



St Alban & St
Stephen website

NEWS BULLETIN - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST ALBANS 27 SEPTEMBER 2026 - TWENTY SIXTH 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

CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 2 October This a day when we are invited to pray, eat simply and give generously. By giving to CAFOD this Harvest, we can put our faith into action and share God's love with our neighbours overseas. Please collect a CAFOD envelope as you leave mass, so that you can Gift Aid your donation, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. There will be a retiring collection after all masses during the weekend of 3/4 October. Thank you for your generosity.

SVP Raffle St Albans SVP would like to thank the people of both parishes for their generous response to our recent raffle, which raised £1,024.50. This will support the SVP's national work, and will also enable us to help many beneficiaries throughout St Albans. Many thanks for your generosity.

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.

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.

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 is 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.

Fire Marshals wanted We are asking for more volunteer Fire Marshals to ensure we have the required number at each mass. Volunteer Fire Marshals will only be required to do something in the unlikely event of a fire. There are instructions and there will be training. Please seriously consider volunteering. Contact your parish office for details

Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation Prayer We pray for all the children of the world living in places of war, violence & occupation & especially for the children of Palestine, Israel and the Middle East. May they know your peace.

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
stalbanssouthsg1@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

Open morning at St Adrian's 2026-27 If you are preparing for your child to start Nursery or Reception in September 2027, then please book a tour to see our wonderful school in action. Open morning dates from 9.15-10am on: Friday 25 September, Thursday 1 October, Thursday 5 & 12 November, Friday 20 November, Friday 4 December, Thursday 7 January. Please [email](#) the office or call 01727852687 to book a tour or visit our [website](#).

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](#).

St Alban & St Stephen Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group Meeting in the St Alban & St Stephen Parish Centre on 6 October 2.15-3.45pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

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

Bingo 8pm Friday 9 October in the Parish Hall of St. Alban & St Stephen, in aid of our St. Albans SVP. Admission is 50p and includes refreshments. Everyone is most welcome.

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.

Churches Together Prisons Action Fair Wednesday 14 October Marshalswick Baptist Free Church 7:15 for 7:30pm Time to act! Get involved with cards, presents, leaving bags, visiting and more.

First Men's Breakfast after the summer break Saturday 17 October in the parish centre at SS Alban & Stephen. Coffee, Pastries and chat from 8.15am. From 9am, we will watch a video talk on Bible Study from Dr Scott Hahn, aiming to finish by 10am. For further information please contact Richard Exact on 07976 252309

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.

Carols by Candlelight 7.30pm Wednesday 23 December We welcome all parishioners from across the two parishes who'd like to take part in our popular Carols by Candlelight service. Musicians should be confident playing around Grade 5 or above. Singers - there are no auditions! Please email cbcstalbens@rcdow.org.uk or text 07840 367555 if you'd like to take part.

Practice dates are as follows:

- Saturday 28 November: Band 1.30-3.15pm in church; Singers 3.15-4.30pm gather in porch
- 5 December: Band 1.30-3.15pm in church; Singers 3.15-4.30pm in hall
- 12 December: Band 1.30-3.15pm in church; Singers 3.15-4.30pm in hall
- 19 December: Band & Singers in church 1.30-4.30pm
- 22 December: Dress rehearsal in church 7-9.30pm
- 23 December: Warm-up and audio check 5.45pm

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.

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 5pm Saturday Mass. Coffee and tea are also available after 10am Mass each Monday.

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 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 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 at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month in the Parish Centre, starting. All welcome. See [here](#) for future events.

Season of Creation So far, over 200 people have committed to try to do something new to protect the environment and each other. The top things are walking more, using the car less, recycle/reuse things and cooking only what you need. It's not too late to join in: just write down your commitment and drop it into the box in the porch. See the digital noticeboards for the full results. 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 all Masses at the Church over the weekend of 3/4 October and Marshalswick Mass Centre on 11 October.

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. 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.

Monday soup & bread & cake lunches Come and join our soup lunches in the hall, after the midday mass. We are urgently needing some "guest" soup makers. Are you able to provide help even if it is on an ad hoc basis. Please contact Mark James on 07587 149459 to discuss. All offers of help are gratefully received. Thank you.

October is the month of the Rosary We will be saying the Rosary at St Bart's before Saturday and Sunday Masses during October. On Saturday the Rosary will begin at 5.40pm and on Sundays at 9.10am. Rosaries and prayer cards will be available in the porch. Please join in!

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.

The Good Counsel Network Monday 28 September Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. For information please see [here](#) or contact 020 7723 1740.

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.

Art and Craft Fair at St Albans URC, Homewood 2.30-5pm Saturday 3 October and 11.30m-3pm Sunday 4 October Come along and enjoy the arts and crafts made by members and friends of our church. There will be a children's art and craft corner and a poetry corner. Free entry and refreshments provided.

Mary's Meals Film Event 'Lettie' 7pm 22 October St Albans Cathedral At age 10, Lettie had lost her parents, was battling severe hunger, and had to drop out of school. Now we revisit her: an educated, healthy, working mother providing for her own family. Her story illustrates that education, nutrition and the kindness of people can be the catalyst for lasting change that not only transforms one child's life but impacts the lives of future generations. For free tickets, please [book here](#).

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 27TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Saturday 26 September	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Nigel Appleyard (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Marie-Jose Bush (Ints)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 27 September	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
8am Mass	People of the parish	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Christine Dawson (RIP)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Mollie Fryatt (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Thomas and Mary Miskell (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Patrick Curran (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Eileen Bagge (RIP) & deceased family members	St Alban & St Stephen
Monday 28 September	Feria	
10am Mass	Funeral Mass for Patrick James Moran	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Deceased members of the Moran family	St Bartholomew
Tuesday 29 September	SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL	
10am Mass	George Pereira (Ints)	St Alban & St Stephen
Wednesday 30 September	St Jerome	
10am Mass	Margaret & Allan Boyd (Ints)	St Bartholomew
10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	John Piggott (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Thursday 1 October	St Therese of the Child Jesus	
10am Mass	Ignacio Ponce de Leon (First Anniversary)	St Alban & St Stephen
Friday 2 October	Holy Guardian Angels	
12 Noon Mass	Priest's intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Maria Angeles Azcona (Ints)	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 3 October	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 3 October	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	George Xuereb Brennan (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Josie Clarke (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 4 October	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
8am Mass	Sara and Ian Nash (Ints)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Margaret Norris (RIP)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	David Dobson (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Agnes and Michael Walsh (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	John Green (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Ann-Maria Whitehead (RIP)	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 Michael Fitzpatrick, Margaret McGrath, Elizabeth Jane Kent, Barbara Mathew, Patrick Moran and Krishantha Rathnayake.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Nigel Appleyard, George Xuereb Brennan, Josie Clarke, Patrick Curran, David Dobson, Mollie Fryatt, John Green, Kathleen & Michael Healy, Thomas & Mary Miskell, Johnny Moloney, Denise Murphy, Ignacio Ponce de Leon, Fr John Roche MSC and Agnes & Michael Walsh.

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