

St Alban's

www.stalbanmacc.org.uk



Monthly News

FREE monthly magazine of St Alban's Parish

Our aim is to offer a variety of articles, essays, and materials that help us develop our Spiritual, Human, Intellectual, and Pastoral life (SHIP).

Our Monthly Newsletter is designed specifically for the St Alban's Community and its friends, featuring curated content that speaks to our daily life under the Catholic faith. We therefore encourage you to publish your thoughts with us, based on facts and reliable sources of information. Our **SHIP** content allows you to print all materials related to the liturgy, retreats, sacraments, etc. (**S**piritual), Catholic social teaching, politics, culture, etc. (**H**uman), science, theology, philosophy, etc. (**I**ntellectual), and everything linked to parish life (**P**astoral). Just remember that our aim is not simply to inform, but to FORM consciences in the light of Catholic teaching... and all these in **LOVE** and **RESPECT**.



The Courageous Radical Disciple

In June we celebrate our parish saint, Alban, who, as the first Christian martyr of Britain, is often called the Protomartyr of England. His witness dates back to the earliest days of Christianity in our part of the world, when the Roman Empire still ruled and the faith was often persecuted.

Alban himself was not originally a Christian. He was a pagan who welcomed a fleeing Christian priest into his home, offering him shelter at great personal risk. Deeply moved by the priest's holiness of life, faith and prayer, Alban came to believe in Christ and asked to be instructed in the Christian faith. His conversion was swift but sincere, demonstrating how we, through our lived faith, can bear powerful witness to others. It is for this reason St Alban is the patron of converts.

When Roman soldiers came searching for the priest, Alban performed an act of remarkable courage and charity. He exchanged clothes and presented himself in the priest's place, letting him escape. Before the



magistrate, Alban refused to renounce Christianity, boldly declaring his faith in "the true and living God".

The significance of St Alban lies not only in his status as Britain's first martyr, and more importantly our parish saint, but also in the example of radical discipleship he offers us. He was a layman, newly converted, yet willing to give up his life for Christ and for another person. His story reflects the commandment Jesus gave us to love one another and to spread the joy of the Gospel with everyone we meet.

St Alban reminds us that holiness is not confined to the learned, the long-formed believer or the cradle Catholic. A new convert, inspired by grace, can bear courageous witness. Look out for St Alban's feast day Mass, when we celebrate our saint and reflect on our own willingness to stand firm in faith and to serve others with his example of generosity and courage.



First Saturday Devotion

6 June and 4 July 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

All welcome, especially new parishioners! This month we will be meeting on Thursday 25th June at Suburban Green on Chestergate from 10.30am. For more information contact Jane on 07855628085. Just turn up - look forward to seeing you there!



St Alban's Parish ROSARY FOR PEACE

Every Wednesday at 5:30pm in Church

Pope Leo's intention for June 2026



For the values of sports

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.



All welcome to our friendly book club

Book Club's next meeting is on

Wednesday June 10th, at 3 for 3.15 pm start.

The book we're reading is
'Pure' by Andrew Miller.

We are a friendly group, and all are welcome to join us.

Enquiries to Tess or Mary:
maryfrommacc@msn.com



Gyorgy's 10th Anniversary

Deacon Gyorgy would like to celebrate the 10th anniversary of his Diaconal Ordination on **Saturday 11th July**

Exposition at 11 am, will be followed by a Mass at 12, then a Shared Table in the Parish Centre.

After this there will be 'A Big Jam' session with worship/ jazz music and dancing.

News from the Parish Council

Sallyann O'Dell

Our May meeting was held immediately after the Ascension of the Lord evening Mass. We always start our meetings with a prayer, gospel reading and discussion, so it was a privilege to meet straight after Mass and have the opportunity to reflect on Fr Tomasz's homily and the important message: Christ is with us always, to the end of the age.

We certainly felt His guiding presence as we tackled a wide range of topics:

We continued to look at ways to heat our precious church building. New possibilities were introduced, including heated cushions for the pews and underfloor heating. We await the opportunity to meet with the diocese again, as nothing can happen without their consent and approval.

