



We are a loving Catholic community in Macclesfield, assisted by prayer and the sacraments, living God's Word, proclaiming it to others, and serving those in need.

A call to courageous faith by Archbishop Moth



The Most Reverend Richard Moth was installed as the Twelfth Archbishop of Westminster during a Mass of Installation at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday, 14 February 2026 and he lost no time in letting us know how he views the season of Lent.

Known for pastoral sensitivity and emphasis on prayer, service, and attentive listening, it is Archbishop Moth's broader spiritual themes, echoed in reflections shared by those who have heard him preach, that illuminate the pathway into Lent. The heart of his Lenten message was based on the words of St Paul: *"Fan into flame the gift of God... for God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self-control."* These words, used by Archbishop Moth as a spiritual anchor, set the tone for the Lenten journey: a move away from the noise of the world and toward the inner stillness where God speaks.

For Moth, the season of Lent is not governed by fear or self-reproach but by the courageous embrace of God's transforming grace. The true Christian life, he

suggests, is not a competitive striving for spiritual perfection nor an exercise of willpower alone. Rather, Lent invites believers to rediscover a faith rooted in the gifts of the Holy Spirit - power, love, and self-control, which equip each person to respond to God's call with confidence and humility.

This emphasis on divine empowerment runs as a thread through his teaching. The call to self-control is not a hard-edged discipline imposed from within but a gentle strength formed by surrendering to the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit who guided Christ in the wilderness guides the Church today, drawing the faithful toward deeper conversion and renewed purpose.

In Archbishop Moth's view, Lent is a season not of burden but of opportunity, an invitation to deepen faith, embrace transformative love, cultivate Holy-Spirit-filled self-control, and recommit to the Church's mission of service.



First Saturday Devotion Saturday, 7 Mar 2026

Join our Holy Rosary at 10:30 am, Consecration Prayer and Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions at 11am with Holy Mass at 12 noon

St Alban's Coffee Club

March Coffee Club is on Tuesday this month - Tuesday 31st March, at the new cafe Saffron Mall (corner of Mill Street and Queen Victoria Street) 10.30 start as usual - message for more details. All very welcome, ages 0-90!

See you there! Jane 07855628075



St Alban's Parish ROSARY FOR PEACE

Every Wednesday at 5:30pm in Church

Pope Leo's intention for February 2026



For disarmament and peace

Let us pray for effective disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, and world leaders choosing dialogue over violence.

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

Help us to help those in need.

Donate. Volunteer. Pray.

**DO YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW,
NEED OUR HELP?**

Then contact Jean on 07881 895540



All welcome to our friendly book club

Our next book is

'Go tell it on the mountain' by James Baldwin.

We meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the Parish Centre.

Winter times: 2pm for 2.15pm start,
Summer times: 3pm for 3.15pm start

Next meeting: Wednesday, 11th March, 2pm
Tea/coffee served at 2pm!

Enquiries to Mary maryfrommacc@msn.com
Or Tess tessmcghee@btinternet.com

Join our bereavement group

Whether you want to chat, or just drink coffee or tea, eat biscuits or cake, or simply be with people who get what you're going through, St Alban's Bereavement Group hosts a convivial get-together every month in the Parish Centre.

Join us every second Thursday of the month throughout 2026

2:30pm - 4pm St Alban's Parish Centre

Thursday, 12 March 2026

Thursday, 9 April 2026





Joys, Hopes and Zoom

The title of this piece may not make much sense to you, oh gentle reader. Could I add another couple more words?

How about joys, hopes, griefs, anxieties ...and Zoom?

The word Zoom is in the title because the Justice and Peace Group will be running a series of talks on Zoom. And joys, hopes etc? This is to echo the 1965 document of Pope Paul VI whose opening words (Gaudium et Spes in Latin) include the statement that

“the joys (...) of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.”

In other words, as Christians our eyes are on the situation of people in the world around us with concern for their difficulties.

But how to be aware?

One suggestion proposed for you parishioners of St Albans, and anyone else, is a programme of Zoom Talks organised by your Justice and Peace Group.

We said in the February Monthly News the first series would start in March. Now they will start in April.

Possible topics for this and later series to be covered by speakers from Catholic and other agencies include Refugees, Race Relations, Gaza, Our prisons, Human Trafficking.

More information soon. If you would like to hear more, please send an email to

justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com

with the word **INTERESTED** in the subject line.

Click [this link](#) to see the papal document or visit the Vatican website: www.vatican.va

MARRIAGE MOT 2026

'A DAY TO REMEMBER'



Join this marriage-renewal day designed to help couples reconnect, reflect, and grow together.

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21 MARCH 2026

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START FROM 10.00 - 15.30



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16 COUPLES MAXIMUM



for more information please email: anasofiareyna7@gmail.com



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It should be an enriching day no matter how long you have been married!



Lent

PRAY. FAST. SERVE.

