



St Alban & St
Stephen website

NEWS BULLETIN - CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST ALBANS 11 OCTOBER 2026 - TWENTY EIGHTH 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... Thank you for the cards, messages, letters and masses I have received following the death of my sister, Cathy. They are all much appreciated. Cathy is the middle of my three sisters and is the first of the five of us (we have a younger brother) to die. For her husband and children, as well as my father, siblings and me, her dying has come sooner than expected. We had hoped she would have longer, but this wasn't to be. Cathy had a firm faith and died with tremendous grace. She mothered all of us, not just her own family, through the final stages of her earthly life. Her funeral will take place this week. Please pray for Cathy, remembering also her husband and children, as well as our father, my siblings and me as we give thanks for the blessing of her life, mourn her dying and pray for the repose of her soul.

Magnifica Humanitas 11am-4.45pm Saturday 17 October, St Alban & St Stephen parish hall. Sr Mary Anne Francalanza FCJ, Director, FCJ Centre for Spirituality, will lead us in a parishes retreat day focused on Pope Leo's encyclical. Tea, coffee, soup and roll lunch available. All welcome! For catering purposes, please register with the parish office.

Holy Souls Lists November is the month of the Holy Souls when we pray for our deceased relatives and friends but also remember those who have no one to pray for them. If you would like to include people on the Holy Souls list, which will be placed near the altar, please use one of the leaflets and envelopes available in the porch and return it to the Parish Office. Any offering you wish to make towards the masses offered for the Holy Souls can be included in these envelopes or in a plain envelope marked 'Holy Souls' and posted through the Parish Office door. Please feel free to alternatively email your Holy Souls list to the parish office. The leaflet and Novena Prayer are also available on the parish websites. There will be masses in each of our parishes to remember and pray for parishioners who have died over the past twelve months. These will take place at 7pm on Friday 6 November at St Alban & St Stephen and at 7pm on Monday 9 November at St Bartholomew and a candle will be lit for each of those who have died in the last year. If you would like to add the name of someone who has died in the last twelve months, please email your parish office.

World Mission Sunday There will be a retiring collection after all masses next weekend for World Mission Sunday.

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.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Prayer For all those people who are homeless, please look after them.

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 Please book 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

Loreto College (St Albans) Secondary transfer open morning tours for September 2027 entry will take place from 12 October - please book via our [website](#). The Co-educational Sixth Form Open Evening with guided tours will take place 6-8pm on Wednesday 14 October.

The theology of John Henry Newman and its relevance for today's Church 2.30pm Wednesday 14 October the Parish Centre SS Alban and Stephen Church, the Herts Circle of the Newman Association will be showing a recording of a Margaret Beaufort Institute talk entitled Authority and Obedience by Dr Geertjan Zuidwegt (KU Leuven). All are welcome to attend.

Churches Together Prisons Action Fair Wednesday 14 October Marshalswick Baptist Church 7:15 for 7:30pm. Cards, presents, leaving bags, visiting and more.

Prison Action Fair Help with cards, presents, leaving bags, visiting and more. 7.30-9pm Wednesday 14 October at Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Avenue, AL4 9QL. Organised by CTSA.

Catenians Event 7pm 14 October After a short meeting, including time for prayer, we will listen to Fr Brendan over dinner. Fr Brendan Seery, Parish Priest of Our Lady Help of Christians, Luton, is an inspiring priest who in addition to his parish duties is studying for a PHD in Canon Law. He will speak to us about the Universality of Faith, relative to men (on this occasion).

Cost per person is £35 including wine. Please email dennis@denniscooper.uk to reserve your place.

Reception 2027 St Columba's College assessments will be taking place on Thursday 15 October. If you would like your child to attend, please complete an application using the following link: [St Columba's College](#). If you have any questions please contact Mary Masters on 01727 892097 or masters.m@stcolumbascollege.org

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

St Alban & St Stephen Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group Meeting in the St Alban & St Stephen Parish Centre on 20 October 2-3.30pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340.

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. For free tickets and more information, please [book here](#) or contact David Markham on 07543 400650.

Circle of Friends Tea Invitation 2-4pm 28 October St Barts Parish Hall. This is open to all. Come along and have a chat and catch up with old friends. Please [email](#) Maureen Kelly if you are attending or need of a lift or call 07860 283743.

Open morning at St Adrian's 2026-27 for Nursery or Reception admissions in September 2027. Please book a school tour during our open mornings from 9.15-10am on: Thursday 5 & 12 November, Friday 20 November, Friday 4 December, Thursday 7 January. Please [email](#) the office or call 01727852687 to book or visit our [website](#).

Talk - The Challenge of AI South St Albans Churches (SSAC) invite you to a presentation by Peter Berners-Lee 7.30pm Tuesday 3 November at St Bartholomew's RC Church Hall. There will be time for questions/discussion and refreshments after the presentation. For further details, please [contact](#) Christine Lambert.

