St Alban & St Stephen website

NEWS BULLETIN – CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST ALBANS

22 NOVEMBER 2026 – CHRIST THE KING

Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Boy – michaeloboy@rcdow.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Fr John Casey – johncasey@rcdow.org.uk

St Bartholomew's website

Fr Michael writes… Today as we keep the Feast of Christ the King we are reminded that Christ's dominion or rule has no end, that there is no place or time that his kingdom does not stretch to or embrace. In the Gospel Christ sets before us the entry requirements for his kingdom and it's not a matter of birth or having the right papers, it's a matter of deeds …of what we do. 'As you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters', he says,; you did it to me'. Our relationship to Christ, our belonging to him and his Kingdom, has everything to do with how we are in relation to the people around us. The challenge, if you like, to see or find Christ in every person that we encounter. That I think is a daunting challenge, but our consolation, as we discover in today's first reading from Ezekiel is that the Christ, the God, we are called to discover and relate to, is always and everywhere in search of us. 'Behold, I , I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out'.

World Youth Sunday 2026 Today's Solemnity of Christ the King is the 41st World Youth Sunday, and as well as celebrating young people in the Church it will also mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi death. See https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/outreach/world-youth-sunday-2026/ for a message from Archbishop Richard Moth. This year's theme is "Take courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). As a community we have a responsibility to accompany young people on their journey of faith and an opportunity to learn from them. Westminster Youth Ministry accompanies young people in our Catholic schools and parishes. In 2025, it welcomed over 5,000 young people to SPEC Retreat Centre in Pinner and supported 44 diocesan youth groups through Youth Ministry Outreach.

Christmas Cards for those in Prison This weekend we have the opportunity to write our first name only on Christmas cards to be sent to people in prison. Cards will be available for signing after all Masses this weekend.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 16-23 July 2027 We would like to take a parish group, led by Fr John, to Lourdes next July. A cost estimate would be £1,200-£1,300 which would cover coach to the airport, return flights, travel insurance and full board (two sharing a room) at a hotel within walking distance of the Grotto. A single room supplement would be between £205-£255 although availability for single rooms is very limited. If you are interested, please let us know by Friday 27 November either by e-mailing Fr John at johncasey@rcdow.org.uk heading your e-mail, 'Lourdes 2027' or phoning the parish office.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation prayer We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may examine our environmental impact and make choices for the common good.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

St Alban & St Stephen Church
14 Beaconsfield Rd, St Albans AL1 3RB
Email: stalbans@rcdow.org.uk
Website: www.albanstephen.org
YouTube/SsAlbanandStephenCatholicChurch
Tel: 01727 853585
Office Hours Monday-Friday 9am-1pm
Deacons: Rev. Brendan Day & Rev. Michael Larmer
Catechetical Coordinator: Mrs Joan Egenes
Parish Administrator: Mrs Angela Gray
Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Mary Harber
stalbanssg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk/07976 277059

St Bartholomew's Church
49 Vesta Avenue, St Albans AL1 2PE
Email: stalbanssouth@rcdow.org.uk
Website: www.stalbanssouth.org.uk
www.facebook.com/StBartsRCChurch
Tel: 01727 850066
Office Hours Mon, Tues (at St Alban & St Stephen), Wed & Friday 9am-12.45pm
Deacon: Rev Anthony Curran
Parish Administrator: Mrs Dawn Pace
Safeguarding Lead: Mr Chris Blandford
stalbanssouthsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Please support your parish by scanning the appropriate parish QR code below and donating today. Our QR codes connect to our contactless giving machines which can be used to make either a general or more specific donation.

ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN

ST BARTHOLOMEW

SACRAMENTAL & LITURGICAL

Sacramental Preparation For more information about sacramental preparation in your parish, or for enquiries about becoming a Catholic, please see the relevant parish website or contact your parish office.

Family Resources Please click here for this week's 'Liturgy of the Word' for Children leaflet from the Diocese of Westminster. The Wednesday Word is another excellent resource that can be used by families to reflect on the Sunday Liturgy each week.

