St Alban & St Stephen website

NEWS BULLETIN – CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST ALBANS

8 NOVEMBER 2026 – THIRTY SECOND 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… Every autumn the Diocese asks its parishes to count the number of people attending Sunday Mass over four consecutive Sundays. Over the next four weeks in both parishes we will be counting the number of people in church. My apologies for any distraction.

During the week we had a meeting with the builders and architect with regards to the new doors and corrective work to the railings at St Alban and St Stephen. There was a possibility that these works would begin before Christmas, but doing so would have left us open to the possibility of their being incomplete before Christmas and our needing to close off parts of the porch and forecourt over the Christmas period. This being so, it has been agreed to begin these works in January.

Blessing of Graves at Hatfield Road Cemetery (near Chapel) - 2pm Saturday 7 November and London Road Cemetery (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.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 16-23 July 2027 We would like to take 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.

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. 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.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation prayer Thank you, Jesus, for walking with us in the pilgrimage of life. We pray that we will be united to God whose glory is manifest in nature and in each other.

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.

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.

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.

Catenian Men's Meeting 11 November Harpenden Golf Club 7pm Mass to remember deceased members and friends and families of all those of present, followed by dinner. All men of the parish are welcome to attend. The meal cost including wine is £35. Please email dennis@denniscooper.uk by the 4 November to book.

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

St Alban & St Stephen Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group Meeting in the St Alban & St Stephen Parish Centre on 17 November 2-3.30pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340**.**

Men's Breakfast Saturday 21 November in the parish centre at St Alban & St 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

Mass with special attention to children and adults with additional needs To be celebrated by Fr. Norbert Fernandes at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, Welwyn Garden City at 6pm on Saturday 21 November, followed by refreshments, Bingo, Raffles, Quiz and Karaoke in the Trinity Hall after Mass. All are most welcome, particularly parishioners and visitors with additional needs, together with their families, friends and carers.

Annual Wreath Making 7pm Wednesday 2 December St Barts Hall, 49 Vesta Avenue. Please book your space and choice of wreath by 15 November. £45.00 per wreath. Contact Sinead on 07775557093 to book your space. Please note spaces are limited. All proceeds go towards St Albans Enterprise Community Interest Company, working to support local charities.

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.

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

Change in St Bartholomew Parish Office hours From the beginning of November the St Barts parish office will not be open on a Tuesday morning. Instead, Dawn, the parish administrator, will be working from the St Alban and St Stephen office on Tuesdays. Dawn can still be contacted by phone or email during her working hours.

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.

St Bart's New Christmas for Someone Else (CSE) 2026 This year we are asking for gift vouchers in

denominations of £5/£10/£20 from Amazon, Argos or Sainsbury's to target better the needs of those we support in our community at Christmas, including our Open Food Pantry guests and families, St Adrian's families and refugees. We also welcome cash donations or wrapped and labelled gifts. Please bring donations/gifts and place on the altar before masses on our CSE Giving Weekend, 28/29 November. There is also a retiring collection after masses that weekend for any late donations. Donations can also be handed into the parish office. Any queries, please email Jackie Tominey or call 07702 948585.

The Park Players present Under Milk Wood, a play by Dylan Thomas 7.30pm 26-28 November, Park Street Village Hall.. Tickets £12. Box Office 07855 229019

Circle of Friends Christmas Party Invitation 2-4pm 2 December 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

Season of Creation. During September we tried to live out the spirit of the Season of Creation through our contact with others and the world we live in. The results are currently on show on the parish noticeboards and on the website. Please take a moment to see how well we did. The ideas are simple, yet they make a big difference.

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' Clothes & Toiletries Toiletries can 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.

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.

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.

Mothers' Prayers We will meet at 8pm on Monday 9 November in the Prayer Room. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome. More information here.

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.

Fair trade Fair trade The stall will be open after all Masses at church over the weekend of 14/15 November. We have plenty of Christmas cards, chocolate, Palestinian dates, oil and soap plus our usual food items.

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.

Part-time site supervisor needed at St Alban & St Stephen church Monday-Friday 8-11am. 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.

New Parish Database We are asking all parishioners at St Alban and St Stephen to complete a short online registration form by 31 December. 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 form. A form should be completed for each adult and parents/guardians may complete an abbreviated version of the form for each child. Please see our website news page for information.

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 haven't already filled in a form, please download the form here, complete & return it to the parish office. Parents and guardians should complete the consent form for those under 18. Forms can also be obtained from the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 8 NOVEMBER 2026

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
Monday 9 November	**THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA**	
10am Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Holy Souls	St Bartholomew
7pm	For those who have died during the year	St Bartholomew
Tuesday 10 November	St Leo the Great	
10am Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen
Wednesday 11 November	St Martin of Tours	
10am Mass	For those who have died in War	St Bartholomew
10.30am	*Exposition and Confessions*	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	Remembering especially deceased spouses	St Alban & St Stephen
Thursday 12 November	St Josephat	
10am Mass	Remembering especially deceased victims of violence	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Beginning of Forty Hours	St Alban & St Stephen
Friday 13 November	Feria	
12 Noon Mass	Priest's intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Patricia Mary Pearce (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 14 November	Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday	
10am Mass	End of Forty Hours	St Alban & St Stephen
10.45am	*Exposition, Confessions and Benediction*	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 14 November	**VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**	
5pm Mass	Antonio Gramengna (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	John McKay (RIP Ann)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 15 November	**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	
8am Mass	Ellen Small (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	People of the parish	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Stephen Foster (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Vito La Monica (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Mary Miskell (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Remembering especially those deceased benefactors	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, Helen Merritt, Sean Moloney, Ruth Myles and Brigid Osgood.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Bridget Ahern, Mary Baker, Stephen Foster, John McKay, Mary Miskell, Patricia Mary Pearce, Margaret Reilly, Ellen Small and Giuseppe Truglio.

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