The monthly newsletter was discussed, including ways the parish council can continue to support Magda with any editorial decisions. Feedback from parishioners has been positive.

The carpet in the calming corner is looking rather worn and grubby and this was brought to our attention some time ago by the cleaning team. We will try to get this replaced as soon as practicable.

Heritage week takes place nationally in September 2026 and we will be in contact with Macclesfield Town Council to find out

whether they are publicising this and how we can take part in showing off our church building. Volunteer stewards will be needed.

We discussed our new website and how much work has gone into creating it. Once again, any feedback we have received has been positive. We'll be encouraging people to contact the webmaster email address to make any changes and updates; this can now be done easily and quickly.

It was suggested that different parish groups might like to attend parish council meetings on a rota, to put forward any suggestions and requests and to share what they have been doing. We felt that attendance at one or two meetings a year would not be too onerous and will informally find out if groups would be interested in this.

Plans were finalised for the parish meeting (27th May) and health and safety issues of the parish picnic (June 21st) ironed out.

As always, we are seeking new members who can give a little time each month to represent our active, thriving and diverse parish family. Please do get in touch: parishcouncil@stalbanmacc.org.uk

Updates from the Catenian Society

Mike Guerin

Ken Barbosa, a parishioner of St Alban's, was installed as President of Macclesfield Catenian Circle at their April meeting, which was also their Charter Dinner celebrating the Circle's founding in April 1944.



Ken was congratulated by Steve Joseph, not only a fellow parishioner but also a fellow orthopaedic surgeon. Steve, who was Circle President in 2003/04, recently retired after a distinguished career.

Circle. Ged Flanagan of Warrington Circle left all competitors in his wake, winning by a clear margin, with Macclesfield members Mike Guerin and Mike O'Boyle finishing second and third respectively.

The course was in excellent condition and, despite some heavy showers, all competitors completed the 18 holes and submitted their cards.

The photograph shows Ged displaying the 'Ryder Cup', which was awarded for his win. (He is indeed as tall as he looks in the photo.)



At the recent Province 17 Catenian Golf Society competition at Macclesfield Golf Club, home advantage proved not enough for members of Macclesfield Catenian

The Silver Jubilee of Fr Tomasz

Sallyann O'Dell



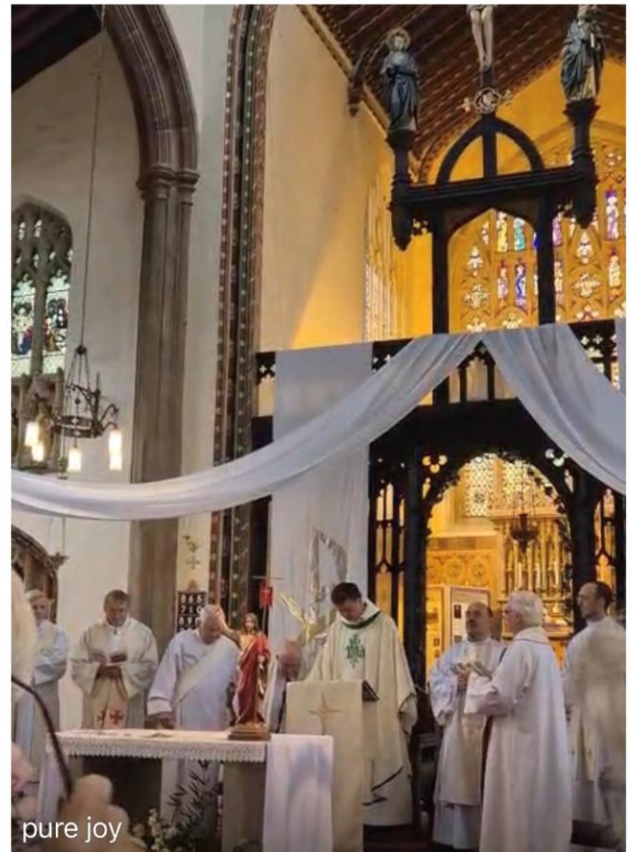
What a joyous celebration we had on Sunday 17th May, to honour Fr Tomasz's 25th anniversary of ordination.