Mass Intentions Please book by phoning or visiting the relevant parish office during office hours. Outside these times, please email the office to request a mass intention. Donations can be made by posting an envelope through the relevant presbytery door or by making a payment via bank transfer. Masses can be booked up to one year in advance and dates tend to get booked up a few months in advance. Intentions may have to be moved with little notice to accommodate funerals. The suggested diocesan donation, which contributes to the stipends of the priests of our parishes, is £10 per mass.

Prayers for the Sick If you would like to include someone in the prayers for the sick, please contact the relevant parish office. Permission from the person being prayed for, or their next of kin, is needed.

ST ALBANS CATHOLIC AND LOCAL COMMUNITY

Advent Carol Service Ecumenical service at St Saviours Church 4pm on 29 November, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

St Alban & St Stephen Parish Friends Knit & Natter Group Meeting in the St Alban & St Stephen Parish Centre on 1 December 2-3.30pm. All are welcome. Contact Helen Bassill 07860 830340**.**

Circle of Friends Christmas Party Invitation 2pm Wednesday 2 December in the St Barts Parish Hall. Parishioners of both Parishes and the CWL are welcome, plus spouses and partners. A festive tea and songs as well as a jolly meet up for all. On request, a 'Secret Santa' activity will be included. For those of you who wish to join please bring a 'secret gift' no more than £10.00 to place in the sack-does not matter how small and homemade is fine! Please let Maureen Kelly know if you will be attending or need a lift: email or 07860 283743.

Annual Wreath Making 7pm Wednesday 2 December St Barts Hall, 49 Vesta Avenue. Please book your space and choice of wreath by 15 November. £45.00 per wreath. Contact Sinead on 07775557093 to book your space. Please note spaces are limited. All proceeds go towards St Albans Enterprise Community Interest Company, working together to support local charities.

The Logic of Faith 2.30pm Wednesday 9 December at St Alban & St Stephen Parish Centre: a video of a talk on Newman and The Logic of Faith by Dr Daniel Pratt Morris Chapman (Wesley House, Cambridge). All are welcome. Herts Circle of the Newman Association.

Catenians Christmas gathering 9 December Tables of 8 or 10, open to all members of the parish, family, and friends. In addition to enjoying dinner and singing carols, the CEO of Friends of the Holy Land will speak to us about life in this part of the world. Tickets £40. Email george.jarzab@gmail.com by 30 November to book.

2026 St Albans Catholic Parishes Advent Talks St Alban & St Stephen Parish Centre, Beaconsfield Road. AL1 3RB. Everyone is welcome to come along and tea and coffee will be available.

- 7.30pm Thursday 10 December Deacon Paul Christian: 'Caritas'
- 7.30pm Thursday 17 December Deacon Brendan Day: 'The Greatest Present Ever'

Carols by Candlelight Service 7.30pm Wednesday 23 December St Alban & St Stephen Church We welcome all parishioners from across the two parishes who'd like to take part in our popular Carols by Candlelight service. Musicians should be confident playing around Grade 5 or above. Singers – there are no auditions! Please text 07840 367555 or email cbcstalbans@rcdow.org.uk to take part**.** Practices begin on 28 November. Please see here for details of rehearsal times and dates.

Date for your Diary Parish Friends Turkey and Tinsel New Year lunch for senior parishioners will be held on Sunday 3 January 2027. More details nearer the date.

The Park Players present Under Milk Wood, a play by Dylan Thomas This has had to be postponed to 21-23 January 2027. Further details to follow closer to the time

Mass in Polish Mass in Polish takes place at St Alban & St Stephen church at 4pm on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

CAFOD world gifts starting at £5 These help support people struggling to survive. Buy a queen bee, teach someone to read, provide a water supply or a toilet. For more information and to buy a gift follow this link.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH

Change in St Bartholomew Parish Office hours From the beginning of November the parish office will not be open on a Tuesday morning. Instead, Dawn, the parish administrator, will be working from the St Alban and St Stephen office on Tuesday mornings. She can still be contacted by phone or email during her working hours.

