

# 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 Paul Millar

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No 34

## This week's Masses and intentions:

Saturday	6 p.m.	St Alban's		<b>5th Sunday of Easter</b>
Sunday	9 a.m.	St Felix	People of the Parish	
	11 a.m.	St Alban's		
Monday	9.30 a.m.	St Alban's		<b>St Catherine of Siena</b>
Tuesday	9.30 a.m.	St Alban's		
Wednesday			No Mass today	<b>St. Joseph the Worker</b>
Thursday	9.30 a.m.	St Felix		<b>St. Athanasius, Bishop</b>
Friday			No Mass today	<b>St. Philip &amp; St. James Apostles</b>

## Next week's Masses and intentions:

Saturday	6 p.m.	St Alban's		<b>6th Sunday of Easter</b>
Sunday	9 a.m.	St Felix	Melvyn House, R.I.P	
	11 a.m.	St Alban's	People of the Parish	

## Collections last Sunday:

<b>St. Alban's:</b>	<b>Plate:</b> £147.12	<b>Gift Aid:</b> £95.00
<b>St. Felix:</b>	<b>Plate:</b> £134.12	<b>Gift Aid:</b> £80.00
<b>Priests' Training Fund:</b>		£195.00

## Counters:

**This week:** L. Peters & T. Hitchings **Next Week:** L. & A. Whiting

## Meetings This Week:

<b>U.C.M.</b>	Tuesday after 9.30 a.m. Mass
<b>First Communion Class:</b>	Thursday at 4p.m. in the Presbytery
<b>Confirmation Preparation:</b>	Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Presbytery
<b>Faith Exploration:</b>	Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Presbytery

## Confessions.

Saturday in St. Alban's between 5 and 5.30 p.m.  
Canon Paul will also hear Confession on request after daily Masses

## Mass Times:

The Sunday Mass time at St. Felix will revert to 4.30 p.m. on Saturday beginning on Pentecost Sunday (19<sup>th</sup> of May). The Masses in Pontypool stay the same and the Mass in Usk will be on Sundays at 9.15a.m.

**St. Alban's Church Hall:** The Hall is in need of a deep, thorough clean and it is hoped to arrange for a cleaning company to do this. **However the hall also needs to be 'decluttered' prior to the clean. This will need lots of hands and we are asking for any parishioner who can spare an hour or two to come and help on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> of April after the 9.30a.m. Mass. The Hall is a great asset to the Parish but we cannot use it in its present state.**

**Rosary for the Month of May:** Wednesdays at 6.30 p.m. at St. Alban's. Please make an effort to attend.

**Annual Torchlight Procession** in honour of Our Lady at 9 a.m. Belmont Abbey on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of May. There is a list at the back of the Church – please sign it if any parishioners are interested in attending. If there is sufficient interest we will try to arrange transport. Please let us know as soon as possible.

**Please pray** for the Souls of Mary Lawrence and Clare Watson who died recently. Mary Lawrence's funeral will be 11a.m. on 14<sup>th</sup> of May at St. Alban's. Clare Watson's funeral will be at the Crematorium at 2.30p.m. on 10<sup>th</sup> May

## APF (Missio):

It is that time of the year for the red boxes to be emptied. Please leave them in the Sacristy for M. Vidler. Thank you for all you do. **Missio volunteers and supporters** are invited to join Archbishop Mark O'Toole and Fr Anthony Chantry MHM, Missio National Director, for a Mass to celebrate Mission and the work of Missio. The Mass takes place on Saturday 18th May 2024 at 11am in St David's Cathedral, Charles Street, Cardiff. CF10 2SF. This is a great opportunity for supporters of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries, through the Red Box, to come together as a Diocesan community. All are welcome to attend. RSVP by email to: [redbox@missio.org.uk](mailto:redbox@missio.org.uk)

**CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal:** Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis – extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal in church or at [cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal](http://cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal). Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

There will be a **Candlelight Procession** on the Vigil of the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima - Sunday, 12th May at **Our Lady's in Cwmbran**.

**Cleaning Rota** the Rota seems to have fallen into mis use with only one or two groups fulfilling their commitment.

So we will start afresh and I would ask that anyone who would be willing to go on the Rota would put their name on the form at the back of the Church so that a working rota can be made.

**A Year of Encounter:** With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see [cafod.org.uk/encounter](http://cafod.org.uk/encounter) for more information, including online sessions on Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May to learn more.

You can also text Text CAFODSUDAN to 70450 to donate £10. Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text CAFODSUDANNOINFO instead.

