

NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE PARISH OF SS ALBAN & STEPHEN



This Parish is served by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.
Parish Priest: Rev. TJ Plower MSC, Rev. Jimmy Stubbs MSC. Deacon Steve Pickard.

Tel: 01727 853 585 Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 1pm

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB. Parish Website: www.albanstephen.com

Items for the bulletin – e-mail: alban_stephen@lineone.net by 12noon on Wednesdays

Youth Co-ordinator Sr. Anita O’Leary SSJG, e-mail: sister.anita@albanstephen.com

Youth Website: www.sasyouth.com

Safeguarding Lead Nicky Vellacott: safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk / 07882 566 020

Parish Secretary: Ivana Mearns, Caretaker: Mark Healy e-mail: caretaker@albanstephen.com

We are a Fairtrade Parish.

15th April 2018

Third Sunday of Easter

Today’s gospel is one of the resurrection accounts from St Luke’s Gospel. It begins with the disciples recalling their experience on the road to Emmaus and how they recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel continues into another account of the risen Jesus with his disciples. Jesus interrupts the disciple’s story and greets them with ‘peace’ (shalom) yet, in this account, they are terrified by this. Jesus shows them his wounds and Luke tells us that they are full of joy, but they still can’t believe it and think it is a ghost.

Jesus shows them that he is no ghost as he asks for food and eats fish with them. Jesus then journeys with them back through the scriptures in order to open their minds. He speaks to them compassionately.



Jesus tells the disciples that ‘you are witnesses of these things’. Luke wants to establish an important point, that these disciples are witnesses to the resurrection, they ate with Jesus after his death and he opened their minds.

The resurrection accounts in the gospels are not fantasy, they are the actual experiences of Jesus’ disciples. Our Easter faith is based on their testimony. Once Jesus has opened their minds to understand the scriptures, he tells them to go out and preach them in his name.

‘Every year the dull and dead in us meets our Easter challenge: to be open to the unexpected, to believe beyond our security, to welcome God in every form, and trust in our own greening.’ – Joyce Rupp

Fr. Alan Neville MSC

We are pleased to announce that Fr. Alan Neville MSC, Vocations Director (UK and Ireland) will be re-locating from Cork, Ireland to St. Albans. When his busy schedule permits it, he is prepared to help out with the Pastoral duties in this Parish. We look forward to welcoming Fr. Alan.

Guide to Prayer

How to improve our prayer life was a common theme arising from the Parish Meeting in November on ‘The Future of Our Parish’. It was therefore decided to compile a ‘Guide to Prayer’ to give ideas on making this important aspect of our lives more productive. This booklet contains sections on why we should pray, what are the common forms of prayer, tips from parishioners on what works for them and suggestions of resources that could be used.



Many thanks are due to the parishioners whose recommendations and experiences contributed greatly to the guide. Please do take a copy from the porch to read at home, or access an electronic version from the website; hopefully, you may find something that you could try to help make your prayer life more fulfilling.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **Theresa O’Hara, Patrick Moran, Fiona Wright, Mary Ann Curran, Matthew Parkin and Fr. Sandy Murray MSC**, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Maureen Phillips, John Moloney, Rita Carter, Liz Smith, Bernadette Marron, Andrea Ezcurra, Mark Norris, Patrick Foley, Jim O’Neill, Mike Smith, Jack O’Mahoney, Carmaline Xavier, Elisabeth Page, Kathleen Murphy, Jim O’Connor, Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM, Geraldine McBride, Becki Vousden, Vertina Fernandes, Veronica Hamilton, Claire Whitehead, Alice Daly, Richard Mayes, Sheila Dooan, Janet Szymczak, Noah Gregorio, Edie Hale, Gerry Smith, Edmond Mansfield, Ethel Holloway, Teresa Hill, Ida Daswa, Catrion Rees-Doherty, John Rowland, Margaret Moloney, Jim Moss, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O’Gorman, John Baxter, Derita Whyte, Carmen Mincu & Teresa Virrueta; may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Third Sunday of Easter

15.4.2018

6pm Norah O'Flynn RIP

8am People of the Parish

9am M'wick John Doyle (Scotland) RIP

9.30am Peter & Krystyna Berners-Lee
30th Wedding Anniversary

11.30am Tony & Kathleen O'Brien RIP

7pm John Maloney Ints.

Monday – Easter Feria

10am Joseph Spudic RIP

7pm Samantha Smeraglia Ints.

Tuesday – Easter Feria

10am Sarah Pendlebury RIP

7pm Clare Moss Anniv.

Wednesday – Easter Feria

10am Priests' Intentions

7pm MSC Benefactors

Thursday – St. Alphege

10am Mary Bagge RIP

7pm Maria Frosztega Anniv.

