

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, Rev. Alan Neville 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.org

Items for the bulletin – e-mail: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk by 12noon on Wednesdays

Youth Co-ordinator Sr. Anita O’Leary SSJG, e-mail: anitaoleary@rcdow.org.uk

Safeguarding Lead Nicky Vellacott: stalbanssg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk / 07882 566 020

Youth Website: www.sasyouth.com. We are a Fairtrade Parish. Parish Secretary: Ivana Mearns



4th November 2018

Today we hear a very famous Gospel passage which we might dismiss easily because we feel we know it so well.

It sounds simple, yet it can be so difficult. Loving God in our world today means being counter-cultural; often we are afraid to even admit that we are believers.

Finding time for God can be impossible due to our hectic lifestyle. Yet we can learn to see God in the everyday, right before us, in each task, in nature, in our friends and family.

We might ask ourselves today, what prevents me from loving God, from making time for God in my life, from nourishing my relationship with God?

The love of neighbour which Jesus speaks of is a controversial love.

It involves a love of people we don’t know or like. It is a radical love of those that society wants to dismiss: love of the homeless family, love of the drug addict, love of the prisoner.

Love God and Love Neighbour – it sounds so simple yet there are the toughest, most radical lines in the Gospel. It sounds like two commandments and yet they are one, interconnected and inseparable, for to love God we must love our neighbour. And by loving our neighbour we are loving God.

Today let us all ask ourselves how we can live more fully this great commandment and be a shining example of Christ’s love in the world.



Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

New Parish Website

Our new parish website is now available and we hope you will enjoy it, especially the local images, and find it simple to navigate. The PPC welcomes your comments on the site. New information for the website should be sent to the parish office (stalbans@rcdow.org.uk), to be forwarded to the volunteers who have kindly agreed to participate in a rota to update the site. A big thank you to everyone who has given time over the summer to design and create the new website. Please update your bookmarks to the new website address www.albanstephen.org

Youth Strategy Team Questionnaire

Rather than dictate to the young people of our parish what we think is right for them, the Youth Strategy Team want to engage in a discussion, so we can hear their voice and then hopefully find ways to provide what is being asked for. This isn't a quick fix situation but we are committed to delivering on the remit given to us following the last parish assembly. So it is really important that we hear from the younger members of our parish community, and of course we welcome suggestions / offers of help from those outside the 15-30 age group for whom this is mainly intended. Please, please, please, complete a questionnaire before you leave mass and place it as an offering in the basket on the altar. If you don't have time to complete now, please take it home and bring it back before or at mass next weekend. This is a great opportunity for us to hear your voice. Thank you in advance.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently including **John Donachie, Kensley Lewis, Maddalena Lazzara and Avenal Jenkins**, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time..

Please pray for all those who are ill at this time including Margaret Norris, Catherine Mayes, Betty Nicklin, Joe Spatafora, Mary Miskell, Magdalena Pedroz, Callum Gathard, Patrick Doran, Adrian Stack, Patricia McCarthy, Philomena Lines, Francisco Diaz, Catherine Elkin, John Moloney, Liz Smith, Carmen Mincu, Teresa Virrueta, Bernadette Marron, Mark Norris, Margaret Moloney, Alice Daly, Patrick Foley, Jim O’Neill, Mike Smith, Jack O’Mahoney, Carmaline Xavier, Margaret Malloney, Ruth O’Gorman, John Baxter, Jim O’Connor, Ida Daswa, Kathleen Murphy, Sr. Annie Bromham IBVM, Jim Moss, Geraldine McBride, Becki Vousden, Edie Hale, Vertina Fernandes, John Rowland, Veronica Hamilton, Claire Whitehead, Catrin Rees-Doherty, Sheila Dooan, Noah Gregorio, Gerry Smith, Edmond Mansfield & Teresa Hill may the Lord comfort them.

Mass Intentions for the Week

4.11.2018

6pm *Praying for deceased relatives and friends*

8am *Praying for*

9am M'wick *deceased*

9.30am *Parents*

11.30am *and*

7pm *Grandparents*

Monday – Feria

10am - FUNERAL OF KENSLEY LEWIS

7pm *Praying for deceased spouses,
brothers and sisters*

Tuesday – Feria

10am *Praying for victims of violence*

NO EVENING MASS

Wednesday – St. Willibrord

10am *Praying for deceased*

7pm *sons and daughters*

Thursday - Feria

10am *Praying for those*

7pm *who have died in war*

Friday – The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

10am *Praying for deceased MSCs*

7pm *and other religious*

Saturday – St. Leo the Great

10am *Louis Wilkinson Anniv.*

6pm *Eamonn Byrne Anniv.*

Next Sunday

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am *Brendan Kearns RIP*

9am M'wick *People of the Parish*

9.30am *May Gerity Anniv.*

11.30am *Ann + Matthew Stones Anniv.*

4pm *Polish Mass*

7pm *Peter Rowland Anniv.*

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

Next weekend, there will be a second collection for Sick and Retired Priests of the Diocese of Westminster. Many priests offer their resignation from active ministry at 75 but often continue in ministry within parishes, schools, hospitals and various chaplaincies. Donation envelopes are available at the back of the Church and from Marshalswick Mass Centre.

