

# SAINT ALBAN'S PARISH

Saint Alban's Church and Presbytery  
Conway Road, Pontypool, NP4 6HL

Chapel of Ease: Sacred Heart and St Felix  
Ellick Street, Blaenavon

**Parish Priest:** Canon David Hayman Telephone: 01495 762280

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**Parish Safeguarding Representative:** Angela Taylor

No. 839

## **The 'fire-break' lockdown and emerging from it:**

As we are all aware, we expect to move to a new situation in Wales on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Until that time, our Churches will remain closed for the public celebration of Mass and private prayer. However, we do anticipate a return to a limited schedule of public Masses which will hopefully begin at 9.30 a.m. on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November and which will be followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 11 a.m. that morning. In the meantime, Canon David will continue to celebrate Mass daily in Saint Alban's, as we pray for all those who are affected by the virus in any way, but especially for those who have died, those who are currently sick and for those who care for them, whether that is at home, in hospital or another care institution. Let us also pray for all those whose emotional well-being is affected by the current situation, and that the virus will be brought back under control as soon as possible.

If anyone who is vulnerable should find themselves in need of assistance during the lockdown period please contact Canon David in the Presbytery or on 07793 503260 so that an appropriate response can be put in place.

**November Dead List:** November is the month when we pray particularly for those who have died; our loved ones, friends, colleagues, parishioners and those who have no-one to pray for them. Most of our Masses during November will be offered for those we name in our lists of the dead and place at the shrine in our Church. Please let Canon David have your lists as soon as possible. If you email your list then your donation can be given to Canon David after the lockdown period.

**Prayer and reflection for All Souls Day:** In a year marked by loss, grieving and sorrow, some have lost loved ones to the virus and many others have been deprived of saying their proper 'goodbyes' to friends and family who have died at this time, funeral services being so restricted. In such circumstances All Souls Day and the month of November take on a special significance this year, for us to pray and to remember. Join Dom Brendan Thomas and Abbot Paul Stonham online from Belmont Abbey at 11 a.m. on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November for prayer and short reflections on grief and loss, finding comfort in sorrow and the hope that animates our faith. Join them via Zoom; the meeting ID is 835 7106 7816 and the passcode is 800866.

**Installation of Canon David as a member of the Venerable Chapter of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Saint David, Cardiff:** as you are aware, it is proposed that this will take place on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, at the Chapter Mass at 12.30 p.m. Arrangements for this are progressing in the hope that the virus will not prevent it doing so! Thank you to those who have already indicated their intention to attend by emailing Canon David; you will shortly receive an email from him confirming that a place has been reserved for you. There are still a few places available, so if you wish to reserve a place (or haven't received confirmation of a place already having been reserved for you by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November) then contact Canon David as soon as possible.

**Parish website:** as part of the 'staying together while apart' project in the Archdiocese of Cardiff, a consultant was engaged to help parishes ensure that their websites were up and running, including ours! Take a look! You will notice that there is a 'donate' button on the website which may help some of you who do not have online banking to support your parish financially in these challenging times.

**Eastern Valley Foodbank:** although we haven't been collecting food in recent months due to the pandemic, some of us have been giving a cash donation, and the following message has been received recently: "Thank you for your support for the work of the Foodbank. We would not have been able to rise to the challenges that we face during the current coronavirus crisis without the generosity of people like you. Despite requests for help almost doubling during the first lockdown, I'm pleased to say that we have been able to meet the demand fully and nobody who has asked has gone without food. With the second lockdown looming we are still in a good position to continue that support for those who need it. Thank you for playing your part in making this possible." If you would like to support the Foodbank please place your cash donation in an envelope marked "Foodbank" and hand it in to the Presbytery.

**St Vincent de Paul Society:** The National Office of the SVP is seeking to appoint a Membership Support Officer to work in the Archdiocese of Cardiff. The post would be for 15 hours per week with a salary of £23,000 FTE (pro rata, 15 hours per week). For a copy of the full job advert and a complete job description, please contact the Secretary of Cardiff Central Council, Christine German, on 07724 706065 or for an informal discussion, Mark Warwick, the National Membership Development Manager on 07774 255251. The closing date for applications to be sent to National Office is 5 p.m. on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**Advent Faith and Art from the Holy Land:** Pilgrimage People, the company that Canon David went to the Holy Land with in January, are offering to bring some of the Holy Land into our homes in the lead up to Christmas. They are inviting you to look at Faith and Art in the Holy Land with an art historian from the University of Cambridge, who over the four weeks of Advent will look at the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, The Church of the Visitation, Shepherds' Fields and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. This online course, which will look at the history, the architecture, the artwork and also bring in other artists' work depicting the events from those places, will run each Wednesday between 3 – 4 p.m. but each fully illustrated talk will be recorded, allowing you to either attend the course live or watch it in your own time. To register your interest and for further details please contact Pilgrimage People via email at [info@pilgrimagepeople.org](mailto:info@pilgrimagepeople.org) or call them on 0800 612 3423. Total cost £60, with all profits going to support Christians in the Holy Land who are suffering particularly at this time – look at their website for details of the projects which you could help support by participating in this course.