St Bart's Baby & Toddler Group 11am-12.30pm every Thursday morning in St Bart's' hall. Babies and young children up to the age of 4 are welcome to join us. It is also an opportunity for parents and carers to chat together sharing experiences and advice over a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. There is no charge but a small contribution towards refreshment cost is appreciated. Lizzie Lizzio (group lead-efkelly88@gmail.com).

9.30am Mass Sunday 29 November The children of St Adrians school will join us for our 9.30am mass. There will be no Children's Liturgy session so all children can remain in church to fully participate with their families. Instruments will be available in the church porch for our youngest children to take, to add to the music of the hymns. Please return to the porch box on leaving.

St Bart's New Christmas for Someone Else (CSE) 2026 This year we are asking for gift vouchers in denominations of £5/£10/£20 from Amazon, Argos or Sainsbury's to target better the needs of those we support in our community at Christmas including our Open Food Pantry guests and families, St Adrian's families and refugees. We also welcome cash donations or wrapped and labelled gifts. Please bring donations/gifts and place on the altar before masses on our CSE Giving Weekend, 28/29 November. There is also a retiring collection after masses that weekend for any late donations. Donations can also be handed into the parish office. Any queries, please email Jackie Tominey or call 07702 948585.

ST ALBAN & ST STEPHEN PARISH

Annual Appeal for Friends of The Holy Land Appeal 28/29 November There will be a retiring collection after all masses at St Alban & St Stephen and St John Fisher. Please be generous in your support of this non-political charity which provides practical help for Christians to continue living in the birthplace of Christianity.

You Can Be Santa Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to this year's scheme so far. There is still time to contribute, donations will be gratefully received until 22 November. Christmas vouchers will then be distributed to the children on the YCBS list, ensuring they receive them in time for Christmas. Monetary and voucher donations (from the following outlets: Sainsbury's, Argos and Amazon) can be posted through the Presbytery door. Thank you once again for your generosity and support.

The Rosary for Advent - Saturday mornings from 28 November after Benediction All are welcome to join in prayer for peace as recommended by Our Blessed Lady, St Louis de Montfort, St Maximillian Kolbe, Mother Teresa and Saint John Paul.

Fair trade Our final fair-trade stall of this year will be open after all Masses at Church over the weekend of 5/6 December and after Mass at Marshalswick Mass Centre on 13 December. We have Christmas cards, chocolates, Palestinian oil, dates and beautiful soap as well as our usual selection of goods All proceeds support CAFOD.

Masses for children, families and young people Please join us at Little Lights (under sevens) and Children's Liturgy (seven and above) during 10am Mass on Sundays (term time only). There is no Children's Liturgy on the last Sunday of each month. Instead, children sit on the carpet at the front of the church and the Mass itself is geared towards their participation with a short social for everyone after mass. Our Parish Youth Masses take place at 6pm on Sunday evenings, 22 Nov, 13 Dec, 24 Jan, 28 Feb, 21 March, 25 April, 23 May, 13 June.

Coffee and Tea After Mass Refreshments are available in the Parish Centre after 10am Sunday Mass during school term time, after 12 noon Mass on the first Sunday of the month and after 5pm Saturday Mass. Coffee and tea are also available after 10am Mass each Monday.

St Albans Food Bank We currently have a food collection point at all masses, including the St John Fisher Mass centre, on the first Sunday of each month. We need long life items (milk and fruit juice), tinned items (fruit, veg, meat, fish and puddings), cooking sauces, coffee, teabags, cereals and jam. More details can be found here.

Migrants' Clothes & Toiletries Toiletries can be donated to the Food Bank for the Hygiene Bank. Please call 07976277059 if you have clothes to donate.