Mass was absolutely packed, including visitors from former parishes as well as family members from abroad. A number of priests concelebrated with Fr Tomasz and it was wonderful to learn more about his background, as well as witness the love of so many colleagues and friends.

The parish centre was equally thronged with well-wishers who enjoyed delicious food, great music and good company.

Huge thanks go to so many people – musicians, flower arrangers, caterers, altar servers, decorators (including the beautiful bunting made by all the pupils of St Alban's and All Hallows schools), washer-uppers and all those behind the scenes who made it such an enjoyable event.

Thank you Fr Tomasz for guiding your flock. We will continue to pray for you.



Interview with Father Tomasz – Part 2

By Magda Zarzycka; edited by Sallyann O'Dell

MZ: What aspects of the Church here in England are beautiful or meaningful for you – and which are more difficult? For example, for me, discovering how active laypeople are during Mass was wonderful. Every time I go back to Poland, I notice the differences. So I'm curious: what stands out for you?

Fr Tomasz: For me as well – I value the Second Vatican Council very deeply. Its ideas, its vision. When the Council Fathers met, they said: we must renew the liturgy. It cannot remain locked in Latin – beautiful as Latin is – because people need to understand. How can they discover Christ if the language of worship is foreign to them?

I grew up in the post Vatican II Church. In Poland, people began reading the Scriptures at Mass, singing the psalm, participating actively. I always found that beautiful – the sense that the priest faces the people, is with them, not turned away. That active participation is something precious.

And when I came to the UK, I discovered something else I treasure: the English Catholic Church is, in many ways, like the early Church after the Resurrection. It grew out of persecution. We remember the Reformation, the martyrs, the priests who gave their lives, the families who hid them. That history shaped the Church here.

And because there are so few priests, people value the priesthood deeply. When a priest celebrates Mass, when he is available for confession or brings Communion to the sick – people see it as a gift. A real gift. That sense of gratitude, born from sacrifice and suffering, is something incredibly beautiful.

One of the difficult things I've noticed here in the UK – and I say this as someone who isn't from here – is that somewhere along the way, Catholics here seem to have become convinced that the Church is primarily a charitable organisation. As if our greatness lies in how many appeals we run, how many collections we organise, how many campaigns we launch.

MZ: A kind of activism?

Fr Tomasz: Exactly – activism. And activism absolutely has its place; we should help the poor, support the vulnerable, and respond to need. But that is not the primary purpose of the Church. The Church exists for the salvation of souls. Activism is vital, but if it becomes the centre, something essential is lost; if we try to solve all problems ourselves, if Christ disappears from our lives, if we no longer feel the need for a Saviour, a Redeemer, then we're building on sand. Life will eventually show us the truth.

At moments of crisis – bereavement and illness, for example – people start asking the real questions, the existential ones: "Why? Why me? Why now? What is the meaning of this?" And who can answer those questions? Only Christ.

MZ: And even if we have friends and family, there are moments when the only person who can be with us in our suffering is Christ.

Fr Tomasz: Exactly. There is a bend in the road where no one else can go with you. Only God can walk that part with you.

We need the sacred. We need to feel God's presence through signs, gestures, beauty. Without that, our faith cannot grow. We should not be tempted to think, "Do it yourself. You don't need God."

We need a saviour and redeemer. I have said to God, "Without You, nothing will move forward. Without You, I can't continue. If You don't show me the next step, I'll have to leave the priesthood, because I must be honest." And God carried me through those moments. And here I am.

MZ: You've already partly answered my next question – whether you feel any nostalgia for the pre-Vatican II Church.

Fr Tomasz: I think there were many beautiful things before the Second Vatican Council. We can't pretend there weren't. The beauty of the liturgy, the reverence, the sacred music. But I struggle when some people glorify this as the only true form. That attitude is, in a sense, a sin against the Holy Spirit – because it denies the work the Spirit did through the Council. The Council Fathers prayed, listened, discerned. They weren't acting blindly.

I appreciate many elements of the old liturgy. But for me, the Mass as we celebrate it today is clearer, more transparent, more understandable.

MZ: And what about the role of the priest? The role of the laity changed after the Council and people became more involved in the liturgy, changing the relationship between priest and people. I feel there's a greater sense of equality. Does that resonate with you?

