

# 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](http://www.albanstephen.com)  
Items for the bulletin – e-mail: [alban\\_stephen@lineone.net](mailto:alban_stephen@lineone.net) by 12 noon on Wednesdays  
Youth Co-ordinator Sr. Anita O’Leary SSJG, e-mail: [sister.anita@albanstephen.com](mailto:sister.anita@albanstephen.com)  
Youth Website: [www.sasyouth.com](http://www.sasyouth.com), Safeguarding Lead Nicky Vellacott:  
[nicky@radicalmoon.co.uk](mailto:nicky@radicalmoon.co.uk) / 07882 566 020  
Parish Secretary: Ivana Mearns, Caretaker: Mark Healy e-mail: [caretaker@albanstephen.com](mailto:caretaker@albanstephen.com).  
We are a Fairtrade Parish.

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today, we read about Jesus’ first healing in Mark’s Gospel. Jesus hears of the illness of the mother of Simon’s wife and goes to her. Due to the purity of laws of his time this scene would have been considered controversial. His first healing is of a woman and we are told that he touches her, raises her up; he completely restores her to health. Many of his actions here would be considered taboo.

The ‘whole city’ was crowded around the door as other people wanted to be healed.

Jesus, very early on this ministry, is clearly a very popular, attractive figure.

Jesus is the healer. We might ask ourselves today: who do we know who is in need of healing of any kind?

This week, how can we reach out to them? Another important aspect of this story is that Jesus does not remain comfortable in this house. He keeps moving, keeps going outward. This requires so much energy and outpouring of love for those in need. Jesus shows us in today’s gospel what it takes to stay connected, to re-energise ourselves for our various tasks: quiet time and space for real encounter with God.

It is up to all of us to help others on their journey, the seekers, the lost and those in need of healing. We cannot break new ground unless we are inwardly free and connected to that divine presence within us and in our world.



## **Fr. Tom Hewitt MSC – Rest in Peace**



*Fr. Tom’s Family and the MSC community would like to thank everyone who contributed to such a wonderful farewell for Fr. Tom.*

*May he rest in peace.*

To read more about the lie-in and the funeral, visit our webpage [www.albanstephen.com/rip\\_fr\\_tom](http://www.albanstephen.com/rip_fr_tom)

## **CWL**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February after 10am Mass.**

Dr. Michael Elwes will talk on “The Peasants are Revolting”. Members and guests are all welcome.

Coffee and Raffle £2.

## **Bingo**

In the Parish Hall on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February at 8 o’clock to raise funds for the **St.Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)**.

Admission is 50p and everyone is welcome.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **Murthy Govindasamy, Paul Kennedy, Kate Kelly, Antonio Del Core, Joseph Lynch and Fr. Tom Hewitt MSC** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Ines Quinteros.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Liz Smith, Mary Curran, Mike Smith, Sheila Aylward, Noreen Carolan, Jim O’Neil, Thomas Kiely, Jack O’Mahoney, Carmaline Xavier, Tom Williamson, Jim O’Neill, Elisabeth Page, Kathleen Murphy, Jim O’Connor, Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM, Geraldine McBride, Fiona Wright, 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, Catrin Rees-Doherty, John Rowland, Margaret Moloney, Jim Moss, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O’Gorman, John Baxter, Derita Whyte, Carmen M incu & Teresa Virrueta; may the Lord comfort them.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4.2.2018

6pm Deceased members of  
Sheehan and Guinnelly families

8am People of the Parish

9am M'wick Stan Phillips Anniv.

9.30am Giuseppe Campanella 1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.

11.30am Patrick Black RIP

7pm Pat and Carmel Moloney Anniv.

### Monday – St. Agatha

10am John and Emma Quinn Ints.

7pm Roselyn McKee RIP

### Tuesday – St. Paul Miki and Companions

10am Peggy Brampton RIP

7pm Eric Oppliger RIP

### Wednesday – Feria

10am Sr. Emma Bechold OP Ints.

7pm MSC Benefactors

### Thursday – St. Josephine Bakhita

10am Priests' Intentions

7pm Antonio Leto Anniv.

### Friday – Feria

10am Kitty and Edward Costello RIP

7pm Sarah Pendlebury RIP

### Saturday – St. Scholastica

10am Sr. Mary Aelred Ints.