Confirmations 2019



Enrolment Forms are now available from the back of the Church for all those in Year 10 and above who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next year. Please note that the deadline for submitting your enrolment forms is **Friday, 30th November**.

Sister Mercedes RIP

Sr. Mercedes Brogan or Maryland has died peacefully at St Michael's Convent, Clacton. May she rest in peace.

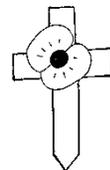


Remembrance Day

11th November 2018

As we reach the centenary of the end of the war that was supposed to end all wars on Sunday 11th November 2018, we invite you to remember those whom you have lost as a result of conflict.

Please write their names on the poppy prayer sheets that will be available at all



Masses on the 10th/11th November and place in the basket on the Altar either before or after Mass. Please also help yourself to a commemorative poppy bookmark as we pray that the God of mercy and compassion will help us to spread peace throughout our world. The annual parade and service to commemorate those who have died or were injured during conflict will begin at the Memorial at the top of St Peter's Street at the later time of 6.30pm. There will be the lighting of the Battle's Over Beacon after the two-minute silence at 7pm. Over 1,000 Beacons of Light will be lit across the UK symbolising an end to the darkness of war and a return to the light of peace.

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage & Congress

There's a short article written by one of our parishioners who attended this event in Liverpool along with links to the talks, resources and more.

Take a look at the new parish website

www.albanstephen.org

under Events/Previous Events

First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

We are called to listen to God's wisdom.

Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

'Christ's power to save is utterly certain.' Let us lean on those words and put our trust in them.

Gospel Reading: Mark 12:28-34

This Gospel reading begins with the scribe questioning Jesus. It ends with Jesus praising the scribe. It's good to seek answers to our questions; it's far better to merit the Lord's praise.

Dates for November

Traidcraft

Traidcraft goods - on sale after all Masses at church this weekend of 3rd & 4th November.

All proceeds to Cafod.

More details or to place an order contact Maureen on 01727 765 549 or grabecki@hotmail.com

You can be Santa

Many thanks to parishioners who have volunteered to visit families, your help in ensuring the success of this project is invaluable and much appreciated. A member of the Santa team will be present at all Masses this weekend (3rd /4th November) to distribute visitor packs and answer any questions. The packs contain all the necessary details and relevant paperwork. Visits should take place during the following two weeks, and all paperwork should be returned by 18th November.

Should anyone be unable to pick up their pack this weekend then please e-mail the Santa team (santa@albanstephen.com) to make alternative arrangements.

Details of how to become a benefactor (gift donor) will be available at Mass this weekend or you can email the Santa team.

Your generous support to this initiative is continuing to spread the joy and true message of Christmas and help support those who are less fortunate!

CWL (Catholic Women's League)

CWL Meeting after 10am Mass on Tuesday 6th November in Room 1. Some ideas to make your home more Christmassy will be given. If any members have a good idea for a Christmas decoration, perhaps they would like to share it with us at the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

BINGO

In aid of the MSC EMERGENCY APPEAL in the Parish Hall on Friday, 9th November at 8 O'Clock. Admission is 50p towards refreshments. Everyone welcome. Thank you to all those that supported our last Bingo evening. £150 was raised for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.



Do You Hope for Peace in Our Time?

As part of the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1, you are invited to join a group of parishioners attempting to create 1000 origami cranes for peace. This tradition began in Hiroshima and a child holding a crane is the central element of the Peace Memorial there. Join us any time between 2 and 4pm on Saturday 10th November in the Parish Hall. Full instructions and refreshments supplied. The parish Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation group looks forward to meeting you.



Mothers' Prayers

Mothers' Prayers will meet in room 2 on Monday November 12th at 8pm.

Information from office@mothersprayers.org

Life Ascending (Ascent)

Meeting on Tuesday 13th November at 10.45am, Room 1
"Political Correctness v. Christianity"

Baptism Course

The pre-baptism session will be held on Saturday, 17th November 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: 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 you will need a letter from your Parish Priest giving permission to baptise here.

First Holy Communion

Parents' Meeting CHANGE OF DATE



Please note that the meeting originally scheduled for 12th November will take place on MONDAY 19TH NOVEMBER, at 8pm in the Parish Hall.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 17th November

There is a men's breakfast on Saturday 17th November from 8.15am in the Parish Centre. There will be tea/coffee, fruit, pastries and friendly conversation from 8.15am for 30 minutes or so, followed by a short DVD talk on the theme "God at work", featuring Ken Costa, a former deputy chair of UBS Bank and former chair of Alpha International.

