

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. Tom Hewitt MSC & Rev. Jimmy Stubbs MSC.
Deacon Steve Pickard.

14 Beaconsfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RB. Tel: 01727 853 585

Parish Secretary: Ivana Mearns, Office Hours: Mon – Fri, 9am – 1pm.

Parish Website: www.albanstephen.com

Items for the bulletin – e-mail: alban_stephen@lineone.net by 12 noon 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: nicky@radicalmoon.co.uk / 07882 566 020

We are a Fairtrade Parish.



Sunday 26th November

Christ the King

From a very young age, children tend to hear a lot about royalty. Popular fairytales, many of them around for hundreds of years, tell tales of beautiful princesses, brave princes, and noble, wise, old kings and queens. They transport children into a world of extravagant palaces and riches beyond anything they could imagine. Modern children’s stories and cartoons continue the fascination, but many now turn the traditional stereotypes on their head. Princesses no longer wait around to be rescued, but take their fate into their own hands. Princes don’t necessarily want to be brave or to become the next king.



In the time of Jesus kings were powerful rulers, and some were tyrants. We know from earlier in Matthew’s Gospel that King Herod was capable of brutal acts. There were expectations too about the great Messianic King who would lead a rebellion and establish his kingdom on earth. The king that Jesus talks about turns these images upside down. He is a fair judge, a shepherd who looks after his flock, inviting all who act with justice and generosity to take their place in his kingdom.

He is also in solidarity with the ‘least’ of his people. Who ever heard of a king who knows what it’s like to be in need of food, clothing or company? But Jesus is a different sort of royalty. His kingdom is not based on power or riches, but charity, compassion and forgiveness.

Advent Talks

Starting at 7.45pm in the parish hall.

Everyone is warmly invited to prepare for Christmas by looking at different aspects of the Christmas story relevant to today.

Monday 27th November:

Reflections on Mercy – The Marginalised. Presented by **Fr Mark Van Beeumen MSC**, of the Cordate Community, Birmingham, which supports the poor.

Wednesday 6th December:

The Flight into Egypt – Refugees. Presented by **Meghan Knowles**, Communications & Development Officer at the Jesuit Refugee Service, London

Wednesday 13th December:

Jesus, born to redeem us – the Joy of Christmas! Presented by **Mgr John Armitage**, rector of the RC National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Carols by Candlelight

22nd December, 7.30pm. We're looking for singers, musicians, readers, mulled wine pourers and glow-stick givers for our biggest parish event! If you can be involved, text or call Jacquie on 07840 367555.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **Frederick David Davis, Fr. John McCarthy MSC, Peggy Brampton, Caroline Chivers, Elizabeth Gilbride** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Thomas Kiely Jack O’Mahoney, Carmaline Xavier, Douglas McLoughlin, Tom Williamson, Jim O’Neill, Elisabeth Page, Kathleen Murphy, Jim O’Connor, Therese Egan, Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM, Geraldine McBride, Fiona Wright, Becki Vousden, Vertina Fernandes, Veronica Hamilton, Claire Whitehead, Alice Daly, Richard Mayes, Sheila Doohan, 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 Mincu & Teresa Virrueta; may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Christ the King

26.11.2017

6pm	Deceased members of Logan & Fitzsimon Family
8am	Mary Murphy RIP
9am M'wick	Cliff Staniforth Anniv.
9.30am	Kathleen Roser RIP
11.30am	Antonio Visconti Anniv. & Giuseppe d'Auria
4pm	Polish Mass
7pm	People of the Parish
Monday – Feria	
10am	FUNERAL OF CAROLINE CHIVERS
7pm	James Johnson RIP
Tuesday – Feria	
10am	Jim Lewis Anniv.
7pm	Patrick Devine 1 st . Anniv.
Wednesday – Feria	
10am	Peggy O'Mahoney RIP and John Kellet RIP
7pm	MSC Benefactors
Thursday – St. Andrew	
10am	Mary Newcombe RIP
7pm	Special Intentions
Friday – Feria	
10am	Priests' Intentions
7pm	Peggy Brampton RIP
Saturday – Feria	
10am	Eithna Joyce RIP
6pm	Linda Peters Anniv.
Next Sunday First Sunday of Advent	
8am	People of the Parish
9am M'wick	Tom Williamson Ints.
9.30am	Mass for newly baptised and new Parishioners
11.30am	Brendan Hollywood Anniv.
7pm	Anna Avvinti Anniv.

