St Alban & St Stephen website

NEWS BULLETIN – CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST ALBANS

1 NOVEMBER 2026 – ALL SAINTS

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… We are planning to begin this coming Advent with Forty Hours of Eucharistic Devotion at St Alban and St Stephen church. Beginning with Mass at 6pm on Thursday 12 November, our Forty Hours will run through until the closing mass at 10am on Saturday 14 November. During this period, day or night, there is an open opportunity to come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament which will be exposed on the altar. Each hour will be given over to a particular intention, but there will be an emphasis on world peace, remembering especially the Ukraine and all those engulfed in the war in the Middle East. We need to ensure that there will be a few people present in church throughout the Forty Hours so there are sign-up sheets available in the porch allowing you to sign up for the time and/or intention you would like to be present for.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 16-23 July 2027 We are considering taking a parish group to Lourdes next July. Fr John would lead the group and we would arrange a return coach from here to Stansted, joining the other Westminster pilgrims in Lourdes for the duration of the pilgrimage. A cost estimate would be £1,200-£1,300 which would cover return flights, travel insurance and full board (two sharing a room)at a hotel within walking distance of the Grotto. A single room supplement would be between £205-£255 although availability for single rooms is very limited. If you are interested, please let us know by Friday 27 November either by e-mailing Fr John at johncasey@rcdow.org.uk heading your e-mail, 'Lourdes 2027' or phoning the parish office.

Part-time site supervisor needed at St Alban & St Stephen church 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 here, or by visiting https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/ .Closing date for applications is 11 November, interviews will take place on 17 November.

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 for YCBS after all masses at St Alban & St Stephen and St John Fisher this weekend. We are also asking for Sainsbury's, Argos & Amazon vouchers (£5, £10 & £20).

Mass for those who have died in the past year These masses 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. To add the name of someone who has died in the last twelve months, please email your respective parish office.

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. 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 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 your list and any offering to your Parish Office.

ST ALBANS CATHOLIC PARISHES

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 training sessions so please seriously consider volunteering by emailing your parish office.

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

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 Artificial Intelligence (AI) South St Albans Churches (SSAC) invite you to a presentation by Peter Berners-Lee 7.30pm Tuesday 3 November at St Bartholomew's. For further details, please contact Christine Lambert.

Magnifica Humanitas Talk 6.30pm Wednesday 4 November, Westminster Cathedral Hall. The Friends of Westminster Cathedral talk by Fr Hugh MacKenzie exploring Pope Leo's reflections on the distinction between human and artificial intelligence, and what the rapid development of AI means for our understanding of humanity, morality and faith. For further details and tickets visit here.

St Columba's College Prep School Step Into Prep 9.30-11.30am Friday 6 November A wonderful opportunity to have a full tour of the school by current students and to hear from the Leadership Team. Please register using this link. For questions, please contact Mary Masters

Blessing of Graves at Hatfield Road (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 & Michael will bless individual graves.

Family Barn Dance 2-4pm 8 November St Albans & St Stephen's Parish Hall. Great fun for all ages, including children. 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. Please book a space here.

Bingo 8pm Friday 13 November St Alban & St Stephen hall, in aid of "Christmas for Someone Else" Admission 50p including refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Men's Breakfast Saturday 21 November in the parish centre at SS Alban & Stephen Coffee, Pastries and chat from 8.15am. From 9am, we will watch a video talk on links between the Bible and Sacraments from Dr Scott Hahn, aiming to finish by 10am. For further information, please contact Richard Exact on 07976 252309

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**.** Practices begin on 28 November. Please see the parish news section of our website for more details.

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 School Premises Manager Vacancy Please follow this link to apply.

CAFOD School Volunteers wanted CAFOD is looking for volunteers to visit local schools to present assemblies and workshops. Full training and support provided. See here for more information or email Westminster's CAFOD rep. Chris Driscoll or call 07776 493162.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH

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.

Open morning at St Adrian's for Nursery or Reception admissions in September 2027. Please book a school tour 9.15-10am on Thursday 5 & 12, Friday 20 November, Friday 4 December, Thursday 7 January. Please email the office, call 01727852687 or visit our website to book.