Fr Tomasz: Yes, and that's one of the reasons I love being in England. In Poland, although it's slowly changing, bishops are still treated like lords. I remember feeling anxious and under pressure in the face of that sense of power.

Here, that pressure doesn't exist. I remember arriving in Stockport in 2012. I came home from the college and saw a car parked in my parish priest's space. I thought, "Someone's brave!" I walked into the kitchen and there was my parish

priest, sitting at the table with the bishop, drinking tea and eating a sandwich. In my childhood, a bishop was a distant figure — you knelt, kissed the ring, behaved with extreme formality. But here, the bishop speaks to you as an equal: “You are my priest, I am your bishop.”

I experienced the same kindness in Timperley. Bishop Mark would come and visit, sit down, and ask how I was. I never felt the pressure of hierarchy. He is my bishop — but the relationship is human. The bishop is approachable, willing to talk even about difficult things. Even if I don’t agree with all his decisions, I will pray for him, and we must all pray for him — his work is unimaginably difficult, balancing priests, parishioners, and politicians.

MZ: And how do you personally deal with loneliness? Even with good friends and family, loneliness must sometimes be a problem, especially now, when you’re alone in the parish.

Fr Tomasz: Loneliness is a real issue for priests. After twenty-five years of priesthood — my silver jubilee — I can say I’ve never regretted becoming a priest, but I also know I made one mistake: I shouldn’t have become a diocesan priest. Spiritually, I would have been better in a religious order — Dominican, Benedictine, Franciscan, something like that. Somewhere there are at least two or three priests living together. Because I’m someone who likes having others around.

In Timperley, I lived next door to two retired priests who were always with me at the altar. Then COVID came and everything shut down, but the three of us continued celebrating Mass together as we were a “bubble”. We would share cooking and eating good meals together and when the day was difficult, John would say, “Shall we have a whisky?” Those were beautiful moments. I never felt lonely in Timperley — I had them.

When I came here, Pascal was with me. At first he was very reserved but by the end we were like brothers. He was sad to leave, but also excited to become a parish priest. And I was happy for him.

We had a simple routine: I’d go downstairs early, make coffee, and wait for him. We’d talk, share ideas, laugh. It was good. Now things have changed — and honestly, I don’t miss the company as much as I thought I would, because I simply don’t have time. When the day ends, I’m exhausted. I go to my room, lie down, and I’m asleep. At six in the morning it starts again.

If this were a small parish, I know I would miss having someone around. I’m an academic by nature, so my “medicine” for loneliness has always been books. If I had no pastoral work and no one to live with, I’d probably be writing articles or editing something like your newsletter.

I love reading. I have a pile of books waiting for me — and no

time to read them. When I went snowboarding in February, during the day I was with my friends, but in the evenings I read two whole books. It felt wonderful.

But here, working in a language that isn’t my own, everything takes longer. Preparing a homily in English takes time — I can’t just walk up to the pulpit the way I would in Poland. In Polish I don’t think about grammar or vocabulary; but in English, I must prepare carefully.

And then there’s the weekly newsletter — it takes time. You have to edit, adjust the tone, make sure things sound right. All of that requires hours.

One priest could manage this parish if it were predictable — morning Mass, a few appointments, a steady rhythm. But here, every day brings something unexpected. You plan your Monday: Mass at 9:30, then emails — twenty or thirty of them — prioritising what’s urgent. Then marriage preparation, then meetings. And suddenly the phone rings: someone is dying in hospital. Then the doorbell: someone needs a priest immediately. Then another call. And by the end of the day, you’ve been pulled in five directions, and half the things you planned are undone. Having said that, the parishioners here are wonderful. Everything that laypeople can do, they do. Decorations, practical tasks — they’re amazing. I didn’t have that in Timperley. But there are things laypeople simply can’t do for safeguarding, confidential, or canonical reasons.

When Pascal was here, it was different; we shared the workload. But I don’t have time to be lonely — although I know it can be a real burden for priests. Here, I’m simply overwhelmed with work.

