

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. 863

This week's Masses and intentions:

Sunday	10.15 a.m.	St Alban's	Tara McCormack, R.I.P.	(3 rd Sunday of Easter)
	11.15 a.m.	St Alban's	Tommie Robinson, R.I.P.	
Monday	9.30 a.m.	St Alban's	People of the Parish	
			Eucharistic Adoration until 11 a.m.	
Tuesday	8 a.m.	St Alban's	Private intention	
Wednesday	6.30 p.m.	St Alban's	Rosary	
	7 p.m.	St Alban's	Marriete Baterham's intentions	(St Anselm)
Thursday	9.30 a.m.	St Alban's	Ethne McNeela & family intentions	
Friday	9.30 a.m.	St Alban's	Michael & Marie McNeela & family intentions	

Next Sunday's Masses and intentions:

Sunday	10.15 a.m.	St Alban's	People of the Parish	(4 th Sunday of Easter)
	11.15 a.m.	St Alban's	Betty Prys, R.I.P.	

Issues which require your feedback regarding the public celebration of Mass in Saint Alban's:

I have been informed that it is highly unlikely that the Welsh Government will even consider any changes to the current social distancing / bubble regulations for Places of Worship until at least the end of July, which is disappointing and frustrating given that other sectors of our society will soon be allowed to open with significant relaxation of the regulations under which they operate.

Maybe you might like to ask our candidates for election to the Senedd what importance they attach to the place of religion and public worship in our society? For we believe and teach that without the spiritual dimension to our lives being nourished we are not being allowed to live life to the full. Surely when social interaction is being allowed to increase, and the hospitality industry being allowed to begin opening its doors to the public, then the Church, which has been sector-leading in its implementation of protocols to keep people safe, should equally see some relaxation of the regulations governing its activities in the weeks ahead, and not have to wait for any change for at least another four months.

In the meantime, what is our response as a community? Some questions for your consideration and feedback:

- Are there parishioners who are not currently coming to Mass, but who would like to do so if there was to be a Saturday evening Mass re-introduced in Saint Alban's?
- If the answer to this question is yes, then can we have some additional stewards who would be willing to commit to helping on a Saturday evening?

I will only consider making changes to our existing arrangements if the feedback warrants me doing so.

Can I remind you that Holy Communion can only be received in the hand? In approaching the priest, hands should be placed, flat, one on top of the other, and while still before the priest, the communicant should place the Sacred Host in their mouth. This is important as it removes hand to hand contact between the Priest and the Parishioner. Parishioners must not return to their place with the Blessed Sacrament still in their hands.

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. Likewise, for all those whose emotional well-being is affected by the current situation, and that the vaccine roll out will continue and protect more of our community.

Collection last Sunday: St Alban's: Plate: £35.50 Gift Aid: £964.00

Priest Training Fund: The Fund support those preparing for a life in ministry, helping them through training and ordination by meeting seminary fees and providing a small maintenance grant.

Before embarking on a lifetime of service to others, the Fund gives those who hope to enter the priesthood the security to grow into mature, well-rounded individuals able to answer God's call.

Priests are called to live simple lives but high-quality training comes at a price. On average the Archdiocese of Cardiff invests £189,000 in the formation of each seminarian over seven years. Yet following ordination a priest may give back more than 40 or 50 years' service, so the investment brings a considerable return.

Please be as generous as you can, using the envelopes for this purpose, and gift aid your contribution if you can.

"The God Who Speaks": A Year of the Word – Scripture Study. With the programme of events being disrupted due to Covid 19, the talks which had been planned in the Archdiocese are set to resume online with **Fr. Tim McGrath giving a talk on "Encountering Jesus as the Messiah in Matthew's Gospel"** on Saturday, April 24th from 11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. The full programme of talks can be found on the website <https://rcadc.org/events>

Talks accessible on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82409256453?pwd=YktlYnQvWjNzQjI5L0xnZkFsaHNYUT09> or by using the following **Meeting ID: 824 0925 6453 and Passcode: 633303**

Alternatively, the talks will appear on YouTube. Please go to the [ACES YouTube channel](#)