



Welcome to St Alban's Church Patronal Festival

Before the children leave for Junior Church we pray:

Dear God, this church is a family.

**Help us to learn together, to worship together,
to share together and to pray together.**

In Jesus name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN Timothy Dudley-Smith © 1976 Timothy Dudley-Smith

**1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.**

**3. Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**4. Lord, for our world where men disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

**5. Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us –
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

We are gathered together as one body.

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The saints were faithful unto death and now dwell in the heavenly kingdom for ever. As we celebrate their joy, let us bring to the Lord our sins and weaknesses, and ask for his mercy.

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

We often fail to walk the way of the cross.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you † pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in life eternal. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

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THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Eternal Father,
when the gospel of Christ first came to our land
you gloriously confirmed the faith of Alban
by making him the first to win a martyr's crown:
grant that, following his example,
in the fellowship of the saints we may worship you, the living God,
and give true witness to Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First reading: Isaiah 43.1-7

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 4.7-15

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN *Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Kingsway's Thankyou Music*

***Give thanks with a grateful heart.
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son. (Repeat)***

***And now let the weak say, "I am strong",
let the poor say, "I am rich",
because of what the Lord has done for us.
(Repeat)***

Give thanks with a grateful heart...

THE GOSPEL

We sing....Alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia.

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 12. 24-26

***After the reading...This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.***

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,**

true God from true God, begotten not made,
of one Being with the Father, through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
he was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand
of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the end of the prayers we say together:
**Merciful Father, accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

THE PEACE *Please stand if you are able*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN ©Christopher William Herbert, 2006

**1 In a town below the hillside,
As the sun began to set,
Came a priest, beseeching shelter
From a man he'd never met.
Alban hid him from the soldiers;
Learnt from him of God's own Son,
Took his place before the Governor,
With his life in Christ begun.**

**2 With rough hands and ropes they bound him,
Dragged him to the river's side.
There, he looked upon the water,
Saw the flow of Jordan's tide,
Walked barefoot across the streambed
And continued on his way.
Reached the trees upon the hilltop
In the early light of day.**

**3 'You are charged with grave offences',
said the Judge upon the hill.
'Do you bow to Caesar's power,
his divine and perfect will?'
'I am Alban,' cried the martyr,
'And I worship and adore
neither Caesar nor his servants -
but the true and living Lord.'**

**4 With a sword-stroke, there they killed him:
Felled his body to the ground,
Jeered and mocked the martyr's witness,
Laughed with cruel, spiteful sound.
But, just where his blood had fallen,
Like the rain upon the earth,
Flowers sprang at once to blossom -
Signs of Alban's grace and worth.**

**5 On a hill beside a river
Stands the shrine of Britain's saint;
Honoured, loved by those who know him,
Freed at last from all restraint.
For he stands with saints in glory,
With his prayers, our feet are shod.
May our courage never fail us
As we journey home to God.**

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

God of faithfulness,
your servant Alban praised you in his death.
Receive all we bring before you this day
and give us the strength of will
to proclaim your righteousness and love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For following the example of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
your holy martyr Alban shed his blood for the glory of your name.

His death reveals your power made perfect
in our human frailty. You choose the weak and make them strong
in bearing witness to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With joyful hearts we echo on earth
the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory without end:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

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We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour taught us so we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, *hallowed be thy name.*
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done. *Hallowed be thy name.*

On earth as it is in heaven, *hallowed be thy name.*
Give us this day our daily bread. *Hallowed be thy name.*

Forgive us all our trespasses, *hallowed be thy name.*
As we forgive those who trespass against us. *Hallowed be thy name.*

And lead us not into temptation, *hallowed be thy name.*
But deliver us from all that is evil. *Hallowed be thy name.*

**For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, *hallowed be thy name.***
For ever, and forever and ever. *Hallowed be thy name.*

Amen, amen, it shall be so. *Hallowed be thy name.*
Amen, amen, it shall be so. *Hallowed be thy name.*

Traditional Caribbean

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

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**God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are
welcome to receive communion.*

Any member of the congregation may come to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN *Francis Stanfield (1835-1914)*

**1 Sweet Sacrament divine,
hid in thine earthly home;
lo! round thy lowly shrine,
with suppliant hearts we come;
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise
In songs of love and heartfelt praise
sweet Sacrament divine.**

**2 Sweet Sacrament of peace,
dear home of every heart,
where restless yearnings cease,
and sorrows all depart.
there in thine ear, all trustfully,
we tell our tale of misery,
sweet Sacrament of peace.**

**3 Sweet Sacrament of rest,
ark from the ocean's roar,
within thy shelter blest
soon may we reach the shore;
save us, for still the tempest raves,**

**save, lest we sink beneath the waves:
sweet Sacrament of rest.**

**4 Sweet Sacrament divine,
earth's light and jubilee,
in thy far depths doth shine
the Godhead's majesty;
sweet light, so shine on us, we pray
that earthly joys may fade away:
sweet Sacrament divine.**

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer,
whose Church was strengthened by the blood of your martyr Alban:
so bind us, in life and death, to Christ's sacrifice
that our lives, broken and offered with his,
may carry his death and proclaim his resurrection in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through Him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and love and
steadfastness; and the blessing ...

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *Frances J. van Alstyne (1820-1915)*

**1 To God be the glory! Great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son;
And give him the glory, great things he has done!***

**2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

Praise the Lord...

**3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son:
But purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we see!**

Praise the Lord...