MZ: Yes, this is a big responsibility for one person. Even Christ sent His disciples out in pairs. And this leads to my next question. With your days starting at six in the morning and ending late at night, with constant demands, how do you recharge? What restores you? What gives you rest — whether in five spare minutes or on holiday?

Fr Tomasz: When I go on holiday, I usually go with others — with priests or with good lay friends, people I can relax and be myself with.

Here, day to day, I rest by spending time with people I trust — and who love me. On Easter Monday, for example, Gyorgy and Monika invited me over. We had a drink, ate good food, laughed, and talked.

I also rest with books. I love good music. I love cycling — though I haven’t been on my bike for a year because there’s no time. One thing I especially love is flying my drone. That’s my hobby. I take it out, fly it, record beautiful footage, make little films. It makes me happy. I’ll go to Wales, film the cliffs, the coastline, the castles — Conwy, Llandudno. Then I edit it all together, add good music, and it becomes something

beautiful. And of course, in winter I love snowboarding. In summer I like going to the mountains, hiking, spending time outdoors. I enjoy being with people — barbecues, gatherings. I love all of that. But right now, without another priest here, it's difficult.

I have hobbies, interests — I just can't live them out the way I'd like right now. And I know many priests here who, when they reach seventy-five, are terrified of retirement. Their whole life has been the parish, administration, people. And suddenly it's all taken away. "What will I do?" they ask.

I don't have that problem. I look forward to retirement. I have so many plans. If God sent me into retirement tomorrow, I'd be delighted. I know exactly what I'd do.

MZ: I'm mindful that our time will be up soon, so just a few more questions. First: how can we, as a parish, best support you?

Fr Tomasz: Pray for me — definitely. And everything else that laypeople can do, it would be wonderful if we did it together. That's all.

MZ: And now a question you have already partly answered — ageing. I'm nearly fifty myself, and although we're not old, there are changes one has to accept. For me, it's memory — I used to remember everything without notes, and now things slip away. That's hard. How do you see ageing? What is it like for you?

Fr Tomasz: I don't have a problem with it. My life is oriented toward eternity. For me, it's, "Jesus, whenever You want — I'm ready". I've had experiences of faith that make me certain I've already done what I needed to do for Him. My father died at fifty of liver cancer. My mother died at sixty-seven from diabetes and its complications. Life is a journey. I know my Saviour is waiting for me. I don't need to be handsome or worry about grey hair.

The only thing I say is: "Lord Jesus, when my time comes, let it be without pain. Let me just go — and be with You." That's all.

MZ: Next question. This one is from my daughter. What inspires you to celebrate Mass the way you do?

Fr Tomasz: I think I celebrate the way I do because I understand the Mass, and it is so important that people truly

understand the signs, rather than just see the liturgy as a performance. That's why, when we do have another priest here, I want to run a "Mass step by step" series in the newsletter: Why does the priest kiss the altar? Why do we carry the cross in procession? Why does the priest break a tiny piece of the Host and place it in the chalice? None of this is magic. Every gesture has deep theology behind it.

And I want to pray during Mass. Even with the adrenaline, even with the pressure, I want to say, "Jesus, You are here with me, and without You I can do nothing." Sometimes people expect something else, but I won't let anyone steal Christ from that moment.

As for preaching and my homily — maybe that's what your daughter meant — I simply try to share faith. The Gospel must challenge us here and now. Take the disciples on the road to Emmaus — they were traumatised, fleeing Jerusalem.

Jesus joined them, listened to them like a good therapist... and then He said, "You foolish ones." Imagine if I said that to the congregation! But He challenged them.

At the end of the day, Christ didn't say, "Go and entertain them." He said, "Go and preach the Gospel." Tell the truth. Even if you don't fully understand it yet — tell the truth as best you can.

Look at Emmaus again. Those two disciples were running away. Jesus let

them speak, let them pour out their pain. But then He confronted them.

MZ: And that leads to my last question. As Catholics, it's easy to make the assumption that if Christ came today, we would surely recognise Him. Do you think we've changed that much in the last two thousand years?

Fr Tomasz: If Christ came to us today, He would be crucified again. Because we think we're infallible. We think we already know Him because we've memorised the New Testament.

