

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. 840

This week's Masses and intentions:

Monday	9.30 a.m.	St Alban's	November Dead List	(Dedication of the Lateran Basilica)
			Followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 11 a.m.	
Wednesday	7 p.m.	St Alban's	November Dead List	(St Martin of Tours)

Next Sunday's Masses and intentions:

Sunday	10.15 a.m.	St Alban's	November Dead List	(33 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time)
	11.15 a.m.	St Alban's	People of the Parish	

Emerging from the 'fire-break' lockdown:

Thankfully we are able to return to a limited schedule of public Masses as from Monday morning. It is essential that we all adhere to our own protocols in the parish in order to keep each other as safe as possible. Please can I re-iterate the point that the Stewards are there to implement necessary directives so that we can be open for the public celebration of Mass. If you have any issues with this, please direct your comments to Canon David and do not have a go at the Stewards.

Let us continue to 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.

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.

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 8th December, at the Chapter Mass at 12.30 p.m. in Saint David's Cathedral. There are currently 9 seats / bubbles still available, and if you wish to reserve a place then please email Canon David by midday on Sunday 15th November.

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.

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 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.

Repository: Please remember that there is a beautiful variety of Christmas items for sale, including Advent Calendars, Christmas cards, nativity sets, gift bags etc., all at very reasonable prices – much cheaper than in the shops! A lovely gift for someone is a Mass Bouquet, and there are some stunning cards for this purpose on display. They'll be waiting for you when the Church re-opens this week!

There is also a wide selection of cards for all occasions: on the stand there is a range of cards for birthdays, birth and baptism of children, engagements, weddings and anniversaries, in addition to Christmas cards. On the shelves there are Mass Bouquet cards for various occasions, sympathy and anniversary of death Mass cards, get well and thanksgiving cards. Why not take a look!