



St Alban & St
Stephen website

NEWS BULLETIN - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST ALBANS 6 SEPTEMBER 2026 - TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Boy - michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Fr John Casey - johncasey@rcdow.org.uk



St Bartholomew's
website

Fr Michael writes... In today's second reading from the letter to the Romans St Paul reminds us of the central commandment to love our neighbour. 'For the one who loves another,' he says, 'has fulfilled the law'. Loving isn't always comfortable, for loving doesn't always mean agreeing with others, it can mean challenging them. So in today's readings both Ezekiel and Jesus invite us to call out the wrong doing of others, as much - as Ezekiel reminds us - for the sake of the wrong doer as for ourselves. In different ways today's scripture reminds us of the responsibility we have towards and for one another; that if we are to live our lives in imitation of the Christ who lived his life for the salvation of all, and in this showed the depth of his love, we must be equally concerned for the well being and salvation of others as we are for our own.

SVP Raffle Raffle tickets in support of the SVP will be sold after all masses in both parishes on the weekend of 12/13 September. The SVP reaches out to those in need, providing friendship, support and practical assistance. The proceeds of this raffle will help our St Albans SVP to directly assist local people, and also support national initiatives. Thank you so much for your support; please make donations in cash as we are unable to process card payments.

Sacramental Preparation Registration If you have a child in year 3 or above who wishes to celebrate their First Holy Communion, or a child in year 9 or above who wishes to be confirmed, please follow [this link](#) for St Alban & St Stephen parish or contact the parish office for the link to the St Bartholomew's application forms. The closing date for registration is 9 September and late registration will not be possible

Season of Creation 1 September to 4 October The aim of the season is to encourage us to pray for our common home. This season's theme is 'Living Water'. The first of two prayer and reflection sheets on this year's theme will be available this weekend and a second will follow during September.

Education Sunday 13 September Education Sunday falls on the second Sunday of September just as the new academic year starts and is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in England and Wales, established 178 years ago in 1848. It provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making Catholic schools places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation of the year ahead.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer We pray for a renewal of mind in humanity, especially in the protection and restoration of the beauty of God's creation, our common home. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

St Alban & St Stephen Church
14 Beaconsfield Rd, St Albans AL1 3RB
Email: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk
Website: www.albanstephen.org
[YouTube/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch)
Tel: 01727 853585
Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm
Deacons: Rev. Brendan Day & Rev. Michael Larmer
Parish Administrator: Mrs Angela Gray
Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Mary Harber
stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk/07976 277059
Catechetical Coordinator: Mrs Joan Egenes

St Bartholomew's Church
49 Vesta Avenue, St Albans AL1 2PE
Email: stalbanssouth@rcdow.org.uk
Website: www.stalbanssouth.org.uk
www.facebook.com/StBartsRCChurch
Tel: 01727 850066
Office Hours Mon, Tues, Wed & Friday 9am-12.45pm
Deacon: Rev Anthony Curran
Parish Administrator: Mrs Dawn Pace
Safeguarding Lead: Mr Chris Blandford
stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Please support your parish by scanning the appropriate parish QR code below and donating today. Our QR codes connect to our contactless giving machines which can be used to make either a general or more specific donation.



ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN



ST BARTHOLOMEW

SACRAMENTAL & LITURGICAL

Sacramental Preparation For more information about sacramental preparation in your parish, or for enquiries about becoming a Catholic, please see the relevant parish website or contact your parish office.

Family Resources 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 Intentions Mass intentions can be booked by phoning or visiting the relevant parish office during office hours. Outside these times, please email the office to request a mass intention. Donations can be made by posting an envelope through the relevant presbytery door or by making a payment via bank transfer. Please note that masses can be booked up to one year in advance and dates tend to get booked up a few months in advance. 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 parishes, is £10 per mass.

Prayers for the Sick If you would like to include someone in the prayers for the sick, please contact the relevant 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 the request is renewed.

ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN PARISH

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). If you can help with Little Lights please get in touch 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 evenings, once a month.

St Alban and St Stephen Parish 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 and flour collections

Many thanks for your continued generosity to local migrants. 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 checked regularly and housed in the storage cupboard to the left of the porch as you leave.

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.

Mass in Polish Mass in Polish takes place at St Alban and St Stephen at 4pm on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

Lourdes Pilgrimage by Jumbulance One of our parishioners Ruth Argent has volunteered to support those travelling to Lourdes by Jumbulance in October. Any donations to help fund this accessible pilgrimage and support the Jumbulance Trust in its work would be greatly appreciated. Click [this link](#) in order to donate.

Mercy Associates Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8 September in Room 1 of the Parish Centre at 10.30am. Sr Maura will be joining us.

The Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group Meeting in the Parish Centre on 8 September 2.15-3.45pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

BINGO Our next Bingo evening will be on Friday 11 September at 8pm in the Parish Hall. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

Fair-trade The parish fair-trade stall will be open after all Masses at Church over the weekend of 12/13 September and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 20 September. Products from many desperately poor parts of the world will be available.

Mothers' Prayers 8pm on Monday 14 September in the prayer room. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from office@mothersprayers.org

Parish Friends Tea Party The next Parish Friends Tea Party is on Sunday 20 September in the Parish Hall from 3-5pm. All senior parishioners are invited. We are delighted that the amazing band Diamond Years have agreed to entertain us again so we can be certain of a fantastic afternoon. If you can offer a lift to the party or make a cake, please contact Helen Bassill on 07860

830340. Please include the ingredients of any cakes made and try to get them to the hall before the event.

Volunteers for Visiting Care Homes - Date for your Diary Thursday 24 September, 6.30 for 7pm in the parish centre. Training, tips and allocation of your choice of home to visit.

Magnifica Humanitas Pope Leo's encyclical speaks about what it means to be human in this age of artificial intelligence and other technologies. Sr MaryAnne Francalanza FCJ, Director, FCJ Centre for Spirituality, will lead us in a parish retreat day focused on the encyclical, on Saturday 17 October 11am to 4.45pm, St Alban & St Stephen parish hall, 14 Beaconsfield Road, AL1 3RB. Tea, coffee, soup and roll lunch available. All welcome! For catering purposes, please register with the parish office stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH

Revamping our 'Christmas for Someone Else' (CSE) We have had meetings with our fellow St Albans & St Stephen parishioners who have shared some of their effective approaches to this annual challenge. We will be sharing our St Bart's ideas for improving and extending our offering from this Christmas season after masses early autumn. We will need a few extra volunteers for the autumn admin, shopping, IT, ccommunications, networking. Limited time commitment - for an informal chat with no commitment please contact Jackie Tominey 07702 958585 stalbanssouthpcc@rcdow.org.uk

St Bart's Food Bank We ideally need the following: long life items (milk and fruit juice), tinned items (fruit, veg, meat, fish and puddings), cooking sauces, coffee, teabags, cereals and jam. Thank you for all your generosity.

Toiletries for asylum seekers Toiletries such as shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorants are urgently needed at a local asylum hotel. Please put any donations in the box at the back of church.

Remembrance Candle Remember a loved one by sponsoring a 7 day candle in the Remembrance Chapel and inviting people to pray for the repose of their soul please contact the Parish Office. The cost is £25 for the week and includes a picture with wording of your own choice, a candle and flowers.

St Bart's Thursday Baby & Toddler Group The parish baby and toddler group run every Thursday morning in St Bart's hall between 11am-12.30pm. Babies and young children up to the age of 4 are welcome to join us. It is also an opportunity for parents and carers to chat together sharing experiences and advice over a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. There is no charge but a small contribution towards refreshments' cost is appreciated. Lizzie Lizzio (group lead-efkelly88@gmail.com).