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). There is no Children's Liturgy on the last Sunday of each month. Instead, children 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, 22 Nov, 13 Dec, 24 Jan, 28 Feb, 21 March, 25 April, 23 May, 13 June.

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. We need 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 & clothing Thank you for the wonderful donations which you have made over recent years. The local hotel is no longer hosting migrants so our collections are now ending. Toiletries can still be donated to the Food Bank for the Hygiene Bank. Please call 07976277059 if you have clothes to donate.

Local migrants training to become baristas This is largely self-funded and you can support it by donating any type of flour. Please leave donated flour in the signposted cupboard in the porch.

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.

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.

Fair trade The fair trade stall will be open after all Masses at church on 31 October/1 November and Marshalswick Mass centre 8 November. Advent calendars, Christmas cards and other gift ideas. Proceeds 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.

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School Open Days 9 November 6-7.30pm and 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 Tours Thursday 12 November, 9.15-10.15am and 6-7pm. September 2027 Nursery and Reception entry and January 2028 applications for Nursery pupils in the term following their third birthday. To book, please contact 01727 866668, email or visit our website.

New Parish Database It is a number of years since we last did a full parish census and we are conscious that a large number of parishioners and families have joined and left the parish since then. We are therefore creating a new parish database which will allow us to know our community better and communicate more effectively with people living and worshipping in our parish. The database has been developed by the Diocese and information will be stored securely on Diocesan servers in accordance with current data protection guidelines. Access to parishioner data will be restricted so that it is protected and only used for the purposes for which it has been collected.

As part of the process, we have produced a very short online registration form for completion by parishioners. This form collects limited information - name and contact details plus details of any parish groups or ministries in which you may be involved. For those parishioners who don't have online access, a volunteer will be available in the parish office on Monday mornings to assist with completion of the registration form. Access to the online form is available via this link and we would ask every parishioner to please complete it by 31 December. It should only take two to three minutes to complete. We will then upload collected data to the new database. A form should be completed for each adult and parents/guardians may complete an abbreviated version of the form for each child.

We would ask that you please complete this new online form even if you have already completed the previous version of the online form or responded to the last parish census but. Unfortunately, it won't be possible to import data we already hold into the new database. Your help with this is really appreciated.

Mass Livestreaming Diocesan Data Protection policy requires that anyone intentionally featured on the parish livestream (excluding clergy) must sign a consent form. This includes altar servers, eucharistic ministers, lectors, choir members, musicians, and any other volunteers appearing on the Sanctuary during Mass. If you are on this list and you have not already completed a consent form, we would ask that you please download the form here, complete and return it to the parish office. Parents and guardians should complete the consent form for those under 18 on the Sanctuary during Mass. Forms can also be obtained from the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 1 NOVEMBER 2026

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
Monday 2 November	**COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)**	
10am Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Irene & Hugh Tominey (Ann)	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen
Tuesday 3 November	Feria	
10am Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen
Wednesday 4 November	St Charles Borromeo	
10am Mass	Margaret Reilly (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10.30am	*Exposition and Confessions*	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen
Thursday 5 November	Feria	
10am Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen
Friday 6 November	Feria	
12 Noon Mass	Priest's intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Holy Souls - those who have died in the past year	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 7 November	Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday	
10am	*Exposition and Confessions*	St Alban & St Stephen
10.45am	*Benediction*	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 7 November	**VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**	
5pm Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Special Intention	St Bartholomew
Sunday 8 November	**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	
8am Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Holy Souls	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Deceased members of the Knights of St Columba	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Holy Souls - those who have died in War	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Holy Souls	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 Rose Beri, Maurice Fahey, Anthony Martin Gallagher, Helen Merritt, Sean Moloney, Ruth Myles, Brigid Osgood and Sr Janet Norman.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Frances Boak, Fr Michael Buckley MSC, Pedro & Lourdes Canencia, Mary Comer, Allan Forbes, Brian Freeney, Margaret Reilly, Teresa Mariam Tirkey and Hugh & Irene Tominey.

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