Friday – Easter Feria

10am Ned Purtill RIP

7pm Noreen Carolan RIP

Saturday – St. Anselm

10am Fr. Sandy Murray & Fr. Tom Hewitt RIP

6pm Nancy McGuile (nee Mannion) RIP

Next Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Easter

8am Carmel and Patrick Moloney RIP

9am M'wick People of the Parish

9.30am Michael Murphy RIP

11.30am Joe Walsh RIP

4pm Polish Mass

7pm Lillie May Relihan Anniv.

*Mass Intentions are subject to change
if there is a funeral.*

Next weekend 21st / 22nd April, there will be a second collection for The Priest Training Fund.

Next weekend is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of ordained priests. Donation leaflets are available from the back of the church and from Marshalswick Mass Centre.

Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests

Welcome

We welcome into the Christian Community
**Noah Osborne, Luca Cowgill,
Rory Hughes and Elsbeth McGuire-Yong**
who were baptise at our Church last Sunday.
We also offer our congratulations to their parents

Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held
on **Saturday, 21st April at 10.30am,**
in Room 1 of the Parish Centre.

Parents who wish to baptise
their **FIRST** child need to attend.

To book a place on this course, please
call the presbytery on 01727 853 585
(Office Hours: Mon – Fri, 9am – 1pm).

If you would like to baptise your **FIRST**
child you will be unable to secure a baptism date
before attending this session.

Baptisms are held on Sundays at 1pm.

If you live outside our Parish it is necessary to
have a letter from your Parish Priest giving
permission to baptise here.



First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

In the name of Jesus the Nazarene, Peter heals the disabled man who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. Peter uses the healing to teach the people that it's through Jesus – the one they rejected – that this man now walks.

Second Reading: 1 John 2:1-5

Followers of Christ are called to love by keeping his commandments. We must remain on guard against sin; it is the sacrifice of Jesus that takes our sins away.

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:35-48

Two of the disciples have had an encounter with Jesus while walking to Emmaus. Back with the others, they are full of the experience and are still talking about it when Jesus strides into their lives again. Once again, we hear Jesus' Easter greeting to his disciples: 'Peace be with you.'

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 118:23-24.26-27.29-30; Jn 6:22-29

Tue: Acts 7:51-8:1; Ps 30:3-4.6-8.17.21; Jn 6:30-35

Wed: 8:1-8; Ps 65:1-7; Jn 6:35-40

Thu: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 65:8-9.16-17.20; Jn 6:44-51

Fri: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 116-2; Jn 6:52-59

Sat: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 115:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

Dates for April

Liturgy Group Meeting

A meeting primarily to review the Lent and Easter Services will take place on **18th April** from 7.45pm until 9pm in the conference room in the presbytery.

Open Invitation - LET IT BE DVD on the Blessed Virgin Mary

Due to the snow, Session 2 of this inspirational series is being repeated on **Thursday 19th April** in the parish centre. This is an open invitation, you do not need to have attended the other sessions. Why not come along at **11am - 12noon or 8pm - 9pm** and see what has drawn people to these sessions? Snacks provided.



Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation

Gathering for those interested in Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation on **Thursday 19th April** and every **3rd Thursday of the Month at 8pm** in the Parish Centre. All most welcome.

English Conversation Classes

The English Conversation Classes for Ladies whose first language is not English will start again on **Monday 16th April** in the Parish Hall. The classes take place every Monday during school term time from 1pm until 2.30pm. If you would like to volunteer to help - please contact Sara Nash on welcomboxes@albanstephen.com, no previous experience necessary.

Bread Making for Beginners

The course on **21st April** is now full. If there is sufficient demand a second course can be arranged later in the year. To register an interest, please contact Stan at grabecki@hotmail.com.

St George's Day 23rd April

To help celebrate England's Patron Saint St George, Coffee and cake will be served in the Parish Centre following 10am Mass on **Monday 23rd April**, everyone is welcome!



Confirmations

Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Saturday, 28th April 2018**. We continue to pray for all our young people. The ceremonies will be held in the Church at 11am and 3pm



Dates for May

A Biblical Journey through the Mass

Tuesday May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd at 7.45pm in the Parish Hall. Refreshments available after 7pm Mass. A series of 4 talks on A Biblical Journey through the Mass by Brian Purfield The Mass is the centre of our faith. We celebrate it every day. We know all the responses and all the gestures. But do we know what it all means? In this short course we will take a tour of the liturgy and explore the biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience in the liturgy and reflect on their profound significance. It is hoped that this will help to renew our faith and deepen our love for and devotion to the Eucharist.

Holy Hour For Men

3rd May 2018, in the Prayer Room at 8pm

Come join us for this Holy Hour as we enter the Christmas season. The Holy Hour includes Rosary, a Gospel reading, meditation and silent prayer, and is followed by refreshments. For more information please contact Michael Crabtree on 07510 140 759 or via email michael.crabtree@hotmail.co.uk

Classic Drama of Life & Love "On Golden Pond"

in aid of **Hands Together Tiplyang Project** (registered charity run by 3 parishioners helping communities in Nepal help themselves out of poverty). **Thursday 10th May 8pm at Abbey Theatre, St. Albans**

tickets: £12 with a drink. Contact: 01727 852 848



First Holy Communions

The final meeting for ALL parents whose children are receiving their First Holy Communion will be held on **Wednesday 2nd May, at 8pm** in the Parish Hall.