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

Refreshments after Weekend Masses:

You are all very welcome to join us for light refreshments in the Tea / Coffee Bar in the Parish Centre.

Every week:

After Saturday 6pm Mass & Sunday 9.30 Mass.

First Sunday of the Month, 3rd December:

After Sunday 11.30am Mass.

APF Calendar 2018: Copies of the APF Calendar for 2018 are now in the Church porch for promoters to collect. For any queries call Tony Hughes (862087).

Welcome

We welcome into the Christian community **Finlay Connal** and **Emogen Sugars** who were baptised at our Church last Sunday. We also offer our congratulations to their parents.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Anna Maria Nienjadlo** and **Krzysztof Boroch** and to **Chantelle Murphy** and **John Doran** who were married at our church recently.

First Reading: Ezekiel: 34:11-12, 15-17

We do not usually combine the humility of a shepherd with the stature of a king, but this is God's way.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Life has been opened to us all through Christ, who knew no sin and overcame death.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus Speaks of the final gathering when all nations will be gathered before God.

Reading for the Week:

Mon: Dan 1:1-6.8-20; Ps: Dan 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4

Tue: Dan 2:31-45; Ps: Dan 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11

Wed: Dan 5:1-6.13-14.16-17.23-28; Ps: Dan 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19

Thu: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 30; Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

Fri: Dan 7:2-14; Ps: Dan 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33

Sat: Dan 7:15-27; Ps: Dan 3:82-87; Lk 21:34-36

Statement by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, made in St. Albans on 18th & 19th November

We have received historic allegations, dating back several decades, that one of our priests based here at St Albans sexually abused some young people. The person against whom the allegations are made died several decades ago. The Police and the Archdiocese have been informed of the allegations.

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart fully accept and acknowledge the immense pain, harm and distress suffered by persons who have been abused as well as their families - and we encourage any person who has been abused to report it.

Anyone who wishes to make contact with us on this most important matter will receive our support. We appreciate how difficult it can be to come forward and share one's own story of abuse.

We encourage people who have been abused to report the matter to the Police. Should you wish to speak to a representative of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, you can contact our Safeguarding Manager, Mrs. Saoirse Fox (Email: safeguarding@mscmissons.ie, Irish Landline: +353 1 4906622, Irish Mobile: +353 86 344 1707). There is also an independent, confidential and free helpline providing professional support for people who have experienced sexual abuse in this parish provided by Towards Healing. You can contact Margo or Cathy on 0800 0963315. The helpline is open Monday to Thursday 11:00am - 8:00pm and Friday 11:00am - 6:00pm. We want to assure everyone that the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart rigorously implement our child protection guidelines, which are fully compliant with official guidelines, here and at all our various centres. It is of vital importance to us that the parish and all its activities are safe places for children and vulnerable people.

Dates for December

Blessed Sacrament Adoration

In the Prayer Room. 11am Friday 1st December till 11am Saturday 2th. If you can attend, even if it's for just half an hour, please enter your name in the rota at the back of the church.



Christmas Cards for People in Prison

If you wish, next Saturday / Sunday 2nd & 3rd December, please sign Christmas cards for people in prison using your **first name only**. These will be in the porch & at the Mass Centre. Thank you.

Mass and Coffee Morning for the Newly Baptised & New Parishioners

On Sunday 3rd December, at 9.30am, we will be celebrating a special Mass for all those who have been baptised at our Church this year. Families are invited to use the pews at the front of the Church. This will also be a Welcome Mass for new parishioners. **Everyone is welcome for coffee and tea and CWL bake sale (in aid of refugees and the homeless after the 9.30 mass**

Christmas Film "NATIVITY"

Sunday 3rd December 3pm- 5pm
Refreshments will be served from 2.30.

Parish Friends present a Christmas treat for ALL the family, the film NATIVITY with Martin Freeman.



