



St Alban & St
Stephen website

NEWS BULLETIN - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST ALBANS 13 SEPTEMBER 2026 - TWENTY FOURTH 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

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.

Home Mission Sunday 20 September 2026 Those with long memories will be familiar with *Home Mission Sunday*. It is the title given to the day we ask our parishes to pray for the work of evangelisation and to support this vital work through a [second collection](#) after all masses next weekend. A few years ago, this day was re-named *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* after Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation the 'Joy of the Gospel'. Now, in 2026, we revert to using the original name - *Home Mission Sunday*. On *Home Mission Sunday*, the bishops of England and Wales ask the faithful of our countries to look for ways in which we can all do our part in sharing the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ. When we speak of 'Home Mission' we are not neglecting our sisters and brothers around the world (*World Mission Sunday* gives due attention to this important work), but we recognise that we are called to witness to Christ in our homes, at work, in our friendships and in every aspect of our daily life. Being part of the family of God means we should feel 'at home' but this also challenges us to be missionary disciples in England and Wales so that we can make a home for all who hunger and thirst for the God who loves them and wants them to come home to him.

SVP Raffle Raffle tickets in support of the SVP will be sold after all masses in both parishes this weekend. 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.

School Applications & Certificates of Catholic Practice Fr Michael will be available at the presbytery on Beaconsfield Road at the following times to sign Certificates of Catholic Practice for nursery, primary or secondary school places:

- Wednesday 16 September 3.30-6pm
- Friday 2 October 3.30-7.30pm

Please be aware that not all catholic schools require the Certificate of Catholic Practice. No appointment is necessary and children need not attend. Fr Michael has copies of the forms to be completed.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer We pray for all those who are already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

St Alban & St Stephen Church
14 Beaconsfield Rd, St Albans AL1 3RB
Email: stalbands@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: stalbandssouth@rcdow.org.uk
Website: www.stalbandssouth.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 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.

ST ALBANS CATHOLIC PARISHES

Mothers' Prayers 8pm Monday 14 September in the prayer room at St Alban and St Stephen church. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from office@mothersprayers.org

St Alban & St Stephen Parish Friends Tea Party The next Parish Friends Tea Party is on Sunday 20 September in the St Alban & St Stephen Parish Hall from 3-5pm. All senior parishioners are invited and Diamond Years have agreed to entertain us again. If you can offer a lift 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.

St Alban & St Stephen Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group Meeting in the St Alban & St Stephen Parish Centre on 22 September 2.15-3.45pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

Jumble Sale St Barts parish centre 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. This is open to all. Come along and have a chat and catch

up with old friends. Please let Maureen Kelly know if you are attending or need of a lift: 07860 283743 or stars2004@btinternet.com

Loreto College Open Evening for September 2027 entry 4-7pm Tuesday 29 September. Please use the entrance in Upper Lattimore Road. More details are available on the school website www.loreto.herts.sch.uk.

Saturday 10 October Soup and film event In support of CAFOD harvest fast day. We are showing the Kenneth Branagh live-action version of Cinderella [U] in the St Alban & St Stephen parish centre. Bishop Robert Barron gives a short commentary on the film as an allegory of the Christian salvation story. All are invited to a simple bread and soup lunch at noon and/or the film at 1pm. Free entry with a collection for CAFOD.

Magnifica Humanitas Sr MaryAnne Francalanza FCJ, Director, FCJ Centre for Spirituality, will lead us in a parishes retreat day focused on Pope Leo's encyclical what it means to be human in this age of artificial intelligence and other technologies, 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

Blessing of Graves at Hatfield Road Cemetery (near Chapel) - 2pm Saturday 7 November and London Road (front car park) - 2pm Saturday 21 November. There will be a short prayer service after which Fr Michael, Fr John and Deacons Brendan and Michael will be available to bless individual graves.

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

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.

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.

Season of Creation - what can we do? This month we all have a chance to engage with making a change in the way we interact with each other and creation. Leaflets are available in the Church porch with practical ideas that you can commit to undertake during September. Please look at the ideas, or decide upon your own, and return your commitment to the labelled box in the church porch by 19/20 September. A summary of parish commitments made will be published on the digital noticeboards. Then, let us know what you achieved by 4 October by returning the second half of the leaflet in the same way. The results will be announced later that month.

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

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.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH

St Bart's Food Pantry Store cupboard items most needed - tinned meat/fish/complete meals, milk, cereal,

juice, coffee, noodles, rice and puddings. Financial donations also welcome. Thank you!

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.

- Josie Clarke - 11-18 September

St Bart's Thursday Baby & Toddler Group Every Thursday morning in St Bart's hall 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)

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

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.

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.

Homewood Road UR Church AL1 4BH Everyone is invited to attend the 6.30pm evening service on Sunday 13 September with a special focus on Israel/Palestine.

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 Saviour's Church, 25, Sandpit Lane, AL1 4DF at 7.30pm on 22 Sept. [Book here](#) (free to view.)

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.

Marriage Help 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 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Saturday 12 September

5pm Mass

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

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

St Alban & St Stephen

12 Noon Mass

Guiseppe & Genaro Capparelli (RIP)

St Alban & St Stephen

6pm Mass

Damien Mearns (First Anniversary)

St Alban & St Stephen

Monday 14 September

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

10am Mass

Anne Smet (RIP)

St Alban & St Stephen

12 Noon Mass

Deceased members of the McMahon family

St Bartholomew

Tuesday 15 September

Our Lady of Sorrows

10am Mass

Funeral Mass for David Linton

St Alban & St Stephen

Wednesday 16 September

Saints Cornelius and Cyprian

10am Mass

Andrew Brown (Ann)

St Bartholomew

10.30am

Exposition and Confessions

St Bartholomew

11am Mass

Funeral Mass for Lawrence Janes

St Alban & St Stephen

7pm Mass

Colin Smith (RIP)

St Alban & St Stephen

Thursday 17 September

Feria

10am Mass

Alban and Peggy Brampton (Ann)

St Alban & St Stephen

Friday 18 September

Feria

12 Noon Mass

Priest's intention

St Albans Cathedral

7pm Mass

Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)

St Alban & St Stephen

Saturday 19 September

Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

10am

Exposition and Confessions

St Alban & St Stephen

10.45am

Benediction

St Alban & St Stephen

Saturday 19 September

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

5pm Mass

Hughie Scollan (Ann)

St Alban & St Stephen

6pm Mass

Life of the unborn

St Bartholomew

Sunday 20 September

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am Mass

Fearghal Bergin (Ints)

St Alban & St Stephen

8.30am Mass

Danny Onn (Ann)

St John Fisher School

9.30am Mass

Giovanni & Providenza Cicchirillo (Ann)

St Bartholomew

10am Mass

Pauline, Bella & John Taites (RIP)

St Alban & St Stephen

12 Noon Mass

Michael Anthony George (RIP)

St Alban & St Stephen

6pm Mass

People of the parish

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, David Linton, Kathleen McGoohan, Lawrence Janes, Delores Lemon, Patrick James Moran, Shilpa & Kiran Nathwani, Michael Norris, Krishantha Rathnayake and John Patrick Whittamore.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Gladys Anderson, Fintan Bergin, Alban and Peggy Brampton, Andrew Brown, Giovanni & Providenza Cicchirillo, Josie Clarke, Kate Chronnell, Lia & Ruando D'Sa, Damien Mearns, Susanna Mole, Johnny Moloney, Denise Murphy, Danny Onn, Fr Pat O'Sullivan MSC, John Paton and Hughie Scollan.

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