



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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21 June 2026 - ST ALBAN



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... On Monday of this week, following a relatively short stay in hospital and fortified by the Rites of the Church, Fr Peter Dwyer died. He was 93. That same day was also the sixty-ninth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. As a historian, concerned with dates and timings, I am sure Fr Peter would have appreciated the neatness of this. He was the oldest and longest serving priest of the Diocese, and he has been a long established part of the Catholic community in this part of the Diocese, and especially here in the City of St Albans. Although he had retired from teaching and 'active' ministry some years ago, he continued to supply in a good many parishes, enabling many serving parish priests to get away and rest. Peter loved people and he loved to talk. When visiting him, he would often press you to stay a little longer. He thrived in company and in sharing the wealth of information, experience and stories that his studies, ministry and travel afforded him. His funeral arrangements have yet to be put in place, but as we give thanks to God for his life and ministry, and for the ways in which he has blessed our particular parish communities, let us also pray for the repose of his soul.

*Grant, we pray, O Lord, that the soul of Peter, your servant and priest,
whom you honoured with sacred office, may exult forever in the glorious home of heaven.*

Children, it's Competition Time! We have almost completed the building works to the church porch and it's time to equip it. We are inviting children to design a mug to be used. This mug wants to make the user feel very welcome in our church, it wants to be colourful and it wants to make us want to smile. Using an A4 piece of paper, landscape, could you create a design, picture or logo for some of the mugs to be used in the Hall? We will aim to have between 8 and 10 designs printed onto the mugs - could it be yours? Entries must be handed to the parish office by Sunday 5 July.

Refugee Week Monday 15 June to Sunday 21 June, with World Refugee Day falling on Saturday 20 June. The official theme for the 2026 event – which also marks the festival's 40th anniversary – is "Courage".

Thanks to all who supported the recent Refugee Week event at the Cathedral Thank you to all those who has supported the parish's commitment to Refugee Week, especially to the cake makers and confirmation candidates. Some feedback from St Albans' District Refugee Resettlement Officer: 'I [spoke] to quite a few of our Sanctuary Seekers at the event and everyone was having a lovely time and was very happy to be there. For so many of them, opportunities to get outside and have fun and enjoy some food and company without it costing anything are very few and far between. ...Thanks to St. Alban and Stephen Church for the homemade cakes...and to everyone else who showed up on the day.'

Lampedusa Cross displayed against the Lectern We are privileged to have this unique crucifix made on the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa from wood from a boat carrying refugees to the island. God our loving Father, we pray for the wellbeing of all people seeking peace and safety.

Student Examinations We pray for all of those sitting 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.

Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Prayer Dear Lord, give strength to all those people who have to flee their countries and begin again.

Day for Life The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. In England and Wales, Day for Life is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. This year it falls on Sunday 21 June and there will be a retiring collection after all masses this weekend. This year's theme is The Wonder of the Child in the Womb.

Peter's Pence Next weekend we have a retiring collection for Peter's Pence which directly supports Pope Leo's charitable works, funding humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and the activities of service carried out by the Curia.

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). 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 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. Last date before the summer - 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.

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.

The Chosen The Adult Faith Formation group have resumed showing of The Chosen for six weeks from Thursday 18 June at 11am in the St Alban & St Stephen parish centre meeting room. Everyone is welcome to join us in watching this fascinating story of what it might have been like to live around Jesus during his ministry on earth during the Roman occupation of Palestine. Refreshments from 10.45am.

St Paul's - Supporting people living with Dementia 7.30-9pm 22 June (hot/cold drinks served from 7:15) We are hosting an evening session exploring issues around dementia, especially helpful for those who have friends or loved ones suffering from the disease. St Paul's Church, Blandford Road, AL1 4JP.

Circle of Friends Tea Event Unfortunately the 24 June event has had to be cancelled. The monthly teas will resume with the July Summer Party in St Barts Parish Hall on Wednesday 29 July between 2-4pm where there will be games/quiz/ sing along included as well as your catch up chats over the tea. All are welcome to join. We would particularly welcome members of the St Albans

Catholic Women's' League and their spouses/partners/friends. It would be helpful if you get let Maureen Kelly know if you will be attending or are in need of a lift: 07860 283743 or e mail stars2004@btinternet.com

In the Image of God: The Human Body as Gift - Monday 29 June 5-7:10pm. A free event at Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School. All are welcome. Drinks and nibbles will be served and followed by a roundtable activity and a Q&A panel. Details and registration [here](#).

Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on 30 June 2.15-3.45pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

St Columba's College Prep and Senior School Open Morning on Thursday 2 July. A wonderful opportunity to have a full tour of the school by current students and to hear from the Leadership Team. Please register using [this](#) link.

C.W.L. Tuesday 2pm 7 July Please note change of day! We welcome a refugee who will explain the circumstances which lead him to leave his country and find refuge elsewhere and the problems he encountered. This very interesting talk is open to all. Cost £3 to include refreshments.

Talk 2.30 - 3.30 pm Thursday 9 July Meeting Room Ss Alban and Stephen Parish Centre All are invited to hear about a local Catholic school's implementation of teaching the secondary curriculum through Catholic Social Teaching. To be given by Miss Marta Gallego, Head of Biology and Deputy Head of Science at Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School. Hosted by the Herts Circle of the Newman Association.

BINGO Many, many thanks for the support for our recent Bingo evening. The amount raised, including donations, for "Medical Aid for Palestinians" came to £250.00. Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 10 July at 8pm in the Parish Hall.

More Human: Pope Leo has just published a **new encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas***. It speaks about what it means to be human in our time, especially with in the age of AI. Join us for these 3 short workshops to introduce and explore aspects of this timely document with input, as well as reflection and prayer. In St Aloysius Parish Hall, Phoenix Rd, London NW1 1TA, Mondays 13 July, 21 September, 23 November, 7.30-8.45pm. All Welcome! Register to attend [here](#). These workshops will also be online. Information at info@fcjecojustice.co.uk.

Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life - Our Lady's Shrine at Walsingham on Saturday 1 August. The celebrant is Rt. Rev. Peter Collins, Bishop of East Anglia. 12:00 - 16-30, beginning with the Pilgrim Mass at noon. Coach leaves St Bartholomew's church at 7.50am. Price: £30 adults & £12 children. Further information and livestreaming can be found on the website: To book contact: Geraldine (07971028415).

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

St Bartholomew's 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.

Fire Safety During the current works, if the number of people in church exceeds 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/October 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.

WhatsApp Guidance and Consent Forms In response to parishioner requests, we have recently drafted some guidance for those people responsible for managing Parish WhatsApp groups, together with a simple consent form to be completed by all members of the group. If you are the organizer or administrator of a WhatsApp group set up to help with a parish activity or group, please could you contact the parish office for a copy of the guidance and consent form.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 21ST JUNE 2026

Saturday 20 June	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Mary O'Reilly (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Christine Dawson (RIP)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 21 June	ST ALBAN	
8am Mass	Maureen Lerwill & Kathleen McCormack (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Christine Dawson (RIP)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Marie & Jack Bradley (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Catherine Murphy (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	People of the Parish	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Kathleen Bamford (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
Monday 22 June	SAINTS JOHN FISHER AND THOMAS MORE	
10am Mass	Anne Marie Whitehead (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Funeral Mass for Salvatore Urso	St Bartholomew
Tuesday 23 June	Feria	
10am Mass	Francisco Pujol (RIP)	St Bartholomew
Wednesday 24 June	ST JOHN THE BAPTIST	
10am Mass	Chris Murphy (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	Teresa Cahill (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
Thursday 25 June	Feria	
10am Mass	Eileen O'Neill (RIP)	St Bartholomew
Friday 26 June	Feria	
12 Noon Mass	Priest's intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Deceased Members of the Madden Family	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 27 June	St John Southworth	
10am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
10.45am	<i>Benediction</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 27 June	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Noreen Donohue (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Jean & Geoff Carwardine (RIP)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 28 June	SAINTS PETER AND PAUL	
8am Mass	People of the parish	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Edna McCarthy (Ann)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Donald Smith (RIP)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Kitty and John Griffin (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Kate and Paddy Chronnell (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen

Mass Readings and Reflections for the week are available online from Universalis [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 Fr Peter Dwyer, Judy Linnane, Margaret McHugh, Leonard Joseph McIntyre, Clarence Ougier, Salvatore Urso, Frances Weaver and Michael Whitehead.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Kathleen Bamford, Marie & Jack Bradley, Geoff Brown, Jean & Geoff Carwardine, Teresa Cahill, Kitty and John Griffin, Keith Knighton, Maureen Lerwill, Edna McCarthy, Kathleen McCormack, Chris Murphy, Fr Jerome O'Hanlon MSC and Alison & John O'Neill.

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