6pm Paul Kennedy Ints.

### Next Sunday

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Bridget Ruane RIP

9am M'wick Ainsley Lambet 5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.

9.30am People of the Parish

11.30am Jean Horan RIP

4pm Polish Mass

7pm Hermina Gaufruid Anniv.

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

Refreshments after Mass: Tea and coffee are now served every week after 11.30am Mass well as 6pm, 9.30am and 9am (Marshalswick) Mass.

## Welcome

We welcome into the Christian community  
**Alice Lawton** and **Emilia Moya Iza**  
who were baptised at our Church last Sunday.  
We also offer our congratulations to their parents.

## St Sister Josephine Bakhita

### Feast Day 8<sup>th</sup> February

Josephine Bakhita is a modern day saint. Born in 1869 in the Sudan, she was kidnapped at around nine years old. Taken by Arab slave traders, she spent many years being bought and sold between masters, most of whom treated her with great cruelty. She spent so much time in captivity she forgot her own name and was called Bakhita, which means 'fortunate', by the slave traders. In 1883, she was sold her to the Italian Vice Consul, and then went on to become a nanny for a rich Italian family. Through them she met the Canossian Sisters in Venice; here she came to know about God whom "she had experienced in her heart without knowing who He was" ever since she was a child. "Seeing the sun,



the moon and the stars, I said to myself: Who could be the Master of these beautiful things? And I felt a great desire to see him, to know Him and to pay Him homage..." Josephine Bakhita spent the rest of her life within the

order and was remembered for her gentleness, kindness and humble service of others. She died on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1947. In 1958, the process of canonisation began for Josephine under Pope John XXIII. On December 1st, 1978, Pope John Paul II declared her venerable and canonised her on 1 October 2000. Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of Sudan and is also often promoted as a patron saint for the victims of slavery and trafficked persons. Her name is well known here in St Albans as being associated with Bakhita Village that provided support for orphaned and vulnerable children living in southern Africa.

### **First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7**

As a consequence of his suffering, Job is experiencing insomnia and depression The Lord does not spare his children from trials, rather, he accompanies us in all that we must endure.

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23**

Paul does not preach the gospel out of a sense of duty, but out of an inner need. He cannot but proclaim Jesus.

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29-39**

The mission of Jesus is explicit. He is sent to heal. As evening comes, the whole town is gathered at the door in search of healing. The healing mission is interrupted by the prayerfulness of Jesus.

### **Reading for the Week:**

Mon: 1 Kgs 8:1-7.9-13; Ps 83:3-5.10-11; Mk 7:1-13

Tue: 1 Kgs 8:22-23.27-30; Ps 83:3-5.10-11; Mk 7:1-13

Wed: 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Ps 36:5-6.30-31.39-40; Mk 7:14-23

Thu: 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Ps 105:3-4.35-37.40; Mk 7:24-30

Fri: 1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19; Ps 80:10-15; Mk 7:31-37

Sat: 1 Kgs 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Ps 105:6-7.19-22; Mk 8:1-10

# Dates for February

## Traidcraft

Traidcraft this weekend **3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> February** after all masses at the church.

Traidcraft coffee morning **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February** 9.30am until 12 noon, 43 Avenue Road AL13PY

Everyone is welcome. All proceeds to Cafod.

Any enquiries or orders: 01727 765549

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## Valentine Tea Party

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

Parish Friends are holding a Valentine Tea Party on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February from 3-5pm in the Parish Hall, with music from The Ukulele Sunshine Band.



This promises to be a great afternoon's entertainment and **parishioners of all ages** are welcome to join us. If you wish to attend it would be helpful if you could please put your name on the Guest list stating if you require transport. Free entry but there will be a raffle to cover costs. For further information contact Helen 852250 or

[helen.bassill@ntlworld.com](mailto:helen.bassill@ntlworld.com)

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## Mothers' Prayers



Mothers' Prayers will meet on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm in room 2**. Anyone wishing to pray for children is welcome.

Email: [office@mothersprayers.org](mailto:office@mothersprayers.org)

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## Small Community Prayer Groups

"We Adore You, O Christ, and We Praise You": The Gift of the Holy Eucharist, is the title of this Lent's diocesan faith sharing booklet which will be available soon. The booklet can be used by anyone, small groups, families or individuals to help with their Lenten preparations. While the Eucharist feeds us for the week ahead, sharing in the word of God in a small group helps us to grow in faith.

