



Welcome to St Alban's

2nd Sunday before Advent

Before the children leave for Children's 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 *George Herbert (1593-1633)*

**1 Let all the world in every corner sing,
'My God and King!'
The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly;
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
'My God and King!'**

**2 Let all the world in every corner sing,
'My God and King!'
The Church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out;
But, above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
'My God and King!'**

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

My brothers and sisters,
as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ
in word and sacrament,
let us call to mind and confess our sins.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

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 *Michael Perry (1942 - 1996) © Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns*

**Glory be to God in heaven, peace to those who love him well;
on the earth let all his people speak his grace his wonders tell.
Lord we praise you for your glory, mighty father, heavens king;
Hear our joyful adoration and accept the thanks we bring.**

**Only Son of God the Father lamb, who takes our sins away;
now with him in triumph seated, for your mercy, Lord we pray.
Jesus Christ, most high and holy, saviour you are God alone.
In the glory of the Father, with the Spirit three in one.**

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Old Testament: Zephaniah 1.7,12–18

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 5.1–11

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

GRADUAL HYMN *Sebastian Temple © 1967 OCP Publications.*

**1 All that I am, all that I do,
All that I'll ever have, I offer now to you.
Take and sanctify these gifts
For your honour, Lord.
Knowing that I love and serve you
is enough reward.
All that I am, all that I do,
All that I'll ever have I offer now to you.**

**2 All that I dream, all that I pray,
All that I'll ever make, I give to you today.
Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord.
Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward.
All that I am, all that I do,
All that I'll ever have I offer now to you.**

THE GOSPEL

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 25.14–30

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

RESPONSE: Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

At the end of the prayers we say together:

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE PEACE *Please stand if you are able*

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Marty Haugen, b. 1950 ©1994 GIA Publications, Inc.*

**1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.***

**2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.
*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.***

**3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.
*All are welcome...***

**4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger.
*All are welcome...***

**5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.
*All are welcome...***

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Blessed are you, Lord God of creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made, it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are you Lord, God of creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.

You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.

His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death

Therefore, with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

New People's Mass, A Gregory Murray © 1975, 1987 McCrimmon

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.**

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

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 sins of the world,
have mercy on us;**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

New People's Mass, A Gregory Murray © 1975, 1987 McCrimmon

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own churches are welcome to receive communion. Any member of the congregation may come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN: *Gerald Markland©1978 Kevin Mayhew Ltd*

**1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.**

***And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.***

**2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure**

delights.

And I will trust...

**3 And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.**

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **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

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace,
and the blessing ...

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *Traditional South African tr. Anders Nyberg, Andrew Maries*

1 We are marching in the light of God, (x4)

**We are marching, marching
we are marching, o-oh!
We are marching in the light of God.
(repeat)**

2 We are living in the love of God (x4)

**We are living, living
we are living, o-oh!
We are living in the love of God.
(repeat)**

3 We are moving in the pow'r of God (x4)

**We are moving, moving
we are moving, o-oh!
We are moving in the pow'r of God.
(repeat 3 times)**

We are moving in the pow'r of God. (x2)

REGULAR SERVICES AT ST ALBAN'S - *everyone is very welcome*

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Sung Eucharist 9:45am weekly

WEEKDAY SERVICES:

Thursday 9:30am Said Eucharist

followed by Heart of Welcome Café 10am-12pm

Morning Prayer 9am Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Saturday Prayers 9.30am on the 2nd Saturday of each month

Vicar: Rev'd Ann Alexander 01293 277078
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Parish Office: Jo Browse 01293 344860
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*Celebrating God's love in the
heart of the community*