



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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YouTube: <https://youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch>

17 May 2026 - SEVENTH 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](mailto:stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) / 07976 277059

*We are a Fairtrade parish*

### *Fr Michael writes ...*

Over the last seven months the building works to the church forecourt at St Alban and St Stephen have shaped much about parish life there and at St Bartholomew's. With the reduced parking parishioners at St Alban and St Stephen have had to discover new parking places and walking muscles. Moreover, weekday masses usually said at St Alban and St Stephen have been celebrated at St Bartholomew's, while St Bartholomew's have accommodated all the funerals that would normally have taken place at St Alban and St Stephen. Our being paired or sister parishes has facilitated this collaboration and I am immensely grateful for the generous way in which both parishes have worked together over these last months.

The whole purpose of the works at St Alban and St Stephen is to create a more open and welcoming environment. This will be expressed most obviously in the introduction of glass doors, enabling people to see in, and the creation of a larger porch with kitchen and toilet facilities to facilitate hospitality before and after masses. Ultimately however the creation of a welcoming environment is more than the physical space in which somebody finds themselves; for the quality of the welcome a community affords will be judged by the new parishioner or visitor on their encounter with existing parishioners. Did someone actually say hello? Did someone show us where to get a mass book or, better still, give me one? Did someone say to me that there is a children's liturgy for the children to be a part of? Did someone hand me a newsletter as I was leaving or invite me to stay for tea or coffee or encourage me to stay? Did someone recognise me when I turned up again or know my name after I had been coming for a couple of months?

The welcome people receive is everyone's responsibility. It cannot all hinge on the personality of the priest and what he says in the sermon or at the beginning and end of mass. If you have come to the same mass every week for years and you see a new face it may well be because they are new to the parish. Your smile, your gesture of welcome, some few words, may well be what brings them back again the following week. That said, we need actual welcomers in both parishes; people who commit to being part of a rota, who will arrive that little bit earlier, who will say good morning or good evening and hand people what they need to join in with the mass, who will answer the kind of questions which visitors and new parishioners might have.

If you would be happy to be a welcomer then please email the parish office at either St Alban and St Stephen ([stalbens@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbens@rcdow.org.uk)), or St Bartholomew's ([stalbenssouth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbenssouth@rcdow.org.uk)) saying which mass you attend and confirming that you or your family would like to be involved in the ministry of welcome.

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**Retiring Collection - Spiritans Appeal** Last weekend's retiring collection raised £1,927.97 to support the work of the Spiritans. Thank you very much for your generosity.

**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.

**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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**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 142<sup>nd</sup> 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 19 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](mailto:stars2004@btinternet.com) /07860 283743.

**Villa Scalabrini** Two dates for your diary: The Classics at the Villa Sunday 31 May and Scampagnata Sunday 28 June. Green Street, Shenley, Herts – WD7 9BB.

**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](#).

**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?

**Men's Breakfast 6 June** Our last Men's Breakfast before a Summer break is on Saturday 6 June, from 8.15am to 10am in the Parish Centre. We will start with conversation over coffee and pastries, followed by a 20 minute video on the theme of Pentecost and discipleship. We will conclude with a discussion and finish by 10am. No pre-booking required and for more details please message Richard on 07976 252309.

**The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London - First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day** At the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham on Saturday 6 June 10:30am to 4:30pm. The Recollection Day will include Holy Mass, Talk, Hour of Mercy with Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Pls call millie on 07957594646 for more information.

**BINGO** - Many thanks for the support for our recent Bingo evening. £125.00 was raised for Pax Christi, including donations. Our next Bingo evening will be at 8pm on Friday 12 June in the Parish Centre.

## 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** 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.

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer** Father, we think of those throughout the world struggling to make ends meet. Help us to be generous with our time, our surpluses and ourselves.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 17 MAY 2026**

<b>Saturday 16 May</b>	<b>VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY</b>	
5pm Mass	Annie Coakley (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Peter and Eileen McDonald (Ints)	St Bartholomew
<b>Sunday 17 May</b>	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	
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
<b>Monday 18 May</b>	Easter feria	
10am Mass	John Christoforou (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Leanda Kelly (Ann)	St Bartholomew
<b>Tuesday 19 May</b>	Easter feria	
10am Mass	Karen Brennan (Ann)	St Bartholomew
12 Noon	Funeral Mass for Mary Mackenzie	St Bartholomew
<b>Wednesday 20 May</b>	Easter feria	
10am Mass	Felipe Cruz-Diaz (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	Maura Doyle (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
<b>Thursday 21 May</b>	Easter feria	
10am Mass	Funeral Mass for Justina Nnadi	St Bartholomew
<b>Friday 22 May</b>	Easter feria	
12 Noon Mass	No Intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Sajish Kandaramath (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
<b>Saturday 23 May</b>	Easter feria	
10am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
10.45am	<i>Benediction</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
<b>Saturday 23 May</b>	<b>VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY</b>	
5pm Mass	Andrea Avvinti (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Agnes Cloherty (Ann)	St Bartholomew
<b>Sunday 24 May</b>	<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>	
8am Mass	Sayako (Ints)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Maura Pierce (RIP)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Maureen Anderson (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Kathleen and Norman Suckley (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	People of the Parish	St Alban & St Stephen
2.30pm Mass	Confirmation Mass	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	John Doran (RIP)	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, Josie Kearney, Mary Mackenzie, Justina Nnadi, Jeremiah O'Shea and Grace Pereira.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Maureen Anderson, Andrea Avvinti, Tom and Patrick Bagge, Arthur and Catherine Ball, Karen Brennan, Agnes Cloherty, Annie Coakley, Felipe Cruz-Diaz, Eric Harber, Michael Hewitt, Elizabeth Ingman, Sajish Kandaramath, Leanda Kelly, Ray Lawson & Nagle family, Kathleen McCormack and Kathleen Rafferty.

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