



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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12 July 2026 - FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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...

This weekend's scripture speaks a lot about growth. In the first reading Isaiah speaks of the rain and snow which waters the earth enabling it to bring forth and sprout. The psalmist speaks of the water and showers that level and soften the earth, blessing it with growth, girding the hills with joy and decking the valleys with wheat. In the second reading St Paul speaks of a creation which has been caught up in the pains of childbirth, until now and the coming of Christ. And finally in the Gospel and the well-known parable of the seeds and the sower, Jesus reminds us that the good and fertile soil, in which the seed will grow, is that soil, that person, who has heard his word and understands it.

This week at St Alban & St Stephen we have the great joy of having our porch and forecourt being handed back to us by the builders. It's tempting to see this as the completion of these works as the end of something, but for me it's more of a beginning, the sowing of a seed. We haven't extended the porch and refurbished the forecourt for the porch or forecourt's sake, we haven't done it to make things more comfortable or simply pleasing for ourselves, we have done it to improve the quality and the sense of welcome that people perceive and receive. In other words it is we, the priests and people of this parish, who are called to water the seed that this refurbishment is; bringing it to life by ensuring that its potential as a place of welcome is realised.

Completion of the Church Porch Building Works The usual pattern of weekday masses will resume from this coming Monday, 13 July, with the Monday at 12 Noon and Wednesday at 10am being said at St Bartholomew's, and the remaining weekday masses being said at St Alban and St Stephen. From Monday 13 July it will also be possible to hold funeral masses at St Alban & St Stephen.

Fr Peter Dwyer (RIP) The arrangements for Fr Peter's funeral are as follows:

- Monday 13 July 6.30pm Reception of the Body with Evening Prayer - St Alban and St Stephen church
- Tuesday 14 July 11.30am Funeral Mass - St Alban and St Stephen church
- There will be refreshments after the Funeral Mass upstairs in the main hall
- Fr Peter will be buried at St Patrick's Cemetery in Leytonstone at a private family service

Archbishop Richard will preside at Fr Peter's Funeral Mass. Please note that parking on the church premises will be very limited and we expect that many people will want to attend Fr Peter's funeral. Anyone coming by car is asked to park on neighbouring roads or at the city station so that parking spaces in the car park can be used by those with limited mobility.

Sea Sunday On 12 July, churches around the world celebrate Sea Sunday, a day for people to come together to pray for seafarers, fishers, and all who work at sea, and thank them for the vital role they play in our lives. There will be a retiring collection after all masses this weekend to support the work of Stella Maris (formerly The Apostleship of the Sea). Stella Maris's chaplains and ship visitors provide fishers and seafarers with practical and pastoral support, information and a listening ear in the UK and worldwide.

Care and Compassion in Care Homes Would you be a listening friend and visit someone in a care home who has few or no visitors? Timing is flexible to suit your availability and full training and support will be given. Help is available to complete the diocesan safeguarding requirements from Mary Harber whose details are at the top of the newsletter. We will be appealing for more volunteers for this valuable ministry after all masses this weekend. For more information, please contact the parish office.

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

Masses during August As with last year, we will once again run an August timetable. Although the weekday schedule will remain as it currently is, the weekend masses will be as follows St Alban & St Stephen 5pm (Saturday Vigil), 8am, 11am & 6pm (Sundays); St Bartholomew's 6.15pm (Saturday Vigil) 9.30am (Sunday). There will be no Sunday mass at St John Fisher, Marshalswick in August. The usual schedule will resume on Saturday 5 September.

The last Sunday bulletin will be the weekend of 25/26 July. It will be resumed on 29/30 August. During August a slimmed down version of the bulletin containing the Mass schedule and mass intentions will be available.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation Registrations for both of these sacraments are now open. Please access the form from the home page of the [parish website](#), reading information about the journey to the sacraments beforehand to understand the commitment. Registration will close on 9 September and late registrations will not be accepted.

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 12 July 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..

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. The last one before the summer break is 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 cantonmasses@sesea@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. Please note that there are no refreshments after mass on Monday 13 July.

More Volunteers needed at Centre 33 Centre 33 is a small local charity that provides hot meals and a warm welcome 5 mornings and evenings each week for anyone in need in the St Albans area. The charity has been running for nearly 50 years and is operated entirely by volunteers who work in teams of 3 in the morning and 4 in the evening. More volunteers are needed to keep our rota filled. Could you help by giving 2 hours of your time say once a month or as frequently as you are able? The rota is flexible so volunteers only sign up for slots that suit them. Full training is provided. Please talk to Melanie on 07900 051956 or apply direct via Centre 33's [website](#).

