

ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter – 10th January 2021
+ THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



MASS TIMES

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

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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Safeguarding
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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: Isaiah 55: 1-11
Responsorial Psalm: 'With Joy you will draw water from the wells of Salvation'.
Second Reading: Acts 10: 34-38
Gospel: Mark 1: 7-11

The verses from Isaiah culminate the poetic proclamation of the prophet who preached about 550 years before the birth of Christ, in the dark days after Jerusalem's destruction and exile from Babylon.

The prophet announces that these events were not the end; they were an astonishing new beginning in the story of salvation. "I am doing something new!" declares the Lord (43:19). This prophet announced that the spectacular 'sure love for David' was now the property of the entire people of God. He imitated the vendors' cries in the marketplace of Babylon as they sold necessities like water and bread and luxuries like wine and milk. But this vendor was offering-for free-the blessings of the God of Israel!

Five hundred years later, a man like the ancient prophets came, proclaiming God's impending judgment. John preached that his baptism would prepare people for God's rending of the heavens to mete out justice. But his word was fulfilled in a way he did not expect. The one mightier than John did indeed appear when he 'was baptized in the Jordan by John.' The heavens were indeed 'torn apart': Mark's use of the Greek word *schizo*, 'splitting,' carries a threatening, apocalyptic image of judgment (Mark 1:10). But what emerged from the opening in the heavens was a dove, the Spirit of God in the form of the ancient symbol of God's peace following divine judgment (Genesis 8:8-12). The Gospel changed the template of salvation: Now salvation is offered *before* rather than *after* judgment. This remarkable change marks the 'beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God'. 'By water and blood'

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.

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

GIFT AID DECLARATION

If you belong to the 'Gift Aid' scheme in this Parish, please let us know in writing, if your circumstances have changed and you are no longer paying tax. As you know, we can only claim tax against your contribution if you are actually paying income during the tax year.

KEEP THE DATE

Beat the winter blues quiz night on **Friday 29th January** via Zoom. An opportunity to get together and meet up with friends. Further information, to follow. The social committee.

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 or 020 8449-6970 to find out more and book a place on one of our CAFOD online information sessions.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, BOW LANE - APPLICATIONS FOR RECEPTION AND NURSERY

Applications are invited for the **Reception Class** for **September 2021** – this is for children born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017. The deadline to return this to the school office is 15th January 2021. The forms are available to download on the school website.

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,
Michael O'Boy

all the recently departed and their loved ones

Rina Mamo, Dorothy Louis-Fernand

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

Linda Hackett
Elizabeth Brady, Pat Tilley, Charles Curran