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

These are Lenten practices that all have a very real spiritual significance. They are an expression of the desire to be united with Christ, who emptied himself so that others may have an abundance of life.

Sunday 1st March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

- 9:15am Mass led by St Alban's Primary School and Little Church
 11:15am Mass with SVP Dedication
 4:45pm Healing Service - Anointing of the Sick

Monday 2nd March

- 9.30am Mass in the Parish Centre

Tuesday 3rd March

- 9.30am Mass in the Parish Centre

Wednesday 4th March

- 6pm Exposition & Confession
 7pm Mass in Church

Thursday 5th March

- 9.30am Mass in Parish Centre
 11:30am Mass at Park Mount Care Home

Friday 6th March

- 12noon Mass in the Parish Centre followed by Lenten Soup Lunch
 7pm The Way of the Cross: Meditation on the Passion of Christ

Saturday 7th March

- 9:45am First Forgiveness in Church
 10:30am Rosary in Parish Centre

Sunday 8th March - 3rd Sunday of Lent

- Masses: 9:15am, 11:15am, 1:00pm (Polish Mass), 6:30pm

Monday 9th March

- 9.30am Mass in the Parish Centre

Tuesday 10th March

- 9.30am Mass in the Parish Centre

Wednesday 11th March

- 10am-4pm Ladies' Group Lenten Retreat, Thorneycroft Hall.
 6pm Exposition
 7pm Mass

Thursday 12th March

- 9.30am Mass in Parish Centre
 11:30am Mass at Park Mount Care Home

Friday 13th March

- 12noon Mass in the Parish Centre followed by Lenten Soup Lunch
 7pm The Way of the Cross: Meditation on the Passion of Christ

Sunday 15th March - 4th Sunday of Lent

(Mothering/Laetare Sunday)

- 9:15am Mass

- 11.15am Mass

- 6.30pm Mass

Monday 16th March

- 9.30am Mass in Parish Centre

Tuesday 17th March

- 9.30am Mass in Parish Centre

Wednesday 18th March

- 6pm Exposition and Confession
 7pm Mass in Church

Thursday 19th March

- 9.30am Mass in Parish Centre
 11:30am Mass at Park Mount Care Home

Friday 20th March

- 12noon Mass in the Parish Centre followed by Lenten Soup Lunch
 7pm The Way of the Cross: Meditation on the Passion of Christ

Saturday 21st March

- 9:30am – 3pm Day of Recollection, Parish Centre
 11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession
 6:30pm Vigil Mass



Sunday 22nd March – 5th Sunday of Lent

- Masses: 9:15am, 11:15am, 6:30pm

Monday 23rd March

- 9.30am Mass in Parish Centre

Tuesday 24th March

- 9.30am Mass in Parish Centre

Wednesday 25th March

- 6pm Exposition and Confession
 7pm Mass

Thursday 26th March

- 9.30am Mass in Parish Centre
 11:30am Mass at Park Mount Care Home

Friday 27th March

- 12noon Mass in the Parish Centre followed by Lenten Soup Lunch
 7pm The Way of the Cross



HOLY WEEK 2026 at St Alban's

Passion / Palm Sunday

29th March
Remember to put some greenery on your door to show your neighbours it's Palm Sunday

9:15am Mass begins in the Parish Centre with a procession
11:15am Mass
6.30pm Mass

Monday
30th March
9.30am
Mass in the Parish Centre

Tuesday
31st March
9.30am
Mass in the Parish Centre

Wednesday
1st April
12 noon
Chrism Mass
Shrewsbury Cathedral

Holy Thursday
2nd April
7.30pm
Mass of the Last Supper followed by

Watching until midnight
Triduum #1

11pm - 12midnight
Holy Hour reading, reflection and song in Church

Good Friday
3rd April
Day 1 of the Devine Mercy Novena

11.00am
Children's Way of the Cross

3.00pm
Passion and Veneration of the Holy Cross
Triduum #2

Holy Saturday
4th April
10.00am
Polish Food Blessing

Easter Vigil Mass
Saturday 8pm
Triduum #3
Bells rung during the Gloria

Easter Sunday

5th April
9:15am Mass
11:15am Mass

Easter Monday

6th April
12 noon
Mass in St Alban's Church

Don't forget to bring a hand bell with you to Mass of the Last Supper so we can all participate in ringing the bells during the Gloria.



If you don't have a bell to hand, the charity shops of Macclesfield will be pleased to see you!

ST ALBAN'S LADIES GROUP

invites you to join them for their RETREAT at

THORNYCROFT HALL, SIDDINGTON

Pexhill Road, SK11 9JN

Wednesday, 11th March 2026

From 10.a.m – 4.00p.m.



The day's programme includes the Rosary, Meditations, Confession, & Mass

Full day including morning coffee, 2 Course lunch, afternoon tea-

Cost: £25 payable on the day by cash or card @ Thornycroft

If you wish to join us, please put your name down on the list in the Church noticeboard, or Parish Hall noticeboard, or by calling Anne (tel. below). If you require transport, please tick the box.

