



ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter – 21st February 2021
+ 1st Sunday in Lent

MASS TIMES

Monday	9.30am
Tuesday:	9.30am
Wednesday:	9.30am
Thursday:	9.30am
Friday:	9.30am
Saturday:	6pm
Sunday:	9am and 11am

Please note:

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

Contact Info

Parish Priest
Rev Dermot O'Neill

Parish Secretary
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Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-1

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Parish website

Visit our website
parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleynorth
for all weekly updates and
Children's Liturgy Lessons.

First reading: Genesis 9:8-15
Responsorial Psalm: *Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.*
Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22
Gospel: Mark 1:12-15
First Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation during Lent

The Genesis passage comes from the priestly writer, a postexilic compiler with a special interest in worship and obedience to the law. This writer sees God as all-powerful, creative, transcendent, holy and orderly. Notice that perspective in the first creation story of Genesis 1:1-2:4a. God creates by the power of the Word, creatures appear in orderly array, and God rests on the seventh day as if the Sabbath were written into the very order of the cosmos.

For this writer, then, the flood represents a mighty tearing of the fabric of creation, which God had originally pronounced "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

After sin causes the wrath of God to break forth. God forswears he violence of the flood by making a covenant. This seems to anticipate the unconditional covenant made with Abraham. God promises never to destroy creation and sets a sign of the covenant in the heavens: a rainbow. Alongside the dove, the rainbow becomes a sign of peace. So, despite the terrors of war, the upheavals of nature, the catastrophes of human judgment, God's graciousness ensures stability 'for all future generations.' The reestablishment of God's orderly rule after the flood would have had a strong impact on the community hoping to regroup after the disaster of the exile.

Mark's account of the Gospel pictures Jesus being tempted in the wilderness following his baptism. But the most striking parallel today is between Jesus' proclamation of the Gospel and God's good news of repudiating vengeance. The 'good news of God' (1:13) is thus a message of reconciliation.

The First Letter of Peter tells of Jesus going to make a proclamation to the spirits in prison who had disobeyed in the time of Noah. The precise meaning of this passage is hard to grasp, but the general sense seems clear: Christ's death is a powerful Gospel for all times and people, admitting people into a new spiritual Noah's ark saves them through the ritual flood of Baptism.

PUBLIC MASSES FROM MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

Public Masses will begin again on Monday at 9.30am. COVID restrictions will continue and must be observed, at all times.

DONATE TO THE CHURCH

Thank you to all who have converted their weekly contribution to Direct Debit. This has been a great asset to us. If you wish to join the planned giving scheme in our Parish, please contact the Parish office by email, if possible or visit our website for more information. Alternatively, simply set up a direct debit:

A/c name: WRCDT St Alban North Finchley-
Sort code: 40-05-20
A/c No: 51094491
Reference: Your name/donation

Parish QR code

For online donations



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.

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.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Considering the difficulties everyone is facing just now, we are all the more delighted to be welcoming new members to our Parish community! At the Easter Vigil Jaimin and Mutsilu will be Baptised, Moi-Maree and Catherine (with her children Freddie and Lily) will be Received into the Church and Rosanna will be Confirmed. In normal times, on the First Sunday of Lent, they would be attending Westminster Cathedral for the Rite of Election with Cardinal Vincent Nichols and his Auxiliary Bishops but because of the current restrictions, the Cardinal has delegated the presiding over this ceremony to the Parish Priests in their churches. So at the **10 am Mass on Sunday 21st February**, Fr Dermot will be inviting our Catechumens and Candidates to prepare for the Easter Sacraments at this Rite celebrated in St Alban's Church. This Mass will be live-streamed so all parishioners can participate virtually. Please pray for them as they make their journey of continuing conversion.

ST BARNABAS FOODBANK

St Barnabas Foodbank at 913 High Road North Finchley, accepts donations of food each Saturday between 9.30 & 12.30. They are open for those in need on Mondays 12.30 – 2pm.

CAFOD

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Please give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Please donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of our envelopes.

You can also easily give via text.

Text LENT 5 to 70460 to give £5, plus one standard rate message.

Text LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10, plus one standard rate message.

Text LENT 20 to 70460 to give £20, plus one standard rate message.

Or Telephone: 0303 303 3030 to donate over the phone

For more information, please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

Further resources for Family Fast Day can be found on our web page <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

Please remember in your prayers the sick:

Jimmy Gray
all the recently departed and their loved ones.

Jane Evans, Daniel Maybin
and the faithful departed whose anniversaries occur at about this time:

Bernard Grant, Patrick O'Brien

