



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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24 May 2026 - PENTECOST 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 / stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes... Today we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost – the pouring out of the helper which Christ promised to his followers towards the end of his time on earth. In the scriptures the Holy Spirit is presented as a life-giving force. It hovered over the abyss at the dawn of creation. It is poured forth at Christ's baptism in the Jordan and the beginning of his public ministry. Then, at Pentecost, often referred to as the birthday of the Church, it is gifted by Christ to his Apostles, empowering them to go out to proclaim the good news.

In this Sunday's Gospel Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit to his Apostles is associated with the authority to forgive sins. Among other gifts, the gift of the Holy Spirit is the gift to the Church of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. 'If you forgive the sins of any says Christ, 'they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld'.

Forgiveness – our forgiving and being forgiven - is crucial to Christian living. Without forgiveness the barriers we erect between ourselves and God, as well as between ourselves and others, remain. Moreover, where there are barriers, the fear and isolationism that kept the disciples locked behind closed doors remains. Quite literally, the failure to forgive or seek forgiveness separates us or cuts us off from others. It robs us of the life-giving joy which the first Christians experienced that first Pentecost as language barriers were overcome and the Apostles, the 'Galileans' referred to in our first reading from Acts, could be understood by the peoples of every nation.

Time and again the Gospel reminds us that these same Apostles, were flawed and weak individuals. Again and again Scripture points up their failure to understand what the Lord was saying to them. Peter asked to be washed all over at the Last Supper, his faith failed him when he stepped out of the boat to walk towards the Lord on the water, and while he explicitly denied being a follower of Christ, all the Apostles deserted the Lord when he was arrested and taken into custody. In their going out to proclaim the good news the Apostles experienced in their own lives the transforming and life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

May this same Holy Spirit fill our hearts and minds this Pentecost. May it help us to be more the people we want to be and are called to be. In particular this weekend, as the young people who have been journeying together in Family in Faith (Youth) are presented to Bishop Paul for Confirmation, let us pray that they will be open to all that the Holy Spirit wants to be and do in their lives.

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.

Student Examinations We pray for all of those beginning to sit GCSE, A Levels, college and university exams. Grant them clarity of mind, a calm spirit, and the ability to recall the knowledge they have studied. Remove any anxious thoughts or distractions. We also pray for their families and teachers. Give them the wisdom to support and encourage these young people throughout this season.

Society of St Vincent de Paul The parish SVP Conferences based at St Bartholomew's and St Alban & St Stephen have come together to form a single conference known as the "St Albans SVP Conference". The new conference will continue the work previously undertaken by both conferences. Both conferences are very grateful for the support they enjoyed over several decades and hope that this will continue into the future. The SVP can still be approached via the priests of the parish or by contacting the [parish office](#). We will pass on any request to the SVP.

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: 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 (term time 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.

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.

Harpenden, Luton & District Catenian Association (which includes St Albans parishes) Our monthly dinner last week was a great success with 31 people attending, including non Catenian guests. Did you know that Catenians are one of the main sponsors of Flame, being held next year on Saturday 6 March and organised by CMYfed (The Catholic Youth Ministry). Tickets are now on sale via <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/> Through the Catenian Bursary Fund, Catenians support our young people and have over time awarded £1.2 million- to 16-25-year-old Catholics, to serve in Lourdes or take part in personal projects that help develop their character, through faith. Interested in finding out more about becoming a Catenian, email simon-davies9@sky.com or george.jarzab@gmail.com Nothing ventured nothing gained!

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.

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.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 2 June 2.15-3.45pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Gentle Half Hour of Taize Meditative Chants & Prayer 7.30pm Wednesday 3 June, St Mary's church, Sherwood Avenue, AL4 9QA (by The Quadrant). All welcome.

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.

Fair trade Our stall will be open after all Masses at church over the weekend of 6/7 June and at Marshalswick Mass centre on 14 June. Every time you buy a fair trade item you are directly helping people receive a proper wage and improved working conditions.

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 requested again.

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.

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.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer At this season of Pentecost we pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us towards lives of non-violence, so that all people may live in peace.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 24TH MAY 2026

Saturday 23 May	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Andrea Avvinti (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Agnes Cloherty (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 24 May	PENTECOST SUNDAY	
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
6pm Mass	John Doran (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Monday 25 May	Mary, Mother of the Church	
10am Mass	John Doran (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Ray Lawson & Nagle Family (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Tuesday 26 May	St Philip Neri	
10am Mass	Deceased members of the Moore family	St Bartholomew
Wednesday 27 May	ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Kathleen Rafferty (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	Mary Curran (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Thursday 28 May	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST	
10am Mass	Alice Healey (Ann)	St Bartholomew
12 Noon	Funeral Mass for Sheila Chadwick	St Bartholomew
Friday 29 May	Feria	
12 Noon Mass	No Intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Deceased members of the Darby family	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 30 May	Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday	
10am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
10.45am	<i>Benediction</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 30 May	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Freda and Margaret Clancy (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Martin Cooper (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 31 May	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY	
8am Mass	Dillon O'Flynn and family (Ints)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Grace Pereira (RIP)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	People of the Parish	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Brian Crowley (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	John Doran (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Joan Doyle (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, William Gleeson, Josie Kearney, Peter Murray, Jeremiah O'Shea, Grace Pereira and Vilma Smith.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Maureen Anderson, Andrea Avvinti, Laila Decourcey Birch, Freda and Margaret Clancy, Agnes Cloherty, Martin Cooper, Eric Harber, Alice Healey, Michael Hewitt, Ray Lawson & Nagle family, Kathleen McCormack, Edward "Joe" Murray, Michael & Nalini Nainthy, Kathleen Rafferty, Dorothy Salisbury, Irene & Hugh Tominey and Roberto Virrueta.

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