



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

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26 July 2026 – SEVENTEENTH 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... In today's Gospel Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to hidden treasure which is discovered by a man who reburies it in the same field, sells all he has, and buys the field in which the treasure is buried. He also relays the parable of the merchant who on finding a pearl of great value, sells all he has in order to buy the pearl. The parables pose a simple question; what is it that you treasure, so much so, that you would forsake everything you have for it?

In these coming weeks many of us, whether we are going away or staying at home, will have an opportunity to rest from the regular round of daily work. It's a chance to recoup, to spend longer with family and friends, to catch up on the things that we need to do, but the breathing space the holidays give are also an opportunity to step aside from the daily grind and to reflect on our priorities, on what's important, on what we treasure.

On behalf of Fr John, myself and the whole parish team I wish you an enjoyable, relaxing and reflective summer.

Sea Sunday The recent retiring collection for Stella Maris (formerly The Apostleship of the Sea) raised £415.90. Thank you for your generosity.

Summer Period Bulletin This is the last full bulletin before the summer break. The full bulletin will resume on 29/30 August. In August a slimmed down bulletin containing the Mass schedule and mass intentions will be made available.

Masses in August 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.

Fair-trade The monthly fair-trade stall will be open after all Masses over the weekend of 8/9th August. We have plenty of Zaytoun stock from oppressed farmers in the West Bank as well as our usual selection of fairly traded foods from around the world. Helping those in need acts as a light in the darkness; please consider if you can help spread that light.

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 the Church and Marshalswick Mass Centre.

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.

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 (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..

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 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.

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 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. It is checked regularly.

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)

SVP One of the SVP's ministries is visiting and supporting prisoners. There are many who would like a visit but have no one to visit them. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming an official prison visitor, information can be found on the following website: [https:// www.naopv.com/what-is-an-official-prison-visitor/](https://www.naopv.com/what-is-an-official-prison-visitor/) If you would like to find out more about the SVP's ministry in prisons please email Charlotte at: PresidentA221613@svp.org.uk.

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.

Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group We will be meeting in the Parish Centre on Thursday 28 July 2.15-3.45pm. Please note the change of day for this meeting only. 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, Walsingham Saturday 1 August. The celebrant will be Bishop Peter Collins of East Anglia. 12:00 - 16:30 beginning with the Pilgrim Mass at noon. Coach leaves St Bartholomew's church at 7.50am. £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. Assemble from 2.50pm; the service starts at 3pm and lasts about 20 minutes. You are invited to stay for tea afterwards.

March for LIFE UK The annual March for Life takes place on Saturday 5th Sept in London. Abortion has devastating repercussions for mothers and children, but its wider impact on the family is often overlooked. It can lead to fractured relationships, hidden grief, and guilt. That's why the theme for this year's March is 'Abortion Hurts the Family'. Join thousands of others at this family-friendly event. To Find out more visit www.marchforlife.co.uk or email or contact Isabel 07773 501721 or info@marchforlife.co.uk

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 26TH JULY 2026

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

Monday 27 July

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

Tuesday 28 July

10am Mass

Wednesday 29 July

10am Mass

10.30am

11.15am

7pm Mass

Thursday 30 July

10am Mass

Friday 31 July

12 Noon Mass

7pm Mass

Saturday 1 August

10am

10.45am

Saturday 2 August

5pm Mass

6.30pm Mass

Sunday 3 August

8am Mass

9.30am Mass

11am Mass

6pm Mass

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 & John Miskell (Ints)

Edmund Leung (Ann)

People of the parish

Feria

Mary MacKenzie (RIP)

Noreen McAllen (Ints)

Feria

Christine Dawson (RIP)

Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Life of the unborn

Exposition and Confessions

Benediction

Santos Parra (First Anniversary)

Feria

Nan O'Driscoll (RIP)

St Ignatius of Loyola

Priest's intention

Louis Fernandes (RIP)

St Alphonsus Liguori

Exposition and Confessions

Benediction

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

Patrick & Bernadette Marron (Ann)

Emilio Mateo (Ann)

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah O'Shea (RIP)

People of the Parish

John Brian Kent (Ann)

Hannah Shadbolt (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 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 Bartholomew

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, William Gair, Anne Gomm, Edwin Kemp and Deacon Gerry Reilly.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Kevin Barry, Anne Cosimini, Herman D'Souza, Pete Helliwell, John Brian Kent, Edmund Leung, Patrick & Bernadette Marron, Emilio Mateo, William Gerald Murphy and Santos Parra.

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