It makes you laugh and it makes you cry - one of the BEST Christmas Films ever. Popcorn, Sweets, Mince Pies and Biscuits, Tea, Coffee and Squash will be served from 2.30 Admittance Free. There will be a Raffle.

Further details or requests for lifts: Helen Bassill helen.bassill@ntlworld.com or 07860 830340

Traidcraft

Traidcraft next weekend 2nd /3rd December after all Masses at the church.

Traidcraft Coffee Morning

Monday 4th December, 43 Avenue Road AL1 3PY, 9.30am until 12noon. Everyone is welcome.

Holy Hour For Men

7th December 2017 in the Prayer Room at 8pm
Come join us for this Holy Hour. The Holy Hour includes Rosary, a Gospel reading and silent prayer, and is followed by cakes and coffee. For more information please contact Michael Crabtree on 07510 140759 or via email michael.crabtree@hotmail.co.uk



Bingo

Our next Bingo will be on Friday, 8th December in the Parish Hall at 8pm and is in aid of "LIFE".



Men's Curry Night

Friday 8th December at 8pm in the Abbey Spice (66-68 Stanhope Road). Meal deal for £15. Purely social. Let us know if you are coming along:
Mike Crawshaw 07768 177 634
or Richard Exact 07976 252 309.

Ascent (Life Ascending)

Meeting Tuesday 28th November 10.45am in Room 1.
Talk on Lourdes. Details: David Edwards 765 216
Note: Change of date from 21st November

St Albans Sustainability Week

Our parish is participating in this event next April. It aims to raise awareness of the need to act more in harmony with our world. If you are interested at this stage in contributing ideas, help or support in any other way please meet in the Cafe area of the Hall at 7.45pm on Wednesday 29th November; you will be very welcome.



More details from Stan or Maureen [765549, grabecki@hotmail.com].

Market Stall

Saturday 16th December.

Please plan to give 1/2 hour to hand out Invitations to our Christmas Services at the market on 16th December, 9am - 3.30pm Tel.no: 838 598 (Eric)

YOUTH

Music Ministry Scholarship

Applications for the 2018 Music Ministry Scholarship have just gone live. Young people from within the diocese can apply for a year's free tuition with Catholic Musician Edwin Fawcett. More information/ to apply go to:

<http://dowym.com/voices/apply-now-music-ministry-scholarship-2018/>

Westminster Youth Ministry Annual Youth Mass

Presided over by Bishop Nicholas Hudson on Friday 8th December (Feast of the Immaculate Conception), St Aloysius church, Euston, London, NW1 1TA <http://dowym.com/events/youth-mass/>

Christmas Day Lunch

Anyone on their own on Christmas Day is welcome to join us for lunch in the Parish Hall after 11.30am Mass. Please put your name and contact details on a sheet of paper stating any food allergies and if you will require a lift either to 11.30am Mass or to the Hall at 12.30pm. Write "Christmas Day Lunch" on the envelope and post it through the presbytery door.



If anyone is able to provide lifts on Christmas Day please contact Helen by email - helen.bassill@ntlworld.com or phone 07860 830340.

Training for Baptism Catechists

Wednesdays 6th and 13th December from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Our Lady of Lourdes, 1 Kirkwick Avenue, Harpenden, AL5 2QH. If you would like to attend, please contact Ivana (01727 853 585, Mon - Fri, 9am - 1pm)

Starting Reception 2018

Families with a child born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 are now able to apply for a Reception place for September 2018. The Herts Online system www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/ will be open until 15th January 2018.

