



## MASS TIMES

Monday:	9.30am
Tuesday:	9.30am
Wednesday:	Funeral – 1pm
Thursday:	9.30am
Friday:	9.30am
Saturday:	6pm
Sunday:	10am ***

## Please note:

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

## Contact Info

Parish Priest  
Rev Dermot O'Neill

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)

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

## Parish website

Visit our website  
[parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleynorth](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleynorth)  
for all weekly updates and  
**Children's liturgy lessons.**

# ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
+ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- First reading:** *Samuel 3:3-10, 19*  
**Responsorial Psalm:** *Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.*  
**Second Reading:** *1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20*  
**Gospel:** *John 1: 35-42*

As with many of John's images (light and dark, spirit and flesh), looking and seeing have a deeper meaning than ordinary usage would suggest. One has only to think of the story of the man born blind (John 9:1-41) to know that 'seeing' someone implies understanding who they really are, especially in Jesus' interactions. Here in the beginning of the section of

John's account of the Gospel known as the 'Book of Signs' (John 1:19-12:50), the call of the first disciples challenges both the disciples in the story and the readers to see who Jesus really is and interpret properly the signs that he does.

John the Baptist points to Jesus, saying "Look, here is the Lamb of God." He calls attention to the true nature of Jesus in the world by inviting his listeners to see him as the Passover lamb whose blood saved the Israelites from the death of the firstborn in Egypt and as the lamb ritually slaughtered as an offering for sin (see Isaiah 53: 7,10). It is up to the would-be disciples to see that nature for themselves. Jesus probes their search for truth by asking: "What are you looking for?" Their response indicates their desire to follow him, and Jesus then invites them to see where he is staying. As with seeing the true nature of Jesus, seeing the place where he stays means more than we think. When Andrew and the other man see where Jesus stays, it becomes their place as well, and they leave John for the new teacher.

It is not only the disciples who look intently to discern their teacher's true nature. Jesus himself looks into Simon, Andrew's brother, and sees his deepest self, renaming him Cephas ('rock'), Aramaic for Peter. Peter's new name signifies his new identity and bond with the Son of God. Later, Jesus astonishes Nathanael with what he knows of his character from seeing him under the fig tree. John will continue to use 'seeing' as a code word for understanding and believing in Jesus. Those who see rightly will believe that Jesus is the one to come.

The invitation to come and see applies to our lives as well. Where might you see Jesus staying today? What does following him as a disciple mean for us?

## BEAT THE WINTER BLUES QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm via Zoom. Join us for a fun, light-hearted quiz and games evening with your fellow parishioners. Book as individuals or as a group (max 6 devices per team). The principal aim is to have a parish social event and there is no fixed charge, but donations are encouraged and any money raised will be split equally between the East Finchley Food Bank and St Alban's Parish. If you cannot attend, but wish to make a donation, please use the 'Donate to our Parish' page on the website, and add QUIZ NIGHT as a reference. Contact the social committee to register and we will get back to you with all the details: [socialcommitteesap@yahoo.com](mailto:socialcommitteesap@yahoo.com)

## 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.



## MESSAGE FROM FR DERMOT

Many thanks to all who helped in any way to prepare our church for Christmas. To the many cleaners, crib and tree decorators who helped give the church that Christmas look. To our readers, musicians, cantors who helped enhance the liturgies of Christmas. To our technicians who made the virtual parish carol happen, not to mention the contributors to the carols! To our furniture removers who prepared extra seating in the hall and throughout the church. (Does anyone know how heavy those benches are?!). But above all, to our magnificent stewards who have been giving their time to safely manage comings and goings to the church for many months now, and then clean the church after every event. Without them, our church simply could not have been open for public masses all this time. On a personal note I must say 'thank you' for all your cards and good wishes over Christmas and New Year. Thanks also for your kindness and generosity throughout the year. It has been a trying time for all of us. What has emerged from it is evidence of a generous spirit in so many that is testimony to a deep commitment to this faith community.

## 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

## CAFOD

CAFOD Westminster is looking for volunteers, who care about global poverty, to help us inspire others to act here, so we can tackle poverty and injustice across the developing world. Are you a people-person who would relish involving and encouraging others? Are you a good communicator who would enjoy speaking about our work in a Parish or School? Please get in touch with us on [westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:westminster@cafod.org.uk) or 020 8449-6970 to find out more and book a place on one of our CAFOD online information sessions.

## 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.

### Please remember in your prayers the sick:

Leslie DeSouza, Fr Bernard McCumiskey,  
Joe Mendonca, Jean McDonnell  
Anne Loughlin

### all the recently departed and their loved ones

Rina Mamo, Dorothy Louis-Fernand,  
Teresa McCarthy, Angelo Porto

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

Frank Murtagh, Patrick Loughlin  
Elizabeth Brady, Pat Tilley, Charles Curran, John Schmitt