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.

Adult Faith Formation The weekly showings of 'The Chosen' TV series in the parish centre will continue in September after the summer break.

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.

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.

Fair trade The parish fair trade stall will be open after all Masses this weekend and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 19 July. Your support is very much appreciated by families so much worse off than we are.

Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Thursday 16 July 2.15-3.45pm. Please note the change of day for this meeting only. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

CAFOD Petition Please take a moment after Mass on the weekends of 18/19 and 25/26 July - to sign a petition to about the global debt crisis affecting 54 countries. These countries are paying millions to wealthy lenders, diverting scarce resources from food, healthcare and education. The petition asks our Government to pass a Debt Justice law and to lead global reform of the debt system. Forms will be available at both the church and Marshalswick Mass Centre.

Concert on Saturday 25 July 7.30pm 'Guitar for Gaza' at St Albans Cathedral. Performed by classical guitarist Noah Layzell. Tickets bookable [here](#).

Parish Friends Tea Party Sunday 26 July 3-4.45pm All senior parishioners are invited. We are delighted that the band Jac.out.the.box will be performing for us once again so we are assured of a great afternoon. If anyone can make a cake it would be appreciated. Please include ingredients used and ensure the cake arrives in plenty of time before the party starts - maybe drop it off in the parish centre when you attend mass. If anyone can offer a lift please contact Helen 07860 830340 as early as possible.

Harpenden, Luton & District Catenians monthly men's meeting 8 July at Harpenden Golf Club There is short meeting starting at 7pm followed by a convivial dinner and Catholic men of the parish are very welcome to join us. There are no conditions as it really is a just a come and take a look, invitation. It's important that Catholic men and through them their families take time out to mix socially, feel able to chat freely and listen to likeminded people. Just let George.jarzab@gmail.com know before this Sunday please, so he can book you in.

Circle of Friends Summer Party 2-4pm 29 July St Barts Parish Hall with 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. If you will be attending or need a lift, please contact stars2004@btinternet.com or 07860 283743.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

St Bartholomew's 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 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.

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 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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 12TH JULY 2026

Saturday 11 July

5pm Mass

6pm Mass

Sunday 12 July

8am Mass

8.30am Mass

9.30am Mass

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

6pm Mass

Monday 13 July

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

6.30pm

Tuesday 14 July

11.30am Mass

Wednesday 15 July

10am Mass

10.30am

7pm Mass

Thursday 16 July

10am Mass

Friday 17 July

12 Noon Mass

7pm Mass

Saturday 18 July

10am

10.45am

Saturday 18 July

5pm Mass

6pm Mass

Sunday 19 July

8am Mass

8.30am Mass

9.30am Mass

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

6pm Mass

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

Richard Field (Ann)

CONFIRMATION MASS

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Donor's Intentions

Cliff Staniforth (RIP)

Patrick Cahill (Ann)

People of the parish

Salvatore Realmuto (RIP)

Teresa Virrueta (Ann)

Feria

Christine Dawson (RIP)

Sheila Melville (Ann)

Reception of the Body of Fr Peter Dwyer

Feria

Funeral Mass for Fr Peter Dwyer

St Bonaventure

David Brown (Ann)

Exposition and Confessions

Mary Curran (RIP)

Feria

Pat Holohan (RIP)

Feria

Priest's intention

Mary Deirdre Crossley (RIP)

Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

Exposition and Confessions

Benediction

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

Patrick Keegan (Ann)

Geoff Bliss (Ann)

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Padraic Lynskey (RIP)

Michael Aylward (Ann)

Peter Nagle (Ann)

Patrick Ryan (RIP)

People of the parish

Nan O'Driscoll (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 Alban & St Stephen

St Alban & St Stephen

St Bartholomew

St Bartholomew

St Alban & St Stephen

St Alban & St Stephen

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 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 Olly Beeson, Fr Peter Dwyer and Maggie Moore.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Michael Aylward, Geoff Bliss, David Brown, Patrick Cahill, Michael Feeney, Richard Field, Patrick Keegan, Michael Leahy, Sheila Melville, Peter Nagle and Teresa Virrueta.

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