



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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

3 May 2026 - FIFTH 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 ... Over the last few months there has been an interest expressed by some of our younger children to become altar servers. Anyone who has received their first Holy Communion is eligible to become an altar server. So, what is involved? Altar servers are not there to be on show, but by their actions to enable everyone in church to raise their minds and hearts to God. Altar Servers learn, not just how to serve, but also the meaning behind the actions of the Mass and so gain a deeper understanding of the Mass. Our current servers are invited to attend a training session on Saturday 16 May between 11am and 12.30pm in the Church of St Alban and St Stephen. It is our hope to have altar servers at Saturday evening and all Sunday masses. After this session, ongoing training will be given if required. If you're interested in becoming an altar server please speak with one of the priests either this weekend or next weekend and you will be invited to attend the training session.

For many young people, both boys and girls, this important ministry represents a memorable and formative stage of their early faith years. Many continue on into their teens performing this service, and share their knowledge and experience with their younger brothers and sisters. Over the years some of our older servers have gone onto university/college and still return to serve at special occasions.

It is a privilege to serve at the altar. As a parish let's respond to this call, demonstrate the best of our young people, and ensure that we have servers at all our masses.

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. St Gerard was a Redemptorist lay-brother from the South of Italy, born in 1726. He died at only 29, but was known as a great wonder-worker even during his lifetime. He's popularly invoked as a patron of mothers, particularly expectant mothers, couples trying to conceive, and those looking for work. Come along to pray in front of his relics, participate in Mass, and receive a blessing with his relics.

Spiritans Appeal 9/10 May Next 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 clear: 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. As Pope Francis reminded us in May 2023, we serve "in simplicity of life, respecting peoples and cultures," embracing the most abandoned with fraternity and prayer. Your support and prayers keep our mission alive. Together, we carry the Spiritan light to the world's darkest corners.

Priest Training Fund Retiring Collection The retiring collection for the Priest Training Fund last weekend raised £1,402.95. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

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

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 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.

Funeral arrangements for Christine Dawson The arrangements for Christine Dawson's funeral are as follows: 7pm Thursday 7 May Reception of the Body at St Bartholomew's and 12 Noon Friday 8 May Funeral Mass at St Bartholomew's.

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.

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

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.

Donating to our Parish Please consider making your offertory contribution by standing order and gift aiding your donations, if you do not already do so. Please see our website or click here for a standing order, gift aid form and our bank details. If you register as a gift aiding donor on one of our contactless devices, please ensure you add both your first and surname, in full, and your full address, including road name, so that your gift aid declaration meets the standards for gift aid reclaim required by HMRC.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer Dear Lord, please look after all those moving home.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 3 MAY 2026**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

Monday 4 May

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

Tuesday 5 May

10am Mass

Wednesday 6 May

10am Mass

10.30am

7pm Mass

Thursday 7 May

10am Mass

Friday 8 May

12 Noon Mass

12 Noon Mass

7pm Mass

Saturday 9 May

10am

10.45am

Saturday 9 May

5pm Mass

6pm Mass

Sunday 10 May

8am Mass

8.30am Mass

9.30am Mass

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

6pm Mass

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)

THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

Consecration of the Church in 1977

Patrick Cahill (Ann)

Easter feria

Leisha Dobson (Ints)

Easter feria

Life of the unborn

Exposition and Confessions

Karen Brennan (Ann)

Easter feria

Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Easter feria

No Intention

Funeral Mass for Christine Dawson

Antonia and Francis Loh (Ints)

Easter feria

*Exposition and Confessions**Benediction***VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

Bernadette Sheehan (Ann)

Michael McElroy (Ann)

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Teresa Trzeciak (First Anniversary)

People of the parish

Les Fryatt (Ann)

Franciszek Frosztega (Ann)

Margaret McSweeney (RIP)

Mary Jo Comer (RIP)

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

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St Albans Cathedral

St Bartholomew

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

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, Christine Dawson, Louise Dodd-Federer, Maria Galasso and Mary MacKenzie.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Karen Brennan, Patrick Cahill, Jim Dalley, Felipe Cruz Diaz, Noreen Drummond, Franciszek Frosztega, Les Fryatt, Mary Gallagher, Fr Brendan Hanley MSC, Michael McElroy, Terry Mahabir, Francesco & Immacolata Picciuto, Esther Pinto, Stuart Pohler, Elma Quinn, Bernadette Sheehan and Teresa Trzeciak.

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