You are assured of a warm welcome!

For further information please contact Anne Collier on 07305 267325



Rosary Prayer Group – All Welcome

On Monday mornings, a group of parishioners meets in the Parish Centre to pray the Rosary. Everyone is welcome, and I warmly encourage you to make this special appointment with Our Lady.

Catholics know that the Rosary is a powerful form of prayer. Praying together increases the graces we receive, as Jesus said: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

There is also time to share a coffee and to write down any petitions. These may be private intentions or ones you are happy to share.

The prayer time begins at 11:00am and is always very recollected, with a deep sense of joy. Any time spent praying the Rosary is richly blessed.

ST ALBAN'S LADIES GROUP WINTER PROGRAMME

We meet informally in the Parish Centre on 1st / 3rd Wednesday 2.00-4.00p.m. for discussion and talks of mutual interest
Tea & Biscuits are provided



MARCH

4th *Open meeting*

Come & meet old friends and make new ones – you are assured of a warm welcome

11th *St Alban's Ladies Group Lenten Retreat*

Open to all Ladies of the Parish
Thornycroft Hall
Please see details on the left

18th *Pilgrimage to Rome*

Lively Reminiscences from the Pilgrims to Rome 2025

For further information contact Anne 7305267325

WhatsApp Made Holy

It's right that social media is under scrutiny for the harms it can cause to its users and by extension to our society, but I wanted to share an example of how the messaging app, WhatsApp was used for good in our Parish.

I have not used names here to protect the privacy of the person at the heart of this story, to save a grieving family from further pain and to spare the blushes of an amazing group of parishioners who truly lived their faith in the most meaningful way possible.

Every good work begins with a caring person with a great idea and the energy to make it happen. The good Lord has seen fit to bless our parish with not one but two such caring people. A couple with such reserves of Christian compassion and love so as to give the rest of us an example to follow.

Back in the summer of 2025, the couple were alerted through friendship of a parishioner who had not only endured the recent loss of his beloved wife but also tragically to discover he had to go through his own all too familiar diagnoses and treatment journey.

His adult children, no longer living in the parish and trying to juggle their all too recent grief, family and work life and now a very poorly parent needed all the help and support we could provide. Unwilling to add loneliness and isolation to an already awful situation, the couple set up a WhatsApp Group Chat and invited some of us known to the parishioner to participate in a visiting rota first for hospital visits and then for when he eventually got home. It meant that the parishioner had company every day, the visits were joyful such was the sunny disposition of the parishioner and if anything was needed it could be arranged quickly. A blessed relief to his family who were kept constantly in the loop and from whom we, now known as 'the team', took our direction.

With the exceptional coordination skills from our dynamic duo, the team worked to ensure that the last seven months of the parishioner's life were the best it could be, allowing him to make choices and always remain in control. Watching Mass online followed by

the Communion we shared and being kept updated on parish and world events and shared interests meant everything to the parishioner. It was a gift even to be part of the team witnessing the Gospel being lived in such a beautifully tangible way.

The parishioner died as he had lived, peacefully, surrounded by those he loved and who loved him back.

A gracious man right to the end. I have no doubt he is with the Father in heaven and live in hope that he is now praying for us in this our exile.

The team continues to support the family and through St Alban's Bereavement Group will continue to do so for as long as they need us.

I have written this up not to embarrass those involved but to illustrate the powerful impact a community coming together to help can make. If you, a friend or family member is in a similar situation, please let Fr Tomasz know and now that we have a working model, a new team can be formed to help in any way that is needed.

Much love and prayers to the couple who got us organised, you really are the best of us.

Karyn Johnston

Feeling blessed to be part of this Parish

Foodbank Collection

14-15th March

We will be collecting food and toiletries this weekend for the Silklife Foodbank. This foodbank provides

emergency food and toiletry parcels for families, couples and single people in the Macclesfield area following a referral from health and social care agencies.



There are flyers in church with details of the goods most frequently required. Currently the foodbank are short of size 5,6,7,8 disposable nappies and pull-ups, coffee, biscuits, tinned vegetables, meat, rice pudding and fruit. Please leave donations in the inside porch stacked against the walls. For more information about the Foodbank: <https://www.silklife.co.uk/foodbank>

If you cannot bring groceries, or if you prefer you can donate money online or via the QR code.

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Food, drinks,
entertainment
and more!

Starlight Walk
2026

Thursday 16th April at Capesthorpe Hall

www.echospice.org.uk/starlight-walk



Keep up with St Alban's Parish life
Parish Website - www.stalbanmacc.org.uk
Parish Live Stream - www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/index_files/stalbanslivestream.html
Parish Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/stalbanmacc
Parish Twitter Page - www.twitter.com/stalbanpaul
Parish Council - for maintenance or other issues
contact parishcouncil@stalbanmacc.org.uk

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monthlynews@stalbanmacc.org.uk
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