1, Isaiah 42:1-7, Psalm 26(27),
Gospel, John 12:1-11

Tuesday 31 March - TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

No morning mass due to Chrism Mass at the Cathedral
Reading 1, Isaiah 49:1-6, Psalm 70(71)
Gospel, John 13:21-33,36-38

Wednesday 1 April - WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

7am Mass Marie Noella Amadis (Ann) and Marie Aline Rangasamy (Ann)
10am Mass * Funeral Mass for Roger Johnson
6pm Confessions (St Alban & St Stephen)
7pm Mass Ignacio Ponce de Leon (RIP)
Reading 1, Isaiah 50:4-9, Psalm 68(69)
Gospel, Matthew 26:14-25

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Thursday 2 April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

There is no morning mass today.
8pm Mass EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Followed by 'Watch and Pray' until 11.30pm
Reading 1, Exodus 12:1-8,11-14, Psalm 115(116)
Reading 2, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Gospel, John 13:1-15

Friday 3 April - GOOD FRIDAY

No masses are celebrated today
9.30am Office of Readings and Morning prayer
10.30am Children's Way of the Cross
12 Noon Stations of the Cross
3pm SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE PASSION
5.30pm SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE PASSION
Reading 1, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 30(31)
Reading 2, Hebrews 4:14-16,5:7-9, Gospel, John 18:1-19:42
7.20pm Walk of Witness to St Albans Abbey

Saturday 4 April - Lent feria

9.30am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

Saturday 4 April - EASTER VIGIL

8pm Mass Easter Vigil People of the Parish
Reading 1, Genesis 1:1-2:2, Psalm 103(104),
Reading 2, Exodus 14:15-15:1, Psalm Exodus 15,
Reading 3, Isaiah 55:1-11, Psalm Isaiah 12,
Reading 4, Ezekiel 36:16-28, Psalm 41(42), Reading 5,
Romans 6:3-11, Psalm 117(118), Gospel, Matthew 28:1-10

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

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday 5 April - EASTER SUNDAY

8am Mass Mary Watkins (RIP)
8.30am Mass Caterina Law (Ints)
(St John Fisher School)
10am Mass Mary Flavin (Ann)
12 Noon Mass Pat Holohan (RIP)
Reading 1, Acts 10:34,37-43, Psalm 117(118)
Reading 2, Colossians 3:1-4, Gospel, John 20:1-9
There is no evening mass today

Monday 6 April - MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am Mass Deceased members of the Moore family
Reading 1, Acts 2:14,22-33, Psalm 15(16)
Gospel, Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday 7 April - TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am Mass * St Bartholomew's intention
Reading 1, Acts 2:36-41, Psalm 32(33)
Gospel, John 20:11-18

Wednesday 8 April - WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

7pm Mass Terry Pickard (Ints)
Reading 1, Acts 3:1-10, Psalm 104(105)
Gospel, Luke 24:13-35

Thursday 9 April - THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am Mass * Evelio Azcona (RIP)
Reading 1, Acts 3:11-26, Psalm 8
Gospel, Luke 24:35-48

Friday 10 April - FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Mass is celebrated in St Albans Cathedral at Noon
There is no evening mass today

Saturday 11 April - SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

10am Confessions, Exposition with Benediction at 10.45am

Saturday 11 April - VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass Mary Watkins (RIP)

Sunday 12 April - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am Mass Patrick Hampton (RIP)
8.30am Mass People of the parish (*St John Fisher School*)
10am Mass John Doran (RIP)
12 Noon Pat Bambury (RIP)
6pm Mass Julie Dove (RIP)
Reading 1, Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 117(118)
Reading 2, 1 Peter 1:3-9, Gospel, John 20:19-31

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 Sarah via the parish office. 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.