

# ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
+PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



## MASS TIMES – HOLY WEEK

**Monday** 9.30am  
**Tuesday:** 9.30am  
**Wednesday:** 10.30am - Funeral

## THE EASTER TRIUUM

**Holy Thursday:** 8.00pm  
**Good Friday:** 3.00pm  
**Easter Vigil:** 7.30pm  
**Easter Sunday:** 9am and 11am

\*\*\* Good Friday: 10.30am \*\*\*

Stations of the Cross for children of primary school age.

## Please note:

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

## Contact Info

Parish Priest  
Rev Dermot O'Neill

Parish Secretary  
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**First reading:** Isaiah 50: 4-7  
**Psalm:** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
**Second reading:** Philippians 2: 6-11  
**Gospel:** Mark 14: 1-15; 47

Despite his apparently dispassionate reporting style, Mark gives an intensely theological portrayal of Jesus, inspired by the figure of the suffering servant, who "did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). The focus of Mark's passion story is the crowning of the King. Because Jesus' coronation takes place through suffering, the story is unrelentingly ironic. Jesus' subjects flee (14:50); his court repudiates him (14:64); the state condemns him (15:15); soldiers pay mock homage with crown and cloak (15:16-20); his royal title sits atop of instrument of execution (15:26); his enthronement as Son of God occurs only at the moment of his death (15:39).

The prophet's ancient words poetically convey the inner experience of the suffering servant, personifying the narrative of Mark and the theological structure of Paul. The anonymous writer composed four 'servant songs' (Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-7; 52:13-53: 12), perhaps based on the life of Jeremiah; this is a portion of the third song. The servant speaks in the first person, reflecting on the certainty of his mission and the strength he receives from the Lord. Jesus quoted and alluded to many

Old Testaments themes and figures to interpret his mission. But he specially adopted and fulfilled the persona of the suffering servant as a key to his passion. In this mysterious figure, we come close to Jesus' inner life and the meaning that he gave to his work.

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Please continue to pray for those in our Parish community who will be receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil: our Catechumens Jaimin, Mutsilu and Moi-Maree and our Candidates Catherine, Freddie, Lily and Rosanna, that they may grow in God's grace and persevere courageously through the power of His love.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS – CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**Good Friday 10.30am**, Stations of the Cross for families with children of primary school age.

## 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 website

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

## 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.



### EASTER OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:

The offertory collection at Easter and Christmas, makes up the bulk of the priests' salary in each parish. These envelopes can be found at the exit doors and gives you the opportunity to contribute. Thank you for continued generosity.

### BLESSING PALMS ON PALM SUNDAY

"Many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields." (Mark 11:8) As we continue to take necessary precautions due to the pandemic, we will not be distributing palms at this church on Palm Sunday. However, true to the account given by Mark in his Gospel for this Palm Sunday, please feel free to bring your own branches to mass on the weekend of Palm Sunday, and they will be blessed in the usual fashion. If you do not have a garden or access to trees, perhaps come to church via a park and collect a branch there. We can all feel better about not having flown branches from Spain, thus lightening our carbon footprint! (In most Mediterranean countries, the faithful cut branches from trees for Palm Sunday) This is a worthy devotion in our Catholic tradition and serves as an ongoing reminder of our Redemption through Christ, as the branches find a prominent place in our homes throughout the year. You might even consider incorporating your blessed branches/fonds into a table decoration for Easter.

### CAFOD

Workshop online event Saturday 10 April from 11am to 12.30. 2021 is a critical year as world leaders decide how the world rebuilds from the pandemic. As Catholics we have an important role to play in calling for the world's poorest communities to be included. Join us to find out how to meet your MP as a parish group. Sat 10 April, 11am to 12.30; book at [cafod.org.uk/mpmeeting](http://cafod.org.uk/mpmeeting)

### 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.

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We are very grateful to everyone who supported the Beat the Winter Blues Quiz night in January – we now have confirmation that your contributions raised £885 which will be split equally between the East Finchley Food Bank and St Alban's Parish. Thank you so much for your generosity. We look forward to having some in-person social events in the not-too-distant future. Social Committee.

**Please remember in your prayers the sick:**

Michael O'Boy, Sr Mary Paul PCJ  
Molly Lloyd, Therese Jones  
John Came

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

Johnny Bannon  
Bruna Antonioni, Freddie Antonioni, Alex Daly

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

Honoría de Borman,  
Sylvia Derriman

