St Alban & St Stephen website

NEWS BULLETIN – CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST ALBANS

25 OCTOBER 2026 – THIRTIETH 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… After more than eight years, our caretaker, Mark Healy, will be stepping down towards the end of November. I am immensely grateful to Mark for all that he has done to deliver a safe and presentable environment for priests, parishioners and users. Mark will remain a parishioner, but his daily presence on Beaconsfield Road will be greatly missed. In light of Mark's departure we will be recruiting a part-time site supervisor to work Monday-Friday 8-11am. The successful candidate will play a key role in the care and upkeep of the parish complex. Working independently, as well as with volunteers and contractors, he or she will help ensure that the site is maintained to a high standard and that health and safety requirements are met. An application form and full job description can be found at https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/site-supervisor-job-ref-895-stals/. Closing date for applications is 11 November, with interviews on 17 November.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes July 2027 The next Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place between 16 and 23 July 2027. At this stage, we are seeking to gather names of anyone who would be interested in going on the pilgrimage. The level of interest will determine whether or not St Alban and St Stephen and St Bartholomew parishioners can travel as a parish group, or just on an individual basis, with Westminster Travel. If interest is sufficient, then Fr John would lead the group and we would arrange a return coach from here to Stansted, joining the other pilgrims in Lourdes for the duration of the pilgrimage.

At this stage the actual cost has not yet been confirmed, due to fluctuations in travel costs. However, an estimate would be in the region of £1,200-£1,300 which would cover return flights, travel insurance and full board at a hotel within walking distance of the Grotto. A single room supplement could be anything between £205-£255 although availability for single rooms is very limited. If we have sufficient interest from our parishes we would ask the Diocese for our group to be booked into the same hotel for the duration of the pilgrimage.

If you are interested in joining the Diocesan pilgrimage we would need confirmed expressions by Friday 27 November. This would give us time to arrange for completion of the Diocesan Expression of Interest Form for either a parish group or individual travel. So, if you might like to go on pilgrimage to Lourdes next July, get checking your passport and either e-mail Fr John at johncasey@rcdow.org.uk heading your e-mail, 'Lourdes 2027' or phone the parish office.

You Can Be Santa (YCBS) YCBS supports local children and families who might otherwise miss out on the joy of Christmas. There will be a retiring collection after all Masses at St Alban & St Stephen and St John Fisher next weekend in support of this longstanding St Alban & St Stephen parish initiative.

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
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.

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. The names of those who have died will be read out and a candle will be lit for each. If you would like to add the name of someone who has died in the last twelve months, please email your parish office.

ST ALBANS CATHOLIC PARISHES

Care for Creation Celebrating the Season of Creation, which coincided with the 800th Anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, pupils from St Columba's College Prep school have led an uplifting service followed by art and craft sessions for the residents of Fosse House marking the start of a new collaboration between the school and the care home. Please see here to read more.

Loreto College (St Albans) Secondary transfer open morning tours for September 2027 entry will take place from 12 October - please book via our website.

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.

St Alban & St Stephen Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group Meeting in the St Alban & St Stephen Parish Centre on 3 November 2-3.30pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340**.**

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.

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, call 01727852687 or visit our website to book.

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.

A Day with Mary - Westminster Cathedral 9.45am-5pm Saturday 7 November The Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster will be the Celebrant & Preacher at 10.30am Cathedral Mass on that day. Further information is available here.

Family Barn Dance 2-4pm 8 November St Albans & St Stephen's Parish Hall. Get your dancing shoes on! Barn dancing is great fun for all ages - children encouraged! Suitable for complete beginners. Please bring your own food & drink or something to share. Two 40 minute sets with a break. Our caller will lead 3 players: fiddle, accordion & guitar. Great wholesome fun for all the family, and a great way to meet other parishioners. To book a space, please go to: https://rosemarytheatre.org

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School We warmly invite prospective parents and children to visit our school, meet our dedicated staff, and experience life at St John Fisher. Monday 9 November 6-7.30pm and Monday 16 November 10-11.30am. To arrange a visit, please contact the school office on 01727 861077. For more information, please see our website.

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.

Bingo Our next bingo will take place at 7.30pm on Friday 13 November in the parish centre at St Alban and St Stephen.

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 text 07840 367555 or email cbcstalbans@rcdow.org.uk 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.

Helpers for End of Month Family Mass This takes place only due to the goodwill of those who help prepare, set up, serve and tidy up for the post-mass refreshment and fellowship time in the hall. It is a time much appreciated by those who attend. More helpers are needed to help and allow things to continue. please contact Deacon Brendan to find out more/offer your help.

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.

T**oddlers' 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 The fair trade stall will be open after all Masses at church on 31 October/1 November and Marshalswick Mass centre on 8 November. We have Advent calendars, Christmas cards and plenty of gift ideas including items from Palestine. All proceeds go to Cafod.

CWL 2.15pm Thursday 5 November We meet for our postponed talk on the work of Amnesty International. This is open to all. Cost £3 to include refreshments.

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 stalbansycbs@rcdow.org.uk. A YCBS collection will take place after each Mass on the weekend of 31 October & 1 November.

Digital Noticeboards and porch leaflets We now have three digital noticeboards – one in the parish centre and two in the church porch, on which we can display notices for parish, local community and wider events. If you would like a poster displayed, please provide a pdf version by email to the parish office. If you have leaflets that you would like displayed in the porch, please bring these to the parish office. Please do not leave leaflets or posters in the porch or parish centre.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH

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.

Monday Soup lunches Come along after the midday mass and enjoy a warming bowl of soup, bread and cake. If you are able to make soup on an ad hoc basis please contact Mark James on 07587 149459 to discuss**.** All offers of help are gratefully received.

Harvest Festival Thank you so much for your generous donations to our Food Pantry Harvest Festival appeal! And a big thank you, too, for the splendid altar flowers and display created by our St Bart's Flower Team.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 25 OCTOBER 2026

Saturday 24 October	**VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**	
5pm Mass	George & Perry Taites (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Life of the unborn	St Bartholomew
Sunday 25 October	**THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	
8am Mass	Jean Bergin (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	People of the parish	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Thomas Murphy (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Michael Roache (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Brian Hanrahan (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Jean and David Eldred (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Monday 26 October	Feria	
10am Mass	Justin Quinn (First Anniversary)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Francis Joseph O'Neill (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Tuesday 27 October	Feria	
10am Mass	Cyril Kumar Tirkey & Teresa Mariam Tirkey (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
Wednesday 28 October	SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE	
10am Mass	Hugh Thirlway (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10.30am	*Exposition and Confessions*	
7pm Mass	Gaudencio Mendoza (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Thursday 29 October	Blessed Martyrs of Douai	
10am Mass	Pat Cooke (RIP) & Amanda Bridges (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Friday 30 October	Feria	
12 Noon Mass	Priest's intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Kathleen Quinn (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 31 October	Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday	
10am	*Exposition and Confessions*	St Alban & St Stephen
10.45am	*Benediction*	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 31 October	**VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**	
5pm Mass	John Sheehan (Ints)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Pedro & Lourdes Canencia (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 1 November	**ALL SAINTS**	
8am Mass	Olly Beeson (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Christine Dawson (RIP)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	People of the Parish	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Mary Curran (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Andrew Pereira (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 Anthony Martin Gallagher and Sr Janet Norman.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Jean Bergin, Frances Boak, Pedro & Lourdes Canencia, Mary Comer, Brian Freeney, Brian Hanrahan, Thomas Murphy, Francis Joseph O'Neill, Tonino Roscelli, Justin Quinn, Hugh Thirlway, Cyril Kumar Tirkey and Teresa Mariam Tirkey.

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