MZ: We think knowledge equals encounter.

Fr Tomasz: Exactly. Knowing about Christ is one thing. Meeting Him is something entirely different. Thank God He is with us in another way now. Amen.



Santiago de Compostela, 2010

ST ALBAN'S LADIES GROUP

We are a friendly group who meets informally in the Parish Centre on 1st / 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.00-4.00p.m. for discussion and talks of mutual interest.

Interests are both spiritual and social and include Days of Recollection and social outings.



JUNE

17th *Strawberry Fayre*

Fundraising event in aid of our CHARITY OF THE YEAR for Macclesfield & District Young Stroke Society (MADYSS)

JULY

1st *Speaker: Joy Winkler*

We welcome Joy – former Cheshire Poet Laureate. Her theme: 'When flowers speak'

15th *Summer Outing to*

Peak Village Outlet - (Shop, Eat & Relax) & after lunch short visit to MATLOCK (a few places are available if you would like to join the outing)

For further information contact Anne 7305267325



MISSIO

Today, Tomorrow, Together

For 90 years, Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries have worked in partnership through the RED BOX to support local missionaries around the world. Together, they share God's love by walking alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of background or belief. Missio is the Pope's charity for World Mission, and the Mill Hill Missionaries are Britain's own missionary society.

St Alban's has raised £438.96 in 2025 through the Red Boxes, including individuals giving directly. Thank you for your continued support through prayer and generous giving, despite the challenging times we live in.

DO YOU HAVE A RED BOX at HOME? – or WOULD YOU LIKE ONE? If your BOX hasn't been emptied for a while please bring into Church and give to an Apparitor to take to the office for my collection. (please do not leave at the back of Church). If you would like information on other ways to donate or would like a BOX, please give me a call on 07305 267325 or email: anne.flynn5@ntlworld.com

With grateful thanks

Anne Collier



**Thank you for helping
transmit God's love
all around the world**





at St Alban's

By Bernadette Bailey

Livesimply challenges us to respond to God's call to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.

Today we are focussing on living simply

At this time, when we may be spring-cleaning our homes, have you thought about how much plastic is in your home? In Macclesfield, we have an amazing shop – Scoop and Scales – that can help us reduce and replace some of these plastics. If you have not visited it, go and take a look. It is in The Old Sunday School on Roe Street, across the car park from Tesco. Here are some ideas on why and how you can make changes to get you off to a good start.

5 WAYS SCOOP CAN HELP YOU REMOVE PLASTIC IN YOUR HOME

CHEWING GUM

WHY?

MOST CHEWING GUM IS MADE OF 80% PLASTIC BUT IT IS HIDDEN IN THE INGREDIENTS LIST UNDER 'GUM BASE'. GUM BASE IS MADE FROM POLYVINYL ACETATE (USED IN GLUE) AND POLYETHYLENE (USED TO MAKE PLASTIC BAGS).

HOW?

WE SELL 100% PLASTIC FREE CHEWING GUM, MADE WITH PLANT BASED MATERIALS. YOU WILL FIND IT IN OUR SNACK SECTION IN THE SHOP!



5 WAYS SCOOP CAN HELP YOU REMOVE PLASTIC IN YOUR HOME

WASHING UP

WHY

TRADITIONAL WASHING-UP BRUSHES AND SPONGES ARE MAJOR SOURCES OF MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION, OFTEN MADE FROM PETROLEUM-DERIVED POLYURETHANE OR NYLON THAT SHEDS PARTICLES INTO WATER SYSTEMS. THESE NON-BIODEGRADABLE TOOLS CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO LANDFILL WASTE, AS THEY ARE FREQUENTLY DISPOSED OF.

HOW

WE HAVE BAMBOO POT BRUSHES, DISH BRUSHES AND REPLACEMENT HEADS, LOOFAS, PLANT BASED SPONGES, ALL FOUND IN OUR LAUNDRY SECTION IN THE SHOP.



