



# ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter – 31st January 2021  
+ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## MASS TIMES

### NO PUBLIC MASSES

#### Mass will be live streamed daily:

**Monday:** 9.30am Funeral-  
Teresa McCarthy  
**Tuesday:** 9.30am  
**Wednesday:** 9.30am  
**Thursday:** 9.30am  
**Friday:** 9.30am Funeral  
Joseph Mendonca  
**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.**

**First reading:** Deuteronomy 18: 15-20  
**Responsorial Psalm:** *O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.*  
**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35  
**Gospel:** Mark 1: 21-28

Jesus' first miracle is an exorcism set in the context of his teaching. Why is this so important? When Jesus entered the synagogue and spoke, the people were amazed at the power and authority with which he taught. The scribes quoted previous experts and authorities for important interpretations of Scripture and the Law. The Greek word used to describe Jesus' teaching, *exousia*, means that he taught 'out of himself.' In other words, he did not use other authorities to strengthen his arguments.

Into this context wanders the possessed man. The unclean spirit, a demon in other translations, reveals the identity of Jesus as the Holy One of God. In the Old Testament, particularly in the prophecy of Isaiah, God is the Holy One of Israel. In this passage, in Acts 3:14, and in 1John 2:20, Jesus is the 'Holy One.' These similar phrases imply a connection between Jesus and God. Jesus silences the demon, not because it is wrong about his identity, but because the time has not yet come for Jesus to be revealed. With the confidence of authority, he commands the unclean spirit to come out. The crowd watches in amazement—often a signal that they do not understand what is happening. Their remarks about a new teaching are meant for the reader. Jesus' power is greater than any other power. Even the demons obey him. Throughout Mark's account, Jesus' identity is revealed by demons who are then silenced, while the people with Jesus come to know who he is only slowly, if at all. The remarkable exorcisms and healings of Jesus defeat the powers of evil that oppose God. But they will soon lead to a greater question for both his followers and his detractors: What is the source of Jesus' authority?

In Mark's account, things happen very quickly. Consequently, when Mark slows down enough to tell the details of the story, the readers pay more attention. What do the details have to say about the nature of Jesus or the unclean spirits?

### NO PUBLIC MASS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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.

## 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.



## 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

## FR BERNARD MCCUMISKEY RIP

You will be aware of the sad news of the death of Fr Bernard McCumiskey. Fr Bernard died on 23 January, at Redesdale Court Care Home in North Shields close to where he had been living in retirement in Whitley Bay until his needs required more care. Fr Bernard was born in Northumberland on 9 August 1938 and ordained to the priesthood as a Carmelite at Aylesford Priory in 1971. He was incardinated as a priest of the Diocese of Westminster in 1977. Fr Bernard arrived at St Alban's in 2000 until his retirement in 2013.

His funeral will take place at St Mary's Church, Cullercoats, North Shields on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 10am**. Unfortunately, the church does not have live streaming facilities. Perhaps you can remember him especially on that day in your prayers.

If you wish to send sympathy cards or Mass cards, please forward to Bernadette Richardson, 4 Turnberry, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 9NZ.

May he rest in peace.

## 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:

Peggy Sheering, Jane Evans  
Leslie DeSouza, Jean McDonnell

### all the recently departed and their loved ones.

Teresa McCarthy, Joe Mendonca,  
Anne Loughlin, Fr Bernard McCumiskey,  
Maria De Vito,

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