Priests Form Signing

Our priests will be available for form signing in the Parish Centre on Monday 27th November, 4pm- 6.30pm & Monday 8th January, 4pm - 6.30pm

NEWS BULLETIN

Travelling Crib

We are asking families to invite the Travelling Crib into their home for a night during Advent starting from the **First Sunday of Advent (3rd December)**. The Crib will be delivered to your house by the hosting family of the previous day, and then you are asked to deliver it onto the next family after you. An Advent candle will accompany the Crib - you are invited to light it when the Crib arrives to acknowledge that its inhabitants are your guests for the night. There is also a book with activities and prayers. Please sign your name, e-mail and contact telephone number on the sheets provided - these will be available after 9.30am Mass **this Sunday 26th November**. Once the lists are completed you will be sent details of the route of families via e-mail so you know who to deliver the Crib to, and who to contact to arrange a delivery to your home. Please help us to keep the Crib safe and warm this Advent, ready to greet Jesus when he arrives at Christmas. For details contact Sr. Anita



Help Needed

Are you interested in joining a new group to help keep our church clean and tidy? We are looking for a number of people to assist with various aspects of cleaning, presentation and organisation within the church building. If this is something you may find appealing in any way or have any ideas to contribute, please come to a short meeting at 7.40pm on **Thursday 7th December in the Conference Room at the Presbytery**. For more information, or if you are interested and are not free to attend this meeting, please contact Stan on 765549, grabecki@hotmail.com.



Sharing the Light

Once again we opened our doors and invited in passers by to come inside to light a candle, write a prayer and take a piece of paper with a short scripture passage on it home with them. In the hour or so the service lasted, about 65 candles were lit, whilst Charlotte, Tom and Eamonn played and sung, prayers were offered for those offering the invitation and to all it was being offered to. With Jesus in our thoughts and in our sight on the altar, in adoration we in turn were individually blessed, and the holy atmosphere was there for all to experience. This service, held twice a year is very special; any parishioners who haven't yet attended are encouraged to do so next time.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Travelling Crib - Knitted Figures

Churches Together in Marshalswick will have a crib and knitted figures travelling around their churches' families. The crib will be hosted by the Mass Centre 15th-19th December. Families house the crib for the night and invite friends and neighbours in to share a short experience with included candle and prayers; handing the crib on the following day to another home whose address will be provided. Contact Christine 07900260190 or Maureen 07788968654. Note, young children are not a requirement at host homes.



Service of Advent Lessons and Carols December 3rd at 6.30pm St Saviour's Church Sandpit Lane. Contact Christine 07900260190 or Maureen 07788968654 if you would like to read at this service.

Food Collection

At Budgens Marshalswick Quadrant, for The Vineyard FEED project. **Saturday 9th December 10am - midday**. If you can give some time to help contact Christine 07900260190 or Maureen 07788968654

Future Needs of our Parish

Thanks very much to everyone who took part in the discussions last week regarding the spiritual and practical needs of our parish. Your aspirations will be prayed over during Advent. However, if you could not attend the meeting, you will still have the opportunity to comment; more information will follow next week. Feedback on all your ideas will be presented to the parish in the New Year.



Baptism Course: The pre-baptism session will be held on **Saturday, 2nd December, 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 853 585. (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.

You Can Be Santa

Many thanks to all volunteers who visited families and returned consent forms and letters; we are now ready for the next stage. For those who signed up as benefactors, the **ticket drawing will take place after all Masses this weekend** in the Parish Centre/coffee area (not the porch!). You will receive the letter to Santa, age and gender of the recipient plus full instructions for buying presents. If you cannot attend one of these Masses, please contact the Santa team by e-mail (santa@albanstephen.com) to make alternative arrangements. Your generous support to this initiative is continuing to spread the joy and true message of Christmas to more than 100 children and their families!



St Albans Winter Beds Project

The Open Door Charity supported by the City Centre Churches is setting up the Winter Beds Project to provide overnight shelter in severe weather to rough sleepers not accommodated in the Open Door night shelter. This will run between January & March 2018. **Volunteers are needed in the evening, throughout the night & in the morning to welcome guests, supervise overnight, prepare breakfast, clean & help to coordinate volunteers. Volunteers will be on a rota.** Register your interest by emailing winterbedsproject@opendoorstalbans.org providing your name and contact details and an indication of the role you would be interested in. For more information please visit www.opendoorstalbans.org

St. Albans Winter Beds Project Manager Post
4 months paid job, 20 hours per week. **Details at:** <http://www.homeless.org.uk/jobs/open-door-charity-winter-beds-project-manager>

Parish of SS Alban & Stephen

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

Baptisms: by appointment.