5 WAYS SCOOP CAN HELP YOU REMOVE PLASTIC IN YOUR HOME

COSMETICS

WHY

120 BILLION UNITS OF PACKAGING ARE PRODUCED EVERY YEAR BY THE GLOBAL COSMETICS INDUSTRY, BULKED OUT BY THE USE OF COMPLEX LIDS, MULTI-LAYERED BOXES AND CELLOPHANE, MUCH OF WHICH IS SUPERFLUOUS, NON-RECYCLABLE AND ENDS UP IN OUR LANDFILLS AND OCEANS.

HOW

UPCIRCLE IS PLASTIC FREE, AND USES BI-PRODUCTS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE GO TO WASTE. WE STOCK MOST OF THEIR RANGE AND ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO EXPAND, SO IF YOU HAVE A PRODUCT IN MIND PLEASE GIVE ONE OF OUR MANAGERS A SHOUT!



5 WAYS SCOOP CAN HELP YOU REMOVE PLASTIC IN YOUR HOME

LAUNDRY

WHY

LAUNDRY DETERGENT OFTEN CONTAINS PLASTIC, SPECIFICALLY POLYVINYL ALCOHOL (PVA OR PVOH) IN PODS AND SHEETS, AS WELL AS MICROPLASTIC PARTICLES IN SOME LIQUID DETERGENTS. UP TO 35% OF MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION ORIGINATES FROM LAUNDRY, BOTH FROM SYNTHETIC CLOTHING FIBERS AND DETERGENT INGREDIENTS. A STUDY FOUND THAT 119 OUT OF 300 DETERGENTS ANALYZED CONTAINED MICROPLASTIC PARTICLES.

HOW

WE SELL NON BIO, AND BIO PLASTIC FREE LIQUID LAUNDRY DETERGENT, LAUNDRY POWDER, LAUNDRY SHEETS (UNFRAGRANCED AND FRAGRANCED). YOU CAN FILL UP USING YOUR OWN CONTAINERS OR ONE OF OUR RECYCLED CONTAINERS. WE ALSO SUGGEST WEARING NATURAL FIBRES SUCH AS COTTON INSTEAD OF SYNTHETIC.



Jerome is trekking the Great Wall of China



In aid of
East Cheshire Hospice
Where people come to live

This November, I'm taking on the Great Wall of China to support East Cheshire Hospice.

The Hospice needs over £9,000 every single day to provide its vital care, and with only 21% of funding coming from the Government, community support makes all the difference.

Scan the QR code to donate - every contribution truly helps. Thank you!



Scan to donate

Please donate – every contribution truly helps. Thank you!

justgiving.com/page/jeromejohnston



HOLD THE DATE (if not the 5 weeks!)

Planning is well underway for the programme of events in this year's [Season of Creation](https://seasonofcreation.org) (seasonofcreation.org), which takes place from 1st September (the World day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4th October (St Francis' Feast Day). In 2026, the season is especially significant, as it marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis. The images show the theme, symbol and biblical reference that will be used across the world throughout the Season.

One of the key events for our Parish is a visit to the [Laudato Si Centre](https://laudatosicentre.org.uk) (laudatosicentre.org.uk) at Wardley Hall, Manchester on Wednesday 23rd September.

The Laudato Si' Centre is the Diocese of Salford's ambitious response to the call by Pope Francis to every living person on this planet in his letter 'Laudato Si' – Care for Our Common Home'.

The visit will give us the chance to spend time in God's wonderful creation. It will also include a tour of the Walled Garden and Woodland area, where we can learn more about the Centre's work to support nature, encourage ecological flourishing, and spend time in prayer and reflection in this beautiful outdoor environment.

Contact Bernadette Bailey at justiceandpeacemass@gmail.com to reserve a place.



