



St Alban & St
Stephen website

NEWS BULLETIN - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST ALBANS 20 SEPTEMBER 2026 - TWENTY FIFTH 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 Michel writes...

Today's Gospel speaks of a God whose sense of justice and fair play is somewhat removed from our own. Yet, this God, this master, appears to treat the diligent worker rather meanly, he goes out of his way to call in the waif and stray: he visits the market place, not just once, but several times, to bring them in, to get them to do the little they can do, and then rewards them out of all proportion. All at once today's Gospel is challenge and consolation. Challenge because it flies in the face of what we might consider to be fair and just. Consolation because it speaks of a God who will search after us again and again; of a Kingdom populated by the grace and mercy of God rather than right or endeavour; and because there are times and areas in all our lives where we are dependent on and benefit from the skills, strengths and effort of others, where, so to speak, we may be the labourers who arrived late with little to offer.

The Chosen The Adult Faith Formation group will resume showing of 'The Chosen' on Thursday 1 October at 10.45am in the meeting room in the St Alban & St Stephen parish centre. Everyone welcome to join us in watching this fascinating story of what it might have been like to live around Jesus during his ministry on earth during the Roman occupation of Palestine. Refreshments from 10.30am.

Home Mission Sunday 20 September 2026 This weekend we are asked to pray for the work of evangelisation and to support this vital work through a [second collection](#). When we speak of 'Home Mission' we are not neglecting our sisters and brothers around the world, 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.

School Applications & Certificates of Catholic Practice Fr Michael will be available at the presbytery on Beaconsfield Road on Friday 2 October 3.30-7.30pm to sign Certificates of Catholic Practice for nursery, primary or secondary school places. 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 In a time of great challenge, let us be guided by Christian values and pray that new technologies will be at the service of human development.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

St Alban & St Stephen Church
14 Beaconsfield Rd, St Albans AL1 3RB
Email: stalbens@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
stalbenssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07976 277059
Catechetical Coordinator: Mrs Joan Egenes

St Bartholomew's Church
49 Vesta Avenue, St Albans AL1 2PE
Email: stalbenssouth@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
stalbenssouthsg1@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

St Alban & St Stephen Parish Friends Tea Party 3-5pm Sunday 20 September, St Alban & St Stephen Parish Hall. All senior parishioners are invited and Diamond Years will entertain us again. If you can offer a lift or make a cake, please contact Helen Bassill on 07860 830340.

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.

People's Emergency Briefing Film Our Changing Climate: the Future we choose' St Saviour's Church, 25 Sandpit Lane, AL1 4DF at 7.30pm on 22 Sept. [Book here](#) (free to view)

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)

St Columba's College Prep and Senior School Open Day Saturday 26 September 9am- 1pm We also have a Stay and Play activity session in our Forest School on that day - 9.30-12.30pm for children up to seven years. Please register using the [following link](#). For questions, please see the school [website](#) or email [Mary Masters](#).

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.

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

Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School Open Evening Please join us on Thursday 1 October 5-8pm. For more details please see the poster in the porch or visit the [school website](#).

CWL 2.15pm Thursday 8 October A talk on the role of Amnesty International. In the St Alban & St Stephen Parish Centre. This is open to all, cost £3.00 including refreshments

Bingo A big "Thank You" for the support for our recent bingo evening. The total raised, including donations, for CAFOD - Nepal Emergency Fund, came to £50.00. Our next BINGO evening will be on Friday 9 October at 8pm in the Parish Hall at SS. Alban & Stephen.

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.

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 this weekend. 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. Copies of the second of two [leaflets](#) about the Season of Creation are available in the porch.

Fair-trade The parish fair-trade stall will be open after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 20 September.

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.

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 holds a Community Café every Thursday 10.30 - 12 noon, with coffee/tea and cake £2.

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 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Saturday 19 September

5pm Mass

6pm Mass

Sunday 20 September

8am Mass

8.30am Mass

9.30am Mass

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

6pm Mass

Monday 21 September

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

Tuesday 22 September

10am Mass

Wednesday 23 September

10am Mass

10.30am

7pm Mass

Thursday 24 September

10am Mass

Friday 25 September

10am

12 Noon Mass

7pm Mass

Saturday 26 September

10am

Saturday 26 September

5pm Mass

6pm Mass

Sunday 27 September

8am Mass

8.30am Mass

9.30am Mass

10am Mass

12 Noon Mass

6pm Mass

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

Hughie Scollan (Ann)

Life of the unborn

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Fearghal Bergin (Ints)

Danny Onn (Ann)

Giovanni & Providenza Cicchirillo (Ann)

Pauline, Bella & John Taites (RIP)

Michael Anthony George (RIP)

People of the parish

ST MATTHEW

Joseph Chi Kin Fong (Ann)

Noel & Kate O'Reilly (Ann)

Feria

George and Freda Sumner (Ann)

St Pius of Pietrelcina

Hannah & Padraic Scanlon (Ints)

Exposition & Confessions with Benediction at 11.15am

Eric Harber (RIP)

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Funeral Mass for Kathleen McGoohan

Feria

Funeral Mass for Michael Norris

Priest's intention

Catherine Murphy (First Anniversary)

Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday

Exposition & Confessions with Benediction at 10.45am

VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY

Nigel Appleyard (Ann)

Marie-Jose Bush (Ints)

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

People of the parish

Christine Dawson (RIP)

Mollie Fryatt (Ann)

Thomas and Mary Miskell (Ann)

Patrick Curran (Ann)

Eileen Bagge (RIP) & deceased family members

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 Alban & St Stephen

St Alban & St Stephen

St Alban & St Stephen

St Albans Cathedral

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 Mary Buckley, Kathleen McGoohan, Delores Lemon, Barbara Mathew, Patrick James Moran, Shilpa & Kiran Nathwani, Michael Norris, Krishantha Rathnayake and John Patrick Whittamore.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Nigel Appleyard, Giovanni & Providenza Cicchirillo, Patrick Curran, Joseph Chi Kin Fong, Mollie Fyatt, Thomas & Mary Miskell, Johnny Moloney, Catherine Murphy, Denise Murphy, Danny Onn, Noel & Kate O'Reilly, Fr Liam O'Callaghan MSC, Fr Pat O'Sullivan MSC, Hughie Scollan and George & Freda Sumner.

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