### DVD Talk on the Eucharist and Pizza lunch

If you would like to join a small group during Lent or are already in a small group or would just like to find out more, you are invited to come and join us for the launch of the Lenten faith sharing programme on the Eucharist on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February after 10am Mass** in the Parish Hall. The talk will be followed by discussion and a pizza lunch. For more information contact Mike or Sylvia White (854596 [whitemw@talktalk.net](mailto:whitemw@talktalk.net)).

## Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held on **Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 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 853585 (Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 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.

## Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 3pm.

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **5<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact the Parish office: Tel. no: 853 585 (Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm), e-mail: [alban\\_stephen@lineone.net](mailto:alban_stephen@lineone.net), with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

## LET IT BE, a Lenten Course on Mary



Who was Mary of Nazareth? What part did she play in our Salvation?

How is she a model for us to believe in Jesus? Why do we need Mary today? These are just some of the vital questions answered in this inspirational five session DVD course entitled LET IT BE done unto me according to your Word.

The course will be held in the Parish Hall on **Thursdays from 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 11 to 12am and repeated in the evening from 8 to 9pm**. Refreshments will be available after 10am Mass and also after 7pm Mass. Each talk lasts about 25 minutes and will be followed by group discussions and closing prayers. For more information contact Mike or Sylvia White (854596 [whitemw@talktalk.net](mailto:whitemw@talktalk.net))

# NEWS BULLETIN

## WESTMINSTER DIOCESE AGENCY FOR EVANGELISATION

### Journey through Lent with Mark's Gospel

Sr Anne Walsh OP and Sr Karen Marguerite OP

Thursdays: 8<sup>th</sup> February,  
15<sup>th</sup> February, 8<sup>th</sup> March

7.30-9pm at Niland Conference Centre,  
93 Elstree Rd, Bushey WD23 4EE

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### Prayer

Sr Anne Walsh OP and Sr Karen Marguerite OP

Wednesdays: 7<sup>th</sup> February,  
7<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> April,  
2<sup>nd</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June

7.30-9pm at Niland Conference Centre,  
93 Elstree Rd, Bushey WD23 4EE



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### A Biblical Journey through the Mass Brian Purfield

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May

7-8pm at Vaughan House,  
46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN

Please register at [livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk) or  
leave a message at 02079 316078

### Finding Silence at Worth Abbey 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018

In this fully catered 3 night stay we are led and directed by a Benedictine monk. You don't have to be Catholic. The cost is £189 (£160.65 concession) per person for a single room or £160.65 per person for a shared room. The **booking deadline** and final payment are due **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March.**

Complete a booking form from the back of the Church or contact [krystyna@faithknowledge.org](mailto:krystyna@faithknowledge.org)  
Tel. 751094

### Evangelisation Workshop Missionary Parish: Leadership & Discipleship

The Evangelisation Workshop this spring will explore ways to inspire parish teams and parishioners to become more 'missionary' in their approach. Participants will be able to share their Proclaim experiences, and consider further a range of tools and techniques to help develop the leadership and discipleship needed for local evangelisation. The half-day workshop will include practical tips on how to support the growth of missionary disciples, and so attract new disciples as you build a 'missionary parish'.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 9.30am - 12.30pm  
SS Alban & Stephen Catholic Church,  
in the Parish Hall.



To register for the workshop and for more information please e-mail: Warren Brown at [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk), tel.no: 0207 798 9152

### Opportunities at Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School

Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School has opportunities for salaried training positions (up to £25K depending on subject and experience). In order to take up these opportunities, candidates need to have graduated prior to September 2015.

Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive school situated on the outskirts of the historic city of St. Albans.

#### Vacancies in the support team:

Examination Invigilators & Minibus Drivers

For further information or to arrange an informal visit, please contact Helen Day, School Business Manager on 01727 860079 (ext. 280) or email [dayh@nbs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dayh@nbs.herts.sch.uk).

### Soup and Film Evening (Wall-E, cert U) for Cafod family fast day.

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February after 6pm Mass. Tickets £2 available after Masses from next weekend.

### Parish of SS Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment.