Pentecost

Magda Zarzycka

This year's celebration of Pentecost at St Alban's enabled us to connect in a deeply evocative way with the events of two thousand years ago. Several parishioners proclaimed the readings in their own languages. At the 9.15 Mass, Mimi, originally from Cape Verde, read in Portuguese; Prabu, from Tamil Nadu, read in Tamil; and Sonja shared one of the readings in Malayalam,

பெந்தக்கோஸ்து என்னும் நாள் வந்தபோது சீபர்த
பெளரும் ஒரே இடத்தில் கூடியிருந்தார்கள். திடீரென்று கொடுங்காறு விகவதுபோன்
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ஒலித்தது. மேலும் நெருப்பூப்போன்ற பிளவுற்ற, நல்கள் வந்தபோருவர் மொ
ருந்து வானத்தை அவர்கள் கண்டார்கள். அவர்கள் அனைவரும் தூய ஆவியா
நகாள்ளானப்பட்டனர். தூய ஆவியின் தூண்டுதலால் அவர்கள் ஒவ்வொருவம்
வசவ்சக்துள்ள மொழிகளில், டீப்சத், தொடங்கினார்கள். அப்பொழுது வானத்தின்
எவனாள் அடிநாற்று நாடுகளிலுமிருந்தும் வந்திருந்த இறைப்பற்றுள்ள யூத முகாக
கந்தசவேமில் தங்கியிருந்தனர். அந்த ஒலியைக் கேட்டுக் கூடிய திரளான மக்களை
ஒவ்வொருவரும் தம் சொந்த மொழிகளில் அவர்கள் பேசக் கேட்டுக் குழப்பமடைந்ததால்
ஒவ்வொருவரும் மலைத்துப்போய், "இதோ பேசுகின்ற இவர்கள் அனைவரும் கிசுக்
கவ்வொருவ ஒவ்வொருபய, நம்முடைய காய்மொழிகளில் இவர்கள் வந்தும் கலிவே-

A sample of Scripture in Tamil

a language from southwest India. Father Tomasz wove in a few elements of the liturgy in Polish too.

Hearing the different rhythms of our parishioners' mother tongues brought home the incredible richness and diversity of our parish community. So many of us bring with us traditions and backgrounds from cultures across the globe, yet all proclaim the one God in our own distinctive ways. It struck me that as a parish, we could probably go anywhere in the world and be able to understand and be understood. Let us celebrate this gift and carry it with us in our daily lives, so that whatever language we speak, we may strive to understand others and make God's love our universal language.

4. ദാനങ്ങളിൽ വൈവിധ്യം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും
ആത്മാവ് ഒന്നുതന്നെ. 5. ശുശ്രൂഷകളിൽ
വൈവിധ്യം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും കർത്താവ് ഒന്നുത
ന്നെ. 6. പ്രവൃത്തികളിൽ വൈവിധ്യം ഉണ്ടെങ്കി
ലും എല്ലാവർക്കും എല്ലാറ്റിലും പ്രചോദനം
നൽകുന്ന ഒരേവചനം ഒന്നുതന്നെ. 7. ഓരോരു
ത്താർക്കും ആത്മാവുവെളിപ്പെടുന്നത് യേശു
ക്രീസ്തുവായാണ്. 8. ഒരേ ആത്മാവ്

A fragment in Malayalam

Come and eat some rubbish with friends and save the planet! 🌱

"Foodie Friday" is a monthly event held at St Michael's Church in the Market place on the FIRST Friday of the month.

A delicious THREE COURSE meal is prepared and served. The ingredients are items that are perfectly good to eat but were DESTINED FOR LANDFILL because they were a 'wrongly shaped' carrot, or (mostly) because the supermarkets overstocked and the items are now slightly beyond their date.

There is NO CHARGE - you are invited to pay what you feel but a recommended donation of £15 is suggested to cover the costs. If you can pay more, please do - this enables the team to provide a FREE meal to someone who would not be able to afford it, either at Foodie Friday, or at the café at St Michael's during the week - "Angel at my Table".

Ali Griffen from St Peter's Church heads up the initiative. With a team of volunteers, they create a menu from whatever items are donated. There is a vegetarian option, and other dietary needs can be accommodated when booking.

Up to 30 people can be catered for every month. Some people take a bottle of wine to enjoy with friends with their meal!

The atmosphere is relaxed and informal and the event strives to be inclusive. There are regulars from various churches, visitors curious to try it, and locals living in supported housing, who come to enjoy food, hospitality and connection.

All are welcome! If you would like to book, contact St Michael's Church Office on 01625-421984 with any dietary requirements you have.

Arrive from 6pm, order by 6.30pm... ENJOY a fabulous meal and good company! What could be a better start to your weekend?



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