Please contact Richard by email on d4dstalbins@gmail.com, or call 07976 252309 for more details

Sharing the Light Service

Thursday 22nd November

On Thursday 22nd November from 6.30pm to 7.30pm we will have a "Sharing the Light" service in the church. The church will be light by candles and opened for people to come in and spend 10-15 minutes in quiet prayer. This can be a time of peace, reflection and thanksgiving, as we will soon be in Advent and the busy Christmas period. You may want to pop in on the way home from work, or after dinner with the children for a few minutes. Some parishioners will also go out onto the local streets and invite people to join us in prayer.

NEWS BULLETIN

Getting Married in the next 12 months?



A Marriage Preparation programme will be running in the Parish soon. If you are planning to get married in the next 12 months, please contact Fr. Jimmy as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

An Invitation to look anew at Marriage and Family Life.

Based on Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia* (the Joy of Love), copies of the faith-sharing booklet "Holy Families" are now available in the church porch and at Marshalswick Mass centre [£3]. Intended for use in a small group or in the setting of one's own home, either as a family or alone, Holy Families explores the beauty and blessing, the joys and challenges of marriage and family life. If you would like to experience the value of listening to others and sharing your own story in confidence as part of a small group, please contact Stan [01727 765 549 or grabecki@hotmail.com].

"In Heaven we will love with a special love those whom we have loved in this world.



This happiness of mind and heart will grow forever."

Jules Chevalier, Le Sacra-Cœur, p.360

Can you help?

Volunteer driver required to give two ladies in the Ashley Road/Drakes Drive areas a lift to 11.30am Mass once every month.



If you can help please contact Helen Bassill
tel: 07860 830 340
or email helen.bassill@ntlworld.com

Christmas Day Lunch

Our parish has traditionally provided Christmas Day lunch for people who would otherwise be alone at Christmas. Helpers are needed if the lunch is to happen this Christmas. Can you organise, cook, serve or arrange lifts on Christmas Day?

If you can help, please contact Melanie
(mjoneill5@btinternet.com or 07900 051 956).

Sponsored Sleep Out 2018

Friday, 7th December 2018, Oaklands College, Smallford, St Albans AL4 0XS, 9pm - 7am, All ages welcome. (children under 11 need to be accompanied by a parent) Will you brave the cold to help the homeless keep warm? Please join the Sleep Out and raise money for one of the 5 charities participating: Centre 33, Open Door, Emmaus, HYH and The Living Room. With your support and sponsorship, we can continue our vital work.

So wrap up warm, grab some friends and help raise money and awareness of homelessness with us! Details and a registration form can be found at www.stalbanssleepout.org.uk

Schools

PRIESTS FORM SIGNING

Our priests will be available for form signing in the Parish Centre on:

Tuesday 20th November, 6pm - 8pm
Wednesday 21st November, 4pm - 6pm

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School - Open Mornings

For children starting school September 2019
Families with children born 01/09/2014 - 31/08/2015 will be able to apply for a place in Reception. You are welcome to visit our school and Miss O'Donnell, our Head Teacher will be happy to show you around.

The Open days for the school are:

Wednesday 7th November 10am

Saturday 10th November 10.30am

Thursday 15th November 10am

To book onto a school tour please call 01727 86 1077.

St Columba's College,

Sixth Form Preview Evening, Tuesday 13th November 2018, 6:00pm - 8:30pm. External applicants and their parents are warmly invited to come and look round with the current Year 11 Students and their families.

There will be talks by the Headmaster, the Head of Sixth Form and the Head of Careers, at 6:45pm and 7:45pm. Academic, sports and music scholarships are available. To find out more about studying 'A' Levels at St Columba's College and to register for the Preview Evening please contact the Admissions Registrar, Mrs Hilary Causer, at admissions@stcolumbascollege.org or call 01727 892 040. www.stcolumbascollege.org

Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School

Starting Reception 2019

Families with a child born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 will soon be able to apply for a Reception place for September 2019.

The Herts Online system for Reception applications <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/> opens on Monday 5 November and closes on Tuesday 15 January. Additional forms will be needed, details can be found on www.ssasininfants.herts.sch.uk or are available from the school office.

Starting Nursery 2019

Families with a child born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 will soon be able to apply for a Nursery place for September 2019. The application window for Nursery applications opens on Thursday 8 November and closes on Thursday 14 February.

Applicants must complete our Application and Options Forms. These can be downloaded from www.ssasininfants.herts.sch.uk or are available from the school office. Parents are welcome to visit the school and a list of dates and times for Foundation Stage tours can be viewed on the school website - please call 01727 854643 to book your appointment.

Parish of Ss Alban & Stephen

Coffessions: Sat 10.30-11.30am & 6.45-7pm.

Baptisms: by appointment

