



Church Website

## NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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31 May 2026 - THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



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

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*We are a Fairtrade parish*

*Fr John writes...*

Youth unemployment for those aged between 16 and 24 in the United Kingdom was 16.2% in March 2026, compared with 15.8% in the previous month. Some have concluded that it's because of rapid technological change, especially the rise of artificial intelligence, as well as fragile international relationships with conflicts that are testing the world's commitment to Justice and Peace. Pope Leo's first encyclical letter arrives at this time of uncertainty, when the purpose of human work and human purpose are under the microscope. Called, "**Magnifica Humanitas**" in Latin, meaning "magnificent humanity." Pope Leo XIV writes: "We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us and revealed in its fullness in Christ, the splendour of which no machine can ever replace" (MH 15). Clearly the document's teaching is that no machine can replace the God-given magnificence of the human person and that daily questions before us, are not just technological or political – they are deeply human.

The encyclical addresses, "job insecurity and inequality" (MH 151), "manipulation of information or violations of privacy" (MH 102), "ideological bias" (MH 102), "autonomous weapons systems" (MH 197), and "a futuristic vision of an 'enhanced human being'" (MH 115). Pope Leo identifies a deeper danger: that human beings may begin to see themselves and others as projects "to be optimized" (MH 112). Human limits such as "incapacity, illness, old age, suffering, [and] vulnerability," must not be seen simply as "a defect to be corrected." Rather, the magnificence of humanity is that we flourish "not despite [our] limitations, but often through them" (MH 118).

The Encyclical doesn't provide a blueprint for AI governance but it offers the principles that ground the Church's Social Doctrine which can be used for developing the use of AI, with respect to the impact it will have on human dignity, truth, responsibility, work, freedom, solidarity, peace, and the common good. As Pope Leo reflects, AI should serve the common good of humanity not by tempting us to escape human limitation through optimization, but by supporting a life of "openness and communion" (MH 231). Like me, you might be concerned that conversations about AI are being dominated by efficiency, productivity, and competition. We are told that faster systems, lower labour costs, and automated decision-making represent inevitable progress. Pope Leo's encyclical reminds us that the true measure of any economy is not how quickly it produces, but whether it helps people flourish.

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**Student Examinations** We pray for all of those sitting 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.

**St Barts HCPT Group** Grateful thanks to all those generous St Bart's/St Alban and Stephen's parishioners who helped/donated/supported our recent jumble sale - £794.56 (on the day) was raised towards our 2027 pilgrimage, taking children and young people with additional needs to Lourdes next Easter. Unsold books with a monetary value will go to an online bookseller and the remainder will be collected by Oxfam. Surplus jumble will be collected by Keech Children's Hospice for their local shops so three charities will benefit. The next jumble sale will be in September.

**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 ([stalbansec@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stalbansec@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: 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](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.

**Harpenden, Luton & District Catenian Association** (which includes St Albans parishes) Our recent monthly dinner 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](mailto:simon-davies9@sky.com) or [george.jarzab@gmail.com](mailto:george.jarzab@gmail.com) Nothing ventured nothing gained!

**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.

**CWL Thursday 4 June at 2pm** Meet for cake, chat and quiz.

**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.

**Pax Christi AGM: Saturday 6 June 10.30 for 11 - 4.30 pm** St Maria Fidelis School, I Drummond Crescent, Euston, NW1 1LY. To participate in a Catholic contribution to Peace matters either in person or online email [admin@paxchristi.org](mailto:admin@paxchristi.org) to register. Bishop John Arnold will attend. Bring lunch if attending. More details [here](#).

**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.

**Eco-Café** The Salvation Army in Victoria Street on Wednesday 10 June, 10am-12 noon. The theme will be 'Great Big Green Week'. All welcome.

**BINGO** - Our next Bingo evening will be at 8pm on Friday 12 June in the Parish Centre in aid of "Medical Aid for Palestinians." Everyone welcome. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments.

**Refugee Week** Cakes needed please for Saturday 13 June. Our parish is supporting an event during Refugee Week with other local churches. We have been asked to provide the cakes. If you can do so please call Mary on 07976277059. This is a chance to welcome the stranger and feed the hungry!

**Circle of Friends April Invitation** The next Circle of Friends tea will be in St Barts Parish Hall on Wednesday 24 June 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.

## 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 September 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.

**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.

**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer** We pray for our world and for all who suffer because of conflict and injustice; may the Spirit renew the face of the earth.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026**

**Saturday 30 May**

5pm Mass

6pm Mass

**Sunday 31 May**

8am Mass

8.30am Mass

9.30am Mass

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

6pm Mass

**Monday 1 June**

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

**Tuesday 2 June**

10am Mass

**Wednesday 3 June**

10am Mass

10.30am

7pm Mass

**Thursday 4 June**

10am Mass

**Friday 5 June**

12 Noon Mass

7pm Mass

**Saturday 6 June**

10am

10.45am

**Saturday 6 June**

5pm Mass

6pm Mass

**Sunday 7 June**

8am Mass

8.30am Mass

9.30am Mass

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

6pm Mass

**VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

Freda and Margaret Clancy (Ann)

Martin Cooper (Ann)

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

Dillon O'Flynn and family (Ints)

Grace Pereira (RIP)

People of the Parish

Brian Crowley (RIP)

John Doran (RIP)

Joan Doyle (RIP)

St Justin

Sr Clara Lacalle (RIP)

Irene & Hugh Tominey (Ann)

Feria

Eric Harber (Ann)

St Charles Lwanga and Companions

Edward "Joe" Murray (Ann)

*Exposition and Confessions*

Gabriel Sequeira (Ann)

Feria

Funeral Mass for Peter Murray

St Boniface

No intention

Annie Cawley (RIP)

Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

*Exposition and Confessions*

*Benediction*

**VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

Kitty Sheehan (First Anniversary)

Michael & Nalini Nainthy (Ann)

**THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)**

Ellen Small (RIP)

Pat Holahan (RIP)

People of the Parish

Josephine Patricia Hughes (Ann)

Antonio Visconti & Antonietta Wallis (RIP)

Gaye Murphy nee Brennan (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

St Bartholomew

St Bartholomew

St Alban & St Stephen

St Bartholomew

St Albans Cathedral

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 William Gleeson, Kristine Gullick, Des Markham, Peter Murray, Clarence Ougier, Vilma Smith and Michael Whitehead.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Marie & Jack Bradley, Freda and Margaret Clancy, Anne Marie Comer, Martin Cooper, Eric Harber, Josephine Patricia Hughes, Gaudencio Mendoza, Edward "Joe" Murray, Michael & Nalini Nainthy, Roberto Virrueta, Gabriel Sequeira, Kitty Sheehan and Irene & Hugh Tominey.

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