**Resources for Catechists:** Are you a catechist in our church? Are you interested in guiding others on their faith journey? You can now receive a regular email with news and resources which will help you fulfil this role, sent directly from the diocesan director of adult religious education. To register your interest please register online: [tinyurl.com/RCADC-CatForm](http://tinyurl.com/RCADC-CatForm). Let's grow together in our future formation

**Holy Communion at home:** If you are sick or housebound or know of anybody who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Canon Paul so that arrangements can be made.

**Are you in years 9-13?** Do you want to spend some time getting to know other young Catholics? The Cardiff and Menevia Youth Council is offering you the opportunity for a few days away in beautiful St. David's, Pembrokeshire, to relax, pray, talk, walk, eat and have fun together. July 24th – 28th. The cost £250 for four nights at St. David's Bunkhouses, including coach travel and all meals.

**Pope's intentions for April.** Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

Missio is proud to be the Pope's charity for world mission. Missio ignites God's love by helping local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Whatever our missionaries need to help them share the joy of the Gospel, Missio strives to provide it. By supporting Missio, you play a vital part in creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future. For more information visit: [www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk)

CAFOD and SVP are working together to offer residential work experience for 20 young adults. Candidates must be over 20years old and have a passion for social justice.

7th – 13th July. All accommodation costs, meals and travel to the office throughout the week are covered. For more information contact [SarahB@svp.org.uk](mailto:SarahB@svp.org.uk), [Khutchinson@cafod.org.uk](mailto:Khutchinson@cafod.org.uk)

In addition to the collection, a group from the Archdiocese of Cardiff will be taking part in **the Cardiff Bay 10k on 19th May to raise money for the fund.** If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining the team, please email [donate@rcadc.org](mailto:donate@rcadc.org)

**Flowers for our Churches for Easter:** Donations to ensure our churches are beautiful would be very welcome and can be given to Priscilla or Margaret Vidler or put in the collection in a clearly marked envelope.

Youth Council Summer Event

are you in  
years 9-13?

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**Eastern Valley Foodbank:** The collection of food will be this weekend in both Saint Alban's and Saint Felix communities, but if you feel that you would rather give a cash donation then this can be placed in an envelope marked for this purpose and placed in the offertory basket

**Faith Exploration:** Are you thinking about becoming a Catholic? Are you a Catholic who would like to know more about your faith? Come and join us on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Presbytery. The subject this week is 'The Adventure of Prayer'

**Holy Communion at home:** If you are sick or housebound or know of anybody who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Canon Paul so that arrangements can be made

**Census Form:** In order to enable us to update our records I would be grateful if you would complete the parish census form with as much detail as you wish to disclose and return the signed form to the church or post it through the presbytery door. Please include dependants for family members in your household. The forms are at the back of the Church.

**The Catholic Post:** copies of this month's papers (March) are available at the back of the Church. A donation of £1 is suggested and can be placed in the Church donations slot in the wall box in the porch of St. Albans or in the basket provided at St. Felix.

**100 Club:** Would you like to take part in 2024? The cost is £1 per month which can be paid monthly or c £12 for the year. The Prize is £25 per month. If you are interested please put your contribution together with your name in an envelope and give it to Treena or leave it in the Sacristy before the 19<sup>th</sup> of January

The Popes intention for March: Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

**Flowers for our Churches for Christmas.** Thank you to those ladies who do the flowers and work so hard throughout the year to make sure that our churches look beautiful. They always make a special effort for Christmas and Easter. Donations for flowers are always welcome but especially at these special times.

**Preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Communion 2024** If you wish to enrol your child for the course of preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion and they are in year 3 or above, please complete the form at the back of the Church and return it to Canon Paul this weekend.

**Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation 2024:** If you are in Year 8 of Secondary School or above and wish to take part in the course of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please complete the form available at the back of the Church and return it to Canon Paul by this weekend.

**Eastern Valley Foodbank:** The collection of food will be this weekend in both Saint Alban's and Saint Felix communities, but if you feel that you would rather give a cash donation then this can be placed in an envelope marked for this purpose and placed in the offertory basket

**Year Books for 2024** are available in the Repository at a cost of £5. An invaluable resource containing lots of useful information, e.g. liturgical calendar, contact details of Churches, Priests, Church Organisations across Wales and beyond.

**November Dead List:** November is the month when we especially pray for our deceased. Most of our Masses during November will be offered for the Holy Souls. Please pick up an envelope at the back of the Church for the names of your dead loved ones and return it with a donation as soon as possible.

