



ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter

+ 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First reading: Exodus 22: 20-26
Second Reading: Thessalonians 1: 5-10
Gospel: Matthew 22: 34-40

Sometimes it helps to spell things out – that is exactly what today's First Reading does with respect to the Gospel reading. It's easy to assume that we're obeying the two great commandments. Of course we love God and our neighbours! But what if the theoretical is brought down to the practical level? That practical level was important to Israel – and to Jesus.

The Laws Jesus recites in today's Gospel reading appear in the Old Testament: the first, in Deuteronomy 6:5, part of Shema (Hebrew for 'hear'), a prayer that Jews recited three times a day; the second, in Leviticus 19:18, one of many Laws of conduct meant to keep Israel set apart or consecrated to the Lord.

The First Reading, from Exodus, is also an excerpt from the Laws. In fact, from Exodus 19:1 to Numbers 10:10 the Laws continue, following the descriptions of Israel's encampment at Mt. Sinai on the way to the Promised Land. While many of those Laws come from a later period, their placement alongside the original ones, suggest that they were understood to show how the people remained faithful in the new land.

Today's readings might be summarized as follows: Do unto others as I have done unto you; for I am compassionate. The Israelites had only to remember that they had once been slaves to recall what God had done for them. This they must do for others.

The Gospel reading is, again, tense with conflict. Jesus is questioned, literally 'tested,' by a 'scholar of the law,' an expert. How ironic-the 'scholar of the law' testing the Son of the Giver of the Law, the one who came 'not to abolish but to fulfill' the Law and the Prophets! Let us pray that we might always live in a manner that is indeed the fulfillment of the 'law and the prophets.'

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

We welcome wholeheartedly into our parish community Stefano Onyekwe and Christian Thomas Irvine who were baptized; Diane Saimon and Margaret Thomas who were confirmed and Steven Onyekwe who was Confirmed and received the Eucharist for the first time on 11th October. Please pray for them as they begin their lives as Catholic Christians.

'We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song'

SCHOOL APPLICATION FORM SIGNING

Please contact Fr Dermot to arrange an appointment to have your school forms signed. Please note, there will be no arranged signing sessions this year.

Mass Times

Monday 9:30am
Tuesday 9:30am
Wednesday 7pm
Thursday 9:30am
Friday 9:30am
Saturday 6pm
Sunday 9am and 11am

Please note:

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended-one can attend Mass any day of the week.

Contact Info

Parish Priest
Rev Dermot O'Neill

Safeguarding
Claudia Clayman
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Parish Secretary
Jackie Sheils
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-1

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Sacraments

Under current COVID restrictions:

Baptisms: No more than 6 people at the ceremony. To arrange a baptism please contact Fr Dermot.

Funerals: It is the normal procedure to first contact your chosen Funeral Director. They will liaise with Fr Dermot. At present only 30 mourners can attend the church service.

Weddings: Preparation for marriage: Six months' notice is required. Please contact Fr Dermot.

Catechetics

We are currently making plans how to safely prepare for First Communion and Confirmation. Details and application forms will be made available shortly.

Newsletter

If you wish to receive a copy of our weekly newsletter by email, please sign up by using the website e-Alert or, email the parish office to request.



DONATE TO THE CHURCH/PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Thank you to all who have converted their weekly contribution to Direct Debit. This has been a great asset to us. To those who are still using weekly envelopes, the new sets have arrived and will be with you very soon. It is hoped they will be delivered to your door. If you have not yet done so and wish to join the planned giving scheme in our Parish, please contact the Parish office or visit our website for more information. At the exits there are QR code posters that will give you direct link to details of online giving.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OR THINKING OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

St Alban's Church, North Finchley has a group for adults which meets every Wednesday evening at 8pm in the Presbytery. Why not come along to find out more? Or if you prefer, just phone or email the parish to let us know you're coming and if you wish, we can put you in touch with someone who can tell you what to expect and answer your questions. You will be made very welcome.

THANK YOU

After 26 years of leading the preparation of children in the parish to receive their First Holy Communion, Jackie Sheils has decided to stand down from the role. Since 1994, the families of this parish have benefitted from her dedication and commitment to handing on the faith. I wish to record my gratitude to her and her able assistants, Jackie Light, Denise and Blossom McDonagh, who are also stepping away from First Communion preparation. Fr Dermot.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST ENVELOPES

Envelopes available from the exits of the church. Please put the list of names you wish to have prayed for together with your donation and return the envelopes to the presbytery or in the offertory baskets in the church.

ST ALBAN'S CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

Due to COVID-19 we are now running as a virtual Zoom group on the same dates and times until further notice. Please email Carole O'Reilly coreilly396@btinternet.com for more information as to how to join.

Please remember in your prayers the sick:

Bridget Hennessey, Noreen Byrne
Gabriel Mensah, Ian Dunn
Kevin Kerr, Mary Kerr
Jean McDonnell, Richard Evans, Pat Devine, Maria Diaz

all the recently departed and their loved ones

Anna Giacom, Gerard Mullen

and the faithful departed whose anniversaries occur at about this time:

Henry Sheils