



# ST ALBAN

## Parish Newsletter

### +TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First reading: Isaiah 25: 6-10  
Second Reading: Letter of St Paul to the Philippians  
4:12-14, 19-20

**Gospel: St Matthew 22: 1-14**

As told by Jesus, the parables were stories that left his listeners 'hanging,' having to ponder the meaning for themselves. As retold in the Gospels, the parables often include the interpretations given by the early Church. The parable in today's Gospel both interprets and leaves us hanging.

The predominant image in today's parable is the wedding feast. The Greek noun *gamos* (marriage) occurs eight times, although unfortunately, this is not evident in the English translation. In the Old Testament, God's covenant with Israel is often described as a marriage relationship (Isaiah 54:6, 62:5; Hosea 2:16-22). The New Testament continues this image, often speaking of Jesus as the bridegroom.

Today's parable points to the new reality that has come about through the presence, teaching and ministry of Jesus. The promises of old are fulfilled: "The Kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17), the bridegroom is among us, Emmanuel, God, is with us. "The feast is ready."

The Good News was first announced to the Jewish people, but not all believed. The reference to the armed attack and burning of the city in today's Gospel reading has been understood in reference to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70—an event Matthew's community saw as divine punishment for the Jewish leaders' rejection of Jesus. At the end of Matthew's account of the Gospel, the disciples are sent to 'invite' all nations (Matthew 28:19)—that is, the Gentiles—to the wedding feast. Many of them believed, and some were members of Matthew's community.

#### **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

Parishioners will remember that Lockdown sadly prevented our celebration of the Easter Vigil in the church. It is now possible for those who were expecting to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter to do so now. We celebrated the Scrutiny Mass with them at 7pm on Wednesday 7th October. On Sunday 11th October, at the 11am Mass, Stefano and Christian will be Baptised, Steven will be Received into the Catholic Church, Confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time while Diane and Margaret will be Confirmed. Please pray for them (and for Dong Ho who received the Sacraments of Initiation when he returned to South Korea before Lockdown) that God may give them the strength and determination to live the Christian Life in His love.'

#### **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

[finchleynorthsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:finchleynorthsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

### Parish Secretary

Jackie Sheils

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-1

51 Nether Street

Finchley

London

N12 7NN

020 8446 0224

[finchleynorth@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:finchleynorth@rcdow.org.uk)

## 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**.



## DONATE TO THE CHURCH/PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Thank you to everyone 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, your new set will be ready very soon. 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.

## 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.

## BISHOP DOUGLAS OPEN EVENINGS

Due to popular demand, we have added an additional date for a live and **Virtual Open House experience** of our school on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of October at 7pm**. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81437987674>  
We know that the best way for parents and Year 6 pupils to get a real feel for what our school is about is by visiting us. We have therefore made opportunities to visit the school from the **12<sup>th</sup> October to the 23<sup>rd</sup> October** and these school time tours will take place from **9.10am to 10.10am**. We can also offer tours outside of school time, from **4.30pm to 6.30pm**. To arrange a tour, parents can contact the school via email [schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk) or telephone 0208 444 5211.

## NOVEMBER DEAD LIST ENVELOPES

Will be available from the exits of the church from next week. Please put the list of names you wish to have prayed for and 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](mailto:coreilly396@btinternet.com) for more information as to how to join.

**Please remember in your prayers the sick:**

Bridget Hennessey, Noreen Byrne  
David Adair, Gabriel Mensah, Ian Dunn  
Kevin Kerr, Mary Kerr  
Jean McDonnell, Richard Evans

**all the recently departed and their loved ones**

George Chapman  
Anna Giacón

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