**Bereavement Befriending Group.** Our Annual Mass of Remembrance will take place next Saturday at 11 a.m. There will be light refreshments in the Hall afterwards. All welcome to come along

**Preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism:** If you are thinking about arranging your child's baptism there will be a meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of October in St. Alban's Church Hall at 7 p.m. with a second meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. Please let Canon Paul know if you are going to attend as it would be helpful to have some idea of the number who are interested.

**Fire Marshals:** As a faith community we have a responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of each member especially during unforeseen circumstances such as fire incidents. The training video provides crucial guidance on how to effectively deal with such situations and how to carry out a safe evacuation procedure. In light of this, we ask for volunteers to step forward and embrace the role of fire marshals for our church. The dedication to this task will greatly contribute to the overall safety and peace of mind of all who gather in our church. Let us remember that as we come together in worship and fellowship, we also come together in unity and protection. By taking part in this training and offering your service as fire marshals, you exemplify the spirit of selflessness and care that defines our faith community. Interested? Please see Rob Abramczyk.

**Your weekly collection envelopes:** Gift Aid Scheme envelopes (with your names on them) are available (if you have not already collected it) in the Sacristy if you are in the scheme: If you are not already part of this

scheme to further support our parish, please consider joining. All that is required is that you pay income tax of the amount equivalent to your weekly offering, sign a declaration and use a given box of envelopes for your collection. If you do pay tax and gift aid your donation the diocese can claim back 25p in the £1 at no extra cost to you.

**Planned Giving Scheme:** Many people appreciate having a set of envelopes as it helps them to keep track of their regular contributions to our parish. If you wish to have a set of envelopes but cannot join the Gift Aid Scheme please use a box of yellow envelopes at the back of the Church.

**Donations for flowers for Easter:** Donations can be given to M. Vidler. The Ladies will be coming to do the flowers on Easter Saturday.

**THE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** is a small team of parishioners who offer confidential help and support to families or individuals who have suffered the death of a loved one. The team offer support to the bereaved throughout the whole of St. Albans parish. Would you be interested in joining the group?

**Church cleaning at St Alban's:** There is a desperate need for help in cleaning our Churches. CAN YOU COMMIT to being on a rota once in six weeks? There is no minimum age (within reason!!) and neither is there a restriction on it normally being done by female members of the parish! Please sign the list at the back of the Church if you can help so that a rota may be made.

**Confession** is one of the great Sacraments of love and healing. Through this Sacrament we receive God's deep, loving and absolute mercy when we turn to him and present our shortfalls, our failings, the little and the great things we have done wrong. The Church is often accused of being too rigorist and unrelenting, but what she presents to us is the ideal to strive towards. Not one of us is perfect and we all need the Sacrament of Reconciliation in this life to strengthen and renew us and to hear the words 'you are forgiven, it is forgotten, you are ALIVE'

**Eucharistic Adoration:** as we remember, this has been an important part of our spiritual lives in our parish for many years, and has been the source of many graces and blessings for those whose intentions have been brought before the Lord in prayer. During these challenging times, to be still in the presence of the Lord is an oasis of peace and prayer, and affords us the opportunity to not just pray for one another, but particularly for all who are affected by the virus in any way; that all may recognise the part which each one of us should fulfil in reducing the impact of the virus in our community. At the current time, we have Adoration for one hour every Monday after Mass; can you spend an hour in prayer before the Lord?

**"Instructions for my Funeral Mass":** Ever wondered how to let your family know your wishes? This leaflet, produced by the Catholic Church in England and Wales, helps to help make it easier for our family or our friends to arrange our funeral at what will be a sad and difficult time for them. Too often the issue of death is considered a taboo subject in our secular society. But in the light of our Catholic faith it is one which we should all have the confidence to face as the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead on Easter Sunday transforms our understanding of death. Faith tells us, that through our baptism we already share in that risen life of the Lord. This is a bond that nothing - including death - can ever destroy. Please consider asking for a copy from the back of the Church. The cost is only £1 each and will help to ease the burden on our loved ones.

Let's not forget that we also have 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. 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, and support your parish!

**Sacristan at St Alban's:** Fr David has outlined the need for help in the Sacristy, for example by helping to keep the linens in order, the drawers tidy, and to generally assist with the preparation of liturgies in the Church especially for big celebrations. But not one person has offered to help... It is an essential responsibility of the parish that help is provided in this important area, and a failure to do so implies that you do not care... Can you help?

**Sacristy Library:** The bookshelves in the Sacristy have now been sorted and are available to those who would like to borrow a book during their adoration hour. There are books on scripture, prayers and devotions, reference and stories of saints. All we would ask is that the books are returned to where they were taken from at the end of your adoration.