Soup & Bread lunches Come and join our soup lunches, after the midday mass. Catch up with friends and enjoy a bowl of soup.

Jumble Sale 10am Saturday 26 September Proceeds to St Bart's HCPT Group for Easter 2027 pilgrimage. Good quality jumble and donations are welcome, especially children's clothes, but no large or electrical items. Please leave in St Bart's Parish Centre entrance hall between 9am and 8pm on Friday 25 September - queries to Barbara Bliss (01727 873672)

Circle of Friends Invitation The next Circle of Friends tea will be in St Barts Parish Hall on 30 September 2-4pm. Please let Maureen Kelly know if you are attending or need of a lift: 07860 283743 or stars2004@btinternet.com

LOCAL & WIDER COMMUNITY

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.

CTSA Forum Tuesday 29 September We will meet at St Saviour's Church to hear three people talk about their churches. Refreshments will be available from 7:15 pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30. Everyone is welcome.

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.

Community Café St Julian's church, in Cottonmill, is holding a Community Café every Thursday from 10.30 - 12.00, with coffee/tea and cake £2.

People's Emergency Briefing Film for the Season of Creation (1 Sept to 4 October) we are encouraged to view the film The People's Emergency Briefing, Our Changing Climate: the Future we choose. Locally it can be seen at: St Luke's Church Cell Barnes Lane on 9 September at 7.30pm and at St Saviour's Church, 25, Sandpit Lane, AL1 4DF at 7.30pm on 22 Sept. [Book here](#) (free to view.)

Please contact your MP to oppose assisted suicide The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. It will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September. Please write to your MP to make your voice heard and oppose the Bill. The charity [Right to Life UK](#) has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament.

Marriage Help Retrouvaille has helped 1,000's of couples to work through conflict, improve communication and restore trust and hope. Next weekend 2-4 October, Welwyn Garden City. Bookings close 18 September. www.Retrouvaille.org.uk +44 7887 296 983.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Saturday 5 September	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Larry Hughes (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6.30pm Mass	Romeo Canencia (RIP)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 6 September	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
8am Mass	John Taylor (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Christine Dawson (RIP)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Josephine Veronica Howe (RIP)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Martin and Bridget Cloherty (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Peter Ayers (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	John Quinlan (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Monday 7 September	Feria	
10am Mass	Liber Marzo (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	David Keiley (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Tuesday 8 September	THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	
10am Mass	Deceased members of the Sheehan & Guinnelly families	St Alban & St Stephen
Wednesday 9 September	Feria	
10am Mass	Margaret McGread (RIP)	St Bartholomew
10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	Canon Jeremiah Cronin (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
Thursday 10 September	Feria	
10am Mass	Funeral Mass for Paulo Leto	St Alban & St Stephen
Friday 11 September	Feria	
12 Noon Mass	Priest's intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Arminda Domingos (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 12 September	Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday	
10am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
10.45am	<i>Benediction</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 12 September	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	John Paton (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Lia & Ruando D'Sa (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 13 September	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
8am Mass	Fintan Bergin (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Susanna Mole (Ann)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Gladys Anderson (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	People of the parish	
12 Noon Mass	Guiseppe Capparelli & Genaro Capparelli (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Damien Mearns (First Anniversary)	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 Mary Buckley, Tim Coakley, Michael Fitzpatrick, Jerry Griffin, Paolo Leto, David Linton, Kathleen McGoohan, Lawrence Janes, Patrick James Moran, Shilpa & Kiran Nathwani, Michael Norris and John Patrick Whittamore.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Gladys Anderson, Fintan Bergin, Andrew Brown, Josie Clarke, Martin and Bridget Cloherty, Canon Jeremiah Cronin, Lia & Ruando D'Sa, Arminda Domingos, Larry Hughes, David Keiley, Eddie Mansfield, Liber Marzo, Damien Mearns, Susanna Mole, Denise Murphy, John Paton, and Fr Richard Scriven MSC.

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