T**oddlers' Playgroup Monday 10.30am-midday** For pre-school age children and their carers, term time only. Join us in the hall for toys, books, games, singing, drinks & snacks. Contact David Markham on 07543 400650.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation group We meet at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month. All welcome. See here for future events.

Faith and Family Group, we meet in the parish hall on the first Tuesday of the month (not August) at 10.45am. Activities for under 5s. All welcome.

New Parish Database We are asking all parishioners at St Alban and St Stephen to complete a short online registration form by 31 December. Unfortunately existing parishioner data cannot be uploaded to the new database. For those parishioners who don't have online access, a volunteer will be available in the parish office on Monday mornings to assist with completion of the form. A form should be completed for each adult and parents/guardians may complete an abbreviated version of the form for each child. Please see our website news page for information.

Mass Livestreaming Diocesan Data Protection policy requires that anyone intentionally featured on the parish livestream (excluding clergy) must sign a consent form. This includes altar servers, eucharistic ministers, lectors, choir members, musicians, and any other volunteers appearing on the Sanctuary during Mass. If you are on this list and haven't already filled in a form, please download the form here, complete and return it to the parish office. Parents and guardians should complete the consent form for those under 18. Forms can also be obtained from the parish office.

Helpers for End of Month Family Mass More helpers are needed to prepare, set up, serve and tidy up for the post-mass refreshment and fellowship time in the hall. please contact Deacon Brendan to find out more.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF 22 NOVEMBER 2026

Saturday 21 November	**VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**	
5pm Mass	Mary Rainsforth (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Holy Souls	St Bartholomew
Sunday 22 November	**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**	
8am Mass	Holy Souls - deceased sons and daughters	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Cliff Staniforth (Ann)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	Bridget Ahern (Ann)	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	People of the parish	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Deceased members of the Davies & Steele families	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Holy Souls - deceased parents and grandparents	St Alban & St Stephen
Monday 23 November	Feria	
10am Mass	Evelio Azcona (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Mary Baker (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Tuesday 24 November	St Andrew Dung-Lac and companions	
10am Mass	Holy Souls - deceased priests and religious	St Alban & St Stephen
Wednesday 25 November	Feria	
10am Mass	Cathy Byrne (RIP)	St Bartholomew
10.30am	*Exposition and Confessions*	St Bartholomew
7pm Mass	Deceased members of the Marron family	St Alban & St Stephen
Thursday 26 November	Feria	
10am Mass	Valerie Scully (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
Friday 27 November	Feria	
12 Noon Mass	Priest's intention	St Albans Cathedral
7pm Mass	Adele D'Ettorre (Ann)	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 28 November	Blessed Virgin Mary on a Saturday	
10am	*Exposition and Confessions*	St Alban & St Stephen
10.45am	*Benediction*	St Alban & St Stephen
Saturday 28 November	**VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**	
5pm Mass	David Greenhough (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Teresa Buckler (Ann)	St Bartholomew
Sunday 29 November	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	
8am Mass	Bergin, Crawley, Davin and Walsh families (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
8.30am Mass	Christine Dawson (RIP)	St John Fisher School
9.30am Mass	People of the Parish	St Bartholomew
10am Mass	Margaret McHugh (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
12 Noon Mass	Antonio Visconti (Ann) & D'Auria Guiseppi (RIP)	St Alban & St Stephen
6pm Mass	Holy Souls	St Alban & St Stephen

Details of the readings for this week's Masses are available online here or on our website.

PLEASE PRAY

For all the sick including

The names of those we have been asked to pray for are not included in the web version of the parish bulletin for reasons of data protection.

For all those who have died recently including Rose Beri, Olive Francis, Ruth Myles and Teresa Wróblewska.

For all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Bridget Ahern, Mary Baker, Teresa Buckler, Adele D'Ettorre, Jane Malyon, Patrick Mannion, John McKay, Mary Rainsforth, Valerie Scully, Cliff Staniforth, Chris Wippell Thirlway and Antonio Visconti.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace