



# ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter

## +TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First reading:** Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6  
**Second Reading:** Thessalonians 1:1-5  
**Gospel:** Matthew 22: 15-21

## Mass Times

Monday 10:30am–Funeral  
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

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Initially, today's First Reading may take you by surprise. Cyrus? The Lord's anointed? Cyrus was the Persian king who conquered Babylon during the exile, thus winning freedom for the Jewish people. Isaiah speaks to him as the Lord's 'anointed' (literally, messiah), the agent God used on behalf of his chosen people even though Cyrus did not 'know' God (Isaiah 45:4,5)—that is, was not in covenant relationship with him as a member of the chosen people.

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah recount the Jews' return to Jerusalem and rebuilding of the Temple and city, showing how the people appropriately 'repaid' both God and the government their respective dues. There was no doubt, however, that God was God and that no other ruler was more supreme.

In today's Gospel reading, the conflict between Jesus and the Jewish leaders continues. Today, the Pharisees are in the spotlight. Enlisting the aid of the Herodians', who were supporters of the ruling dynasty of Herod the Great and thus loyal to Rome, the Pharisees are trying to put allegiance to the government in conflict with covenant ('lawful') fidelity to God. In effect, the Pharisees are playing from both sides in order to entrap Jesus. In response, Jesus affirms the just claims of both, 'Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.' What belongs to God is, of course, everything and everyone. How fittingly today's Responsorial Psalm acclaim, 'Give the Lord glory and honor ..... The gods of the nations are things of naught ..... The Lord is King.' Let us pray, this day, for a heightened awareness that all belongs to God. Let us render the tribute that is rightly due.

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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. 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.

## 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 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, Pat Devine, Maria Diaz

all the recently departed and their loved ones  
Anna Giacon

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

Maria & Filipe Franco