



ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter – 24th January 2021
+ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS TIMES

NO PUBLIC MASSES

Mass will be live streamed daily:

Monday: 9.30am Funeral-
Ann McLaughlin
Tuesday: 9.30am
Wednesday: 9.30am
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

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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: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, make me know your ways.*
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20

Written in the period after the exile to Babylon, the Book of Jonah is a prophecy to the Jews returning home. Ancient prophecies were intended to call God's people back to faithfulness. They often contained indictments of neighboring powers that defined God by conquering God's people. So it is not unusual that Jonah would be directed to pronounce doom on Nineveh, capital of Assyria. That nation had conquered the northern kingdom of Israel in an earlier period of Israel's history-722 years before the birth of Christ.

The Book of Jonah is unusual, however, because the Ninevites believe Jonah immediately and repent. No prophet to the Jews had such instantaneous success. Isaiah was warned that the people would not believe (Isaiah 6:8-10); Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern (Jeremiah 38); Ezekiel found the Israelites rebellious (Ezekiel 3:27). But the Ninevites changed their ways. More astounding-God repents of the punishment that was intended.

This had happened before, but rarely (Exodus 32:18 is a notable example). It had never happened with non-Jews and sworn enemies of Israel. If we read further, we find that Jonah becomes very angry with God for this.

How does this story prophesy to Jews after the exile and bring them back to faithfulness? How does it prophesy to us? The story of Jonah speaks eloquently to the constancy of God as one who is 'slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity' (Exodus 34:6; Jonah 4:2). It also draws on a theology of creation that understands God as Lord of all. Whoever turns to God is gathered in love. Finally, the story cautions against putting boundaries on God's care and concern. Israel cannot claim God exclusively for itself. No nation can. Jonah's story suggests that if God cares for the enemies of Israel so much, then God will care for Israel that much more. (Matthew 6:26 makes a similar point.) The prophecy of Jonah teaches that God is not bound by human notions of judgement and justice and that we do not have exclusive rights to God's mercy and love.

How do we counteract the idea that we are more favored by God than others?

NO PUBLIC MASS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

As announced last Sunday, our church will be closed for public Mass until further notice. Mass will be streamed daily. Times of daily Mass can be found on the left-hand side of this newsletter.

PAST STUDENTS OF ST THERESA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

BBC researchers would like to hear from pupils in the mid to late 70's of St Theresa's primary school. If you can help, please contact Georgina Turner on: georgina.turner@blinkfilmsuk.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.



BEAT THE WINTER BLUES QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 29th 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

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

Join CAFOD online this coming Saturday 30th January from 1030am to 1230 and listen to CAFOD's representative live from Ethiopia talking about how your support is enabling communities gain access to clean water. Contact westminster@cafod.org.uk for registration link and further information.

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 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,
Jean McDonnell
Anne Loughlin

all the recently departed and their loved ones.

Joe Mendonca, Ann McLaughlin
Teresa McCarthy, Angelo Porto

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

Frank Murtagh, Charles Curren
Elizabeth Brady, John Schmitt

