



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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10 May 2026 - SIXTH 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 ...

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. In Westminster Diocese 13 locations have been organised, aiming to have a spread across the diocese to enable as many of the faithful as possible to pray with this little wonder-worker. Born in 1726 in the South of Italy Gerard, after his father's death, supported the family in many different ways. When the Redemptorist missionaries visited his town, Gerard resolved to join them. His family were opposed, locked him in his bedroom, but undeterred he knotted his sheets, climbed out the window and ran away to join the order. Gerard became a brother, supporting his community: as a sacristan, as a porter, manning the door of the monastery; as a cook and gardener, seeing to the practical needs of the monastery; and as a tailor, using his childhood skills to make Redemptorist habits. He was deeply united to Jesus in prayer and penance. Numerous miracles are attributed to him, but in his humility he saw that they always pointed to the glory of God. St Gerard consoled many couples desperate for children in order that their prayers would be answered. He became associated with prayers for safe delivery through one of his miracles, and his most popular title, is that of 'the mother's saint'. The major shine to him is at Materdomini in Italy, where the walls are covered with passport pictures of babies and the ceiling a sea of pink and blue ribbons pinned up by parents in thanksgiving. He died aged 29, and was known as a great wonder-worker during his lifetime. He is popularly invoked as a patron of mothers, particularly expectant mothers, couples trying to conceive, and those looking for work.

So what are Relics? Relics are the remains or possessions of holy persons and are divided into three categories. First-class relics consist of the bodily remains of saints and the instruments of Christ's Passion, such as the True Cross. Second-class relics are personal belongings of saints, such as articles of clothing, or the instruments used in the torture and death of martyrs. Third-class relics are any objects which have come into physical contact with first or second class relics. The Church has always maintained that the veneration of Relics is proper, with the Council of Trent maintaining that honour given to a relic, statue, or icon was honour not to an object but to the person it represented. Vatican II relaxed the long held tradition of having relics in the altar so today relics are typically placed under a new altar rather than inside a small altar stone on the top of the altar. Every Relic must be authenticated and be of sufficient size to be recognisably part of a human body. In 2017 the Vatican released new instructions on the authentication of relics so that no veneration of the remains of a person declared to be a Servant of God or Venerable could take place before his or her beatification. It also insisted that anyone involved in the moving of relics or the transfer of their ownership must have written consent from the congregation and every bishop or proprietor that would be involved in the moving of, in transferring the ownership of, or in the pilgrimage of any relics and mortal remains of the saints and blessed was required.

Please take this opportunity to come along to pray in front of St Gerard's relic, private prayer from 6-7pm, before participating in Mass, and receiving a blessing with his relics.

Spiritans Appeal 9/10 May This weekend we have the annual Mission Appeal. This year the Appeal is in support of the Spiritans. Founded in 1703, The Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) are a Roman Catholic Religious Congregation dedicated to sharing hope and love worldwide. For over 300 years, their mission has been to evangelize the poor and the needy, pursue justice, foster peace, care for creation, inspired by Luke 4:18 and advance God's kingdom here on earth. Today, more than 3,000 Spiritans from all continents bring this mission to life in over 60 countries, serving where the need is greatest—hospitals, parishes, prisons, schools, and refugee communities. They also support integral development for young people and work for justice globally. Please give as generously as you can.

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: 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

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.

St Columba's College Friday Fun Forest Adventures From 9.15-10.15am every Friday from 1 May - Calling all little ones aged from 18months to 3 year olds to enjoy some free forest activities in our wonderful Forest School. For more information please call Mary Masters on 01727 892097 or visit our [website](#).

Fair-trade The parish fair-trade stall will be open 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.

Thinking Lunch Marlborough Road Methodist Church 12.30-1.30pm First Thursday of each month. 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 4 June Neil Kieran, SADC Principal Emergency Planning and Community Safety Officer How do we respond to a local emergency?

Jumble sale 10am Saturday 16 May - proceeds to St Bart's HCPT Group for Lourdes pilgrimage (taking children/young adults with additional needs to Lourdes) - good quality jumble - lots of bargains - donations welcome (but no large or electrical items, thank you) - please leave in St Bart's Parish Centre entrance hall, Vesta Avenue, St Albans, between 9am and 8pm on Friday 15 May, any queries to Barbara Bliss (01727 873672).

Salvation Army Special Coffee morning Saturday 16 May 10am - 1pm, 16-18 Victoria Street. All welcome.

Salvation Army 142nd Anniversary in Concert 6.30pm Saturday 16 May At Marlborough Rd Methodist Church. Tickets £5. Children free via 07887 768522 or [here](#).

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 17 May 2.15-3.45pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Circle of Friends April Invitation The next Circle of Friends tea will be in St Barts Parish Hall on Wednesday 27 May 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 webinar for parents and carers of teenagers: 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](#).

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.

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 August 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 provisional [Financial Accounts for 2025](#). 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.

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.

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.

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.

The Pope's Monthly Intention for May 2026 - That everyone might have food Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 10 MAY 2026

Saturday 9 May	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Bernadette Sheehan (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Michael McElroy (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 10 May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
8am Mass	Teresa Trzeciak (First Anniversary)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	People of the parish	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Les Fryatt (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Franciszek Frosztega (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Margaret McSweeney (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Mary Jo Comer (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Monday 11 May	Easter feria	
10am Mass	Catherine Roache (Ints)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Mattie Weaver (RIP)	St Bartholomew
Tuesday 12 May	Easter feria	
10am Mass	Richard O'Neill (RIP)	St Bartholomew
Wednesday 13 May	Easter feria	
10am Mass	Jackie, Tara and Alex Cullen (Ints)	St Bartholomew
10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Thursday 14 May	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	
10am Mass	Harry Law (Ints)	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	People of the Parish	St Alban & St Stephen
Friday 15 May	Easter feria	
12 Noon Mass	No Intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Relics of Gerard Majella	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 16 May	Easter feria	
10am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
10.45am	<i>Benediction</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 16 May	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Annie Coakley (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Peter and Eileen McDonald (Ints)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 17 May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
8am Mass	People of the parish	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Arthur and Catherine Ball (Ann)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Sarkar Family (Ints)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Elizabeth Ingman (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Theresa Melia (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Tom and Patrick Bagge (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen

Mass Readings and Reflections for the week 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 Sheila Chadwick, Louise Dodd-Federer, Maria Galasso, Mary MacKenzie, Justina Nnadi, Jeremiah O'Shea and Grace Pereira.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Tom and Patrick Bagge, Arthur and Catherine Ball, Agnes Cloherty, Annie Coakley, Felipe Cruz-Diaz, Franciszek Frosztega, Elizabeth Ingman, Francesco & Immacolata Picciuto, Esther Pinto, Bernadette Sheehan and Teresa Trzeciak.

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