



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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19 July 2026 - SIXTEENTH 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 / stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059

We are a Fairtrade parish

Fr Michael writes... In today's Gospel Jesus tells the parable of the weeds, relating how the land which had been sown with good seed, was corrupted by the land owner's enemy who sowed the same land with weeds. Yet, instead of ordering his servants to cut out the weeds the land owner tells them to leave things alone until harvest time when the weeds and wheat can be told apart. There is a warning perhaps in the parable not to rush in and judge matters too hastily, but there is also a reminder to us that we have not been called to live our faith in some kind of vacuum, oblivious to or isolated from the realities of the world. Rather, we are called to let the world come near and live our faith in the world, lest in shunning the world, we let the good that is to be found in the world, the world created by God, pass us by.

There is a powerful reminder of the proximity between the world and people of faith in the opening words of *Gaudium et Spes* (Joy & Hope), the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. 'The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ'.

Venezuela Appeal The UK Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), of which CAFOD is a long-standing member, has launched the [DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal](#) to raise vital funds for communities affected by the earthquake in June. Please also keep those affected by this disaster in your prayers.

New Parish Database It is a number of years since we last did a full parish census and we are conscious that a large number of parishioners and families have joined and left the parish since then. We would like to have an up to date record of those living and worshipping in our parish. We are therefore in the process of setting up a new parish database and we hope to include contact information for as many parishioners as possible using a very short online registration form. This form will only request limited information, namely parishioner names and contact details plus details of any parish groups or ministries in which you may be involved. Information will be stored securely on the Diocesan servers and access will be restricted so that data is protected and only used for the purposes for which it has been shared. We hope that it will allow us to communicate with people more efficiently and effectively. For those parishioners who don't have online access, there will be the opportunity to complete the form with the help of a parish volunteer in the parish office. Once the database has been set up and the form is ready for completion, we will add a link to the bulletin and the website. For the moment, access to the current registration form has been suspended.

Summer Period Bulletins The last Sunday bulletin before the summer break will be that for next weekend - the weekend of 25/26 July. The full bulletin 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.

Masses during August As with last year, we will once again run an August Mass 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 6.30pm (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.

CAFOD Petition Please take a moment after Mass this weekend and next - 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.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer With Pope Leo XIV we pray for all human life today. I pray that I may value my own life and know that you have a special purpose for me, even if it doesn't seem important. Watch over each human life and help us to be mindful of one another in our daily encounters, aware that others may be struggling with hidden burdens behind outward smiles. Walk with me in all I do today, Lord.

SACRAMENTAL & LITURGICAL

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 If any parent would like to help with this wonderful service to our younger community, then please contact Joan Egenes (stalbansecc@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 during term times.

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 cantonmassessea@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.

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 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 call Melanie on 07900 051956 or apply 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 and flour collections Many thanks for your continued generosity to local migrants. There are currently new, female, residents in a local hotel and the staff have confirmed that ongoing donations of toiletries would be very welcome. In particular we have been asked for shampoo, toothbrushes for adults and children, and toothpaste, sanitary towels (not tampons), soap and shower gel. We also collect decent quality, clean men's clothing. Migrants who are training as baristas are also seeking donations of flour - any kind. The collection box is housed in the storage cupboard to the left of the porch as you leave. Please ask if you cannot locate it.

Adult Faith Formation The weekly showings of 'The Chosen' TV series will continue in September.

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 Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 19 July. Your support is very much appreciated by families so much worse off than we are.

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.

Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 28 July 2.15-3.45pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

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.

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)

Local Peace Event remembering the dropping of the Atom bombs in Japan in 1945 9 August Please support a short service which is held annually at the Abbey next to the Peace Obelisk in Sumpter Yard, just off Holywell Hill. This year the service will be held on Sunday 9 August. Assemble from 2.50pm; the service starts at 3pm and lasts about 20 minutes. You are invited to stay for tea afterwards.

BINGO Many, many thanks for the support for our recent Bingo. The amount raised for the Knights of St. Columba, including donations, came to £70-00. The next Bingo is on Friday 11 September (none in August).

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.

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 19TH JULY 2026

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

Monday 20 July

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

Tuesday 21 July

10am Mass

11.30am Mass

Wednesday 22 July

10am Mass

10.30am

7pm Mass

Thursday 23 July

10am Mass

Friday 24 July

12 Noon Mass

7pm Mass

Saturday 25 July

10am

10.45am

Saturday 25 July

5pm Mass

6pm Mass

Sunday 26 July

8am Mass

8.30am Mass

9.30am Mass

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

6pm Mass

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

Patrick Keegan (Ann)

CONFIRMATION MASS

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)

Feria

Terry Pickard (Ints)

Michael Leahy (Ann)

Feria

Mary Josephine Enright (First anniversary)

Funeral Mass for Margaret Moore

ST MARY MAGDALENE

Maggie Moore (RIP)

Exposition and Confessions

Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

Richard Field (RIP)

Feria

Priest's intention

Sheila Evans (RIP)

ST JAMES

Exposition and Confessions

Benediction

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

Rosaleen Creaven (RIP)

Herman D'Souza (Ann)

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Colin Smith (RIP)

Kevin Barry (Ann)

FHC children & their families (Ints)

Tom Miskell (Ints)

Edmund Leung (Ann)

People of the parish

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 Bartholomew

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

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, Anne Gomm, Edwin Kemp, Maggie Moore and Deacon Gerry Reilly.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Michael Aylward, Kevin Barry, Patrick Cahill, Herman D'Souza, Mary Josephine Enright, Richard Field, Patrick Keegan, Michael Leahy, Edmund Leung and Peter Nagle.

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