Please note that the session originally scheduled for 28th April has been moved to 5th May.

First Holy Communions will be celebrated in our Parish on the following Saturdays: 12th, 19th and 26th May

Please note that there will be no 10am Masses or Confessions on these days.

Permanent Deacon 'Come and See'

Men wanting to know more about the Permanent Diaconate are invited to come to a meeting from 10am to 12noon at **Our Lady and St Vincent, Potters Bar Saturday 12th May**. No booking needed. Wives welcome. Contact details Deacon Adrian Cullen 07961 594 725 or Deacon Anthony Clark 07545 373 548.



NEWS BULLETIN

Rosary Group

The "Good Morning" Rosary prayer group meet after morning Mass every week day (Monday - Saturday) in the Prayer Room.

Optional tea and coffee afterwards.

Anyone can join with the group at any time.

Contact: Frank Murphy 01727 842 216

LET IT BE - DVD course and book on the life of Mary, past and present

If you missed the course or you simply want your own copy for yourself or a gift please ring/text Tim Stevens on 07875 848 138 or email tim@faithcafe.org

Parish Safeguarding

All volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are required by Westminster Diocese to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS), Diocese of Westminster volunteer forms and safeguarding training.

The process for this has now changed. All DBS checks now need to be performed online via the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS). To start the process please contact a safeguarding representative (contacts below), who will send you the DBS link and Westminster forms via email and guide you through the procedures.

The safeguarding training is also now delivered online (via Educare); please contact Westminster Diocese on safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk to register. Alternatively, if this is not convenient for you, the safeguarding representatives are happy to provide the training that volunteers may require. Safeguarding is an important aspect of the Parish and Nicky and Mary are happy to discuss any safeguarding questions and concerns you may have.

Safeguarding Contacts:

email : safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk

Nicky Vellacott: 07882 566 020

Mary Harber: 07976 277 059



Diocese of Westminster Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2018

21st to 27th July, 2018 by air or train;

20th to 28th July, 2018 by coach

This year, the Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes celebrates its 30th Anniversary which coincides with the 160th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady to Bernadette which established the Shrine in Lourdes. To register please contact Tangney Tours www.tangney-tours.com or telephone 01732 886 666

St Columba's College Prep School Open Morning

9am - 11am, Thursday 19th April 2018.

Please contact Cathy Tominey on 01727 892 044 for further information.

Slaves on our Doorsteps

An event on how to recognize the signs of human trafficking and modern slavery in Hertfordshire, the response of the church, and the practical actions that we can take in our parish community. Organised by Caritas Westminster and the Santa Marta Group, in conjunction with Hertfordshire Constabulary and the Shiva Foundation. **Tuesday 1st May from 7pm-9pm at Our Lady Immaculate & St Andrew's Church Hall, Hitchin SG5 1QS.** Refreshments will be available from 6.30pm. RSVP: 0207 931 6077 or caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk

Supporting Families in Preparing for Funerals

Bereavement is a sad time and preparation for the funeral can be confusing, especially for family members who are unfamiliar with the funeral rites of the Catholic Church. Close family members who live away from our parish may need help in navigating local services or understanding our parish processes and traditions. Lay Ministers help families to understand the funeral liturgies and in the selection of readings and music for the funeral. Full training is provided for this important ministry.

Could you give some time to support recently bereaved people in planning the funeral of their deceased relative in our church? If you would like to find out more about this important ministry please contact the presbytery. Tel.no: 01727 853 585



Walk to Mass? You must be joking!

Yet Pope Francis urges us to care for our home, our planet. We can all think of reasons why walking anywhere, let alone to Mass, is a non-starter but everyone is being asked to think of ONE reason to take up the challenge on at least one Sunday in June. So why not talk to your friends and neighbours and see if you can participate. The Earth is hoping you say "Yes". Placed by the parish JPIC group.

A Volunteer Needed

A volunteer is needed to wash small linen cloths twice a year. Please contact Margaret: 07702 052 541 / canty.margaret@gmail.com

ALPHA Course



Would you be interested in joining an Alpha course in our Parish? Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of our Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith

and is designed to create conversation in small groups of people. Please contact Ann

01727 852 071/ anncarmelhill@gmail.com

or Melanie 07900 051 956/ mjoneill5@btinternet.com by 30th April to express interest or to find out more. Dates and times to be arranged based on response

Parish of SS Alban & Stephen

Confessions: Sat 10.30-11.30am, & 6.45-7pm.

Baptisms: by appointment



