



Church Website

NEWS BULLETIN - ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm Tel: 01727 853 585

E-mail: stalban@rcdow.org.uk Website: www.albanstephen.org

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/c/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch>

5 July 2026 – FOURTEENTH 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... It's the beginning of July and soon August and the summer break will be upon us. 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 change in mass schedule reflects the lower attendance we have in August and means we could cope if there is a difficulty with obtaining a supply priest to cover holidays. 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 the weekend of 29/30 August. During August a slimmed down version of the bulletin containing the Mass schedule and mass intentions will be available.

Six Monthly Practice Fire Drill There will be a practice fire drill after all masses this weekend.

Completion of the Church Porch Building Works The usual pattern of weekday masses will resume from 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 the funeral of Fr Peter have now been finalised and 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 that day 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.

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.

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 next 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 after all masses next 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

Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation Registrations for both of these sacraments are now open. Please access the form from the website, reading information about the journey to the sacraments beforehand to understand the commitment. Registration will close 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 5 and 12 July 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. 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@a@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.

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 are showing The Chosen for six weeks from from Thursday 18 June at 11am in the St Alban & St Stephen parish centre meeting room. Everyone is welcome to join us. Refreshments from 10.45am.

Parish Friends meeting 7 July The next meeting of the Parish Friends Group is Tuesday 7 July at 6.45pm in the foyer of the Parish Centre. We would really welcome new members so please do come along if you are free.

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 Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 10 July at 8pm in the Parish Hall for 'The Knights of St. Columba'. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

Fair trade The parish fair trade stall will be open after all Masses over the weekend of 11/12 July and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 19 July. Your support is very much appreciated by families who are 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 7.30 pm 25 July '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. Lifts can be arranged but please ask early if you require one. **If anyone can make a cake or offer a lift please contact Helen 07860 830340.**

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.

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 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 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 5TH JULY 2026

Saturday 4 July

5pm Mass

6pm Mass

Sunday 5 July

8am Mass

8.30am Mass

9.30am Mass

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

6pm Mass

Monday 6 July

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

Tuesday 7 July

10am Mass

Wednesday 8 July

10am Mass

10.30am

7pm Mass

Thursday 9 July

10am Mass

Friday 10 July

12 Noon Mass

7pm Mass

Saturday 11 July

10am

10.45am

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

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

Nellie Clancy (RIP)

Kathleen O'Connor (RIP)

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Helen Louise Westbury (RIP)

Sam Johnston (Ann)

People of the Parish

Evelio Azcona (RIP)

Rita Caparelli (RIP) and family

Alberto Domingos (RIP)

Feria

Teresa Sequeira (Ann)

Jean Richardson (Ann)

Feria

Ethelreda Forster (Ann)

Feria

Mary Welstead (Ann)

Exposition and Confessions

Mark Van Beeumen MSC (Ints)

Feria

Holy Souls

Feria

Priest's intention

Gerald Foster (First Anniversary)

ST BENEDICT

Exposition and Confessions

Benediction

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)

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 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 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, Leonard Joseph McIntyre and Maggie Moore.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including David Brown, Patrick Cahill, Theresa Docherty, Joan Egan, David Eldred, Richard Field, Ethelreda Forster, Gerald Foster, Sam Johnston, Keith Knighton, Sheila Melville, Alice & John O'Neill, Jean Richardson, Teresa Sequeira, Teresa Virrueta and Mary Welstead.

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