St. Alban & St. Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery Open Mornings & Evening Thursday 12 November, 9.15-10.15am and 6-7pm. Applications for September 2027 Nursery and Reception entry, plus January 2028 applications for Nursery pupils in the term following their third birthday. To reserve your place on a school tour, please contact the school office on 01727 866668 or [email](#). For further details, visit our [website](#).

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 or email to take part. Practice dates are as follows:

- Saturday 28 November: Band 1.30–3.15pm Singers 3.15–4.30pm
- 5 December: Band 1.30–3.15pm Singers 3.15–4.30pm
- 12 December: Band 1.30–3.15pm, Singers 3.15–4.30pm
- 19 December: Band & Singers 1.30–4.30pm
- 22 December: Dress rehearsal 7–9.30pm
- 23 December: Warm-up and audio check 5.45pm

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 with a short social for everyone after mass. Our Parish Youth Masses take place at 6pm on Sunday evenings, once a month 11 Oct, 22 Nov, 13 Dec, 24 Jan, 28 Feb, 21 March, 25 April, 23 May, 13 June.

Season of Creation At the start of September, as part of our focus on the Season of Creation, many of us made a commitment to do something new to improve the world we live in. As the Season draws to a close, it is time to see what was achieved. At the end of all masses this weekend you will have the opportunity to complete a short form to record what you did. The results will be collated and published on our digital noticeboards in the porch. You can also complete an online form [here](#).

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 Specifically we need shampoo, toothbrushes for adults and children, and toothpaste, sanitary towels (not tampons), soap and shower gel. 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. Many, many thanks for your amazing generosity in providing clothing for migrants over the last couple of years. We have now been advised that no further men's clothes are required.

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. All welcome. See [here](#) for future events.

Fair trade Fair trade: our stall will be open after Masses at Church over the weekend of 17/18 October. We have a wide range of Advent calendars and Christmas cards as well as our usual range of foods from Palestine and the developing world.

SVP Clothing collection for Prison Sunday (11 Oct) Our parish and SVP group are collecting Men's clothing, including coats (size M, L and XL) and shoes (9-12) for newly released prisoners. Socks and new briefs would also be welcome. Please bring them to a box labelled SVP in the Parish Centre during the week or weekend.

Mothers' Prayers Meeting 8pm on Monday 12 October in the Prayer room. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. Information from office@mothersprayer.org

You Can Be Santa (YCBS) YCBS supports local children and families who might otherwise miss out on the joy of Christmas. We are now appealing for voucher donations (£5, £10 and £20) from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos & Amazon. Every voucher, whatever the value, can help make Christmas special for a child or family. Monetary donations will also be gratefully received via the Presbytery. For confidential family referrals or further information contact stalbensycbs@rcdow.org.uk. A YCBS collection will take place after each Mass on the weekend of 31 October & 1 November.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH

Collection for Asylum Seekers Thank you to all parishioners who have donated toiletries for asylum seekers living locally. They were much appreciated. The hotel is closing shortly and the asylum seekers will be dispersed. Please do not donate any more toiletries now.

Harvest Festival Weekend 10/11 October - Food Pantry Appeal At this time of year when we celebrate nature's bounty we also have an opportunity to offer our Food Pantry families and Open Pantry guests fresh fruit and veg in addition to the all-important store cupboard staples. So, as usual, we'll be asking parishioners to bring their donations and place them on the altar before the weekend masses. Financial donations also welcome. Thank you for continuing generosity!

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!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 11 OCTOBER 2026

Saturday 10 October	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	Karen Doran (nee Rowley) (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Fr. Peter Dwyer (RIP)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 11 October	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
8am Mass	James Ladley (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Polly Lee (Ann)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	People of the parish	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Lorraine McLoughlin (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Pope Francis (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen
Monday 12 October	Feria	
10am Mass	Steve Lee (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Frances Mary Goldsmith (RIP)	St Bartholomew
Tuesday 13 October	ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR	
10am Mass	Graham Smith (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
Wednesday 14 October	Feria	
9am Mass	Holy Souls	St Bartholomew
	<i>No exposition or confessions today</i>	
7pm Mass	Colin Smith (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Thursday 15 October	St Teresa of Jesus	
10am Mass	Deacon Gerry Reilly (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Friday 16 October	Feria	
12 Noon Mass	Priest's intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Bridget Ridge (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 17 October	St Ignatius of Antioch	
10am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
10.45am	<i>Benediction</i>	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 17 October	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	
5pm Mass	David Griffin (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Baby Thomas & Fernandes family (Ints)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 18 October	TWENTY-NINTH 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	Timothy Ahern (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Philomena Kayodealy (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Peter Celestine Okoro (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Patricia Conway (Ann)	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 Cathy Byrne, Gordon Cunningham, Richard Greaves, Margaret McGrath, Sr Janet Norman and Patrick O'Callaghan.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Timothy Ahern, Patricia Conway, Karen Doran (nee Rowley), David Griffin, Polly Lee, Steve Lee, Lorraine McLoughlin, Denise Murphy, Bridget Ridge, Peter Rowland, Pat Sherlock, James Sinclair and Graham Smith.

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