

Bible Studies Sessions

Westminster Diocese will be running a series of Bible Study sessions at Ss Alban and Stephen this year.

Each session will include three linked talks and are suitable for all adult parishioners.

The first session of three talks will take place on 14,21,28 October at 8pm in the Parish Hall.

Refreshments will be served from 7:30pm.

Further talks are scheduled for:

- 24 November, 01, 08 December
- 12, 19, 26 January

Explore the Scriptures

Fr. Alan and Pat Williamson will be running bible study session on Wednesdays following the 10:00am mass. The sessions take place in the church hall and the programme alternates between the Old and New Testament.



Your Kingdom Come - Faith In Action, Sunday 11 October

A Day of Renewal with spiritual direction led by Mgr Vladimir Felzmann from the Diocesan Pastoral Centre in London Colney on Sunday 11th October, 10.30am to 4:30pm Maryland Convent, Townsend Drive, St Albans.

In the morning there will be two talks and some group discussion on the topic of Catholic Social Teaching. After lunch there will be the opportunity to join in a variety of forms of prayer such as meditation exercises, exposition, the rosary and quiet reflection followed by Mass at 3.30pm. A priest will be available to hear confessions in the afternoon. Retiring collection to cover costs.

Please bring your own lunch and a bible. For further information ring Richard (01727 842124) or Stan (01727 765549)



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ST ALBAN AND STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH Talks Calendar

YEAR OF THE PRIEST

Pope Benedict XVI declared a year of the priest in an effort to encourage "spiritual perfection" in priests.

Pope Benedict said the priestly ministry consists of total adherence to the ecclesial tradition of participating "in a spiritually intense new life and a new lifestyle which was inaugurated by the Lord Jesus and which the apostles made their own."

Priestly ordination creates new men who are bestowed with the gift and office of sanctifying, teaching and governing, he said. The pope underlined the necessary and "indispensable struggle for moral perfection which must dwell in every authentically priestly heart."

A prayer card is available from mass centres.



Catholic Social Teaching

For more than 100 years, Catholic social teaching has tried to help people face the world's social, political and economic challenges with the power of the Gospel.

Pope Benedict XVI announced June 29 that he had signed his first formal contribution to the list of papal encyclical letters on social themes and that it was titled "Caritas in Veritate" ("Love in Truth").

Instead of focusing on theological beliefs, the social encyclicals written by most modern-day popes have tried to shape the way Christians and all people of good will can better serve the common good. Each social encyclical was unique in that it sought to respond to the most pressing social realities at the time.

For details on talks on the social teachings of the church, see overleaf.

Church's Best Kept Secret—10 October

Catholic Social Teaching is a very practical application of faith principles to life's great questions. It goes much further than the usual pro-life issues and illuminates dark corners of our world.

Christine Allan will examine if the next contribution to social teaching might just be the perspective that so many of us are yearning to hear.

Christine is the Executive Director

of Progressio, an international charity with Catholic roots which allows poor communities to solve their own problems through support and skilled workers.

This participatory discussion on the Church's Best Kept Secret will take place on Saturday 10 October from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in the Church Hall.



Matters of Life—08 November

We are pleased to announce the return of Fr. David Smith, MSC for a two part talks series entitled "Matters of Life and Death".

The series begins on Sunday 08 November with Matters of Life, where Fr. Dave will explore the church's teaching on assisted

reproduction, stem cell research and other issues related to the start of life.

The talk will take place in the church hall and will start at 8pm. Refreshments will be served from 7:30pm.

All are welcome.

Matters of Death—02 December

Fr. David Smith's series concludes on Wednesday 02 December with "Matters of Death" which will examine issues such as end of life care, euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Fr. Dave is Associate Professor of

Health Care Ethics in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

The talk will take place in the church hall at 8:00pm. Refreshments will be served from 7:30pm.

All are welcome to attend.

No Room at the Inn—Advent 2009

Every children's Nativity play includes the scene when Mary and Joseph are forced to seek refuge in the stables as there is "no room at the inn". It is a familiar part of the Christmas story however for many people in our community the message of exclusion is a daily occurrence.

This advent we would like to challenge members of the parish to undertake action to help make all people feel included in our



community. There will be a number of parish activities to take part in or you could find a more personal way to make a difference.

Suggestions include:

- volunteering at a parish friends event
- organise carol singing in your neighbourhood
- make a donation to a local shelter

Watch the Parish bulletin for more ideas

Preparation for Lent and Holy Week

Lent is often called a journey. That means that at the end of Lent we should expect to find ourselves somewhere different from where we started.. Our destination is Easter, promised land and homeland. The season's scriptural readings, psalms and prayers map the lenten itinerary.

Leading these three talks on scripture, Fr. Deehan will highlight these signposts on the way:

25 February:

Getting ready for the journey in the company of Luke

11th March

The link with what has gone before - the Old Testament echoes- and how we make sense of it.

25th March

The final hurdle. Preparing to accompany and be accompanied through Holy Week.

All three talks will take place in the Church Hall at 8pm.

