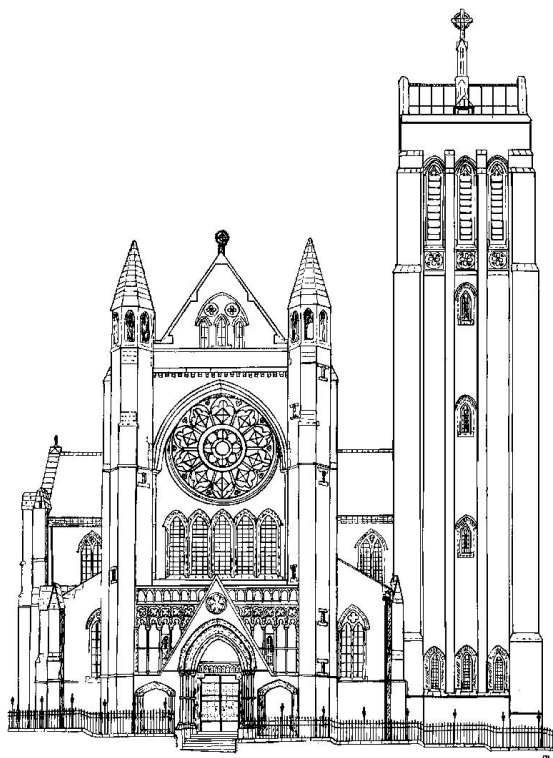




The Church of
St Alban the Martyr
Birmingham 12



St ALBAN AND St PATRICK PARISH MAGAZINE



Maryellen Fellows

August & September
2026
£1





Church of S Alban the Martyr
Conybere Street, Birmingham
(Traditional Anglo-Catholic)
(www.saintalban.co.uk)

Vicar:

Fr Jacob Pallett 07510 270381
St Alban's Vicarage, 120 Stanhope Street,
Birmingham B12 0XB frjacobpallett@gmail.com

Sunday Services

Solemn Choral Mass 10.00 a.m.
Evening Choral Service 6.00 p.m.
(Usually the fourth Sunday of the month — see the Music List)

Mission Wednesday

Mass at 10.00 a.m.: Followed by Open Church 'tea and toast' in St Patrick's Room

Confessions: By appointment

Authorized Eucharistic Ministers *(Bishop's Permission)*

Mrs Verna Smith-Broadbent
Mrs Amanda Cadman

☎: 0121 624 3865

Churchwardens

Dr Christopher A. Smith
219, Gristhorpe Road,
Selly Oak
Birmingham B29 7SP

Mrs Amanda Cadman
55, Wychall Lane,
Kings Norton
Birmingham B38 8TB

☎: 07305 320968

chris.smith-sammons@blueyonder.co.uk

☎: 0121 624 3865

E-mail: amandacadman@sky.com

From The Vicarage...

There is a lot to be thankful for in the life of this parish of Saint Alban and Saint Patrick.

It is with both sorrow and gratitude that I begin this message from the Vicarage. Our parish is incredibly thankful for the life of God's faithful servant, Edward Fellows. For decades, Edward was responsible for typesetting and printing this magazine — a duty that has more recently been undertaken by his wife, Maureen. Much of Edward's life story, his faithfulness to God, and his service to the church is well known to the readers of this parish magazine. Please continue to pray for Edward and to commend him to God's mercy and keeping. I also ask that you keep Maureen, Alban, and all who loved Edward best and miss him most in your prayers. Edward will be deeply missed, but I am sure that each of us is thankful for having known such a person of great faith. May St Alban and Our Lady of Walsingham pray for him.

At the younger end of life, we give thanks for all that has been achieved in the world of education, whether in school, college, or university. Amongst this year's university graduates is Samuel Mebrahtu, and our community is very proud of his achievements. We join Negash and all the family in giving thanks for Sam's success and wish him well in his future endeavours.

Ever since my arrival, not yet a year ago, I have been praying that God will send people to help us love Highgate. This is a prayer I have asked you to join me in on several occasions. God is indeed very faithful, and we continue to receive a great deal of encouragement from others regarding the positive things taking place here.

Our Patronal Festival for St Alban was

wonderfully supported by many who came to join us on the day. Bishop Rowan Williams delivered an inspiring sermon on St Alban and the life of Christian witness. Contained within his sermon were the words of the hymn: *"England, by thine own Saint Alban put thy Christian heart to school; learn to sacrifice and suffer by thy Protomartyr's rule."* It is costly to follow Christ, but we can be thankful that we have in St Alban a faithful witness to the message of Christ and of the Kingdom. We are also grateful to everyone who came to sing in the choir and worship in the nave — filling the church of St Alban the Martyr with prayer and praise. There was a lot for the community here to do, and we give thanks for all that took place.

The school holidays have now begun. On the final day of term, the staff gathered to give thanks for the teachers who are leaving. Amongst them was Louise Moffatt, who has spent the last 25 years teaching at St Alban's School. Louise initially joined the staff in the PE department and retired as the Head of SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). Louise possesses an infectious vision for the flourishing of the children; indeed, by the end of her career, she was educating a second generation of the same families! Louise may be known to previous governors and trustees of the school, especially those involved with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, which she organised for many years. She has attended church with the school many times over the years, and we give thanks for her faithfulness to the education of our parish children.

Please continue to offer your own prayers of thanksgiving for the life of this parish and for all that God provides. I encourage you to

give thanks especially for each other — for all that is offered by the small community of people who gather here faithfully each week. Most importantly, give thanks to God

for the great gift of grace you receive to live out the life to which Christ has called you.

May you continue to enjoy a grace-filled summer.

Fr Jacob

A Visit to Oban Episcopal Cathedral

On Sunday 26th July Rachel and I attended the Eucharist at the Episcopal Cathedral of St John the Divine in Oban. The service was not the regular Sunday morning one, as there was an infant baptism, with a special booklet, hymns to suit, and the rear half of the Nave reserved for the large baptismal party. The font is in the Narthex, which is separated from the Nave by a glazed screen with several doors and also includes table and seating as a multi-use area for diverse doubling as a church hall. A small altar in front of the Chancel was used, and the choir did not use the stalls in the Chancel but sat in the south transept. The Sacrament is reserved in a side chapel. A coracle was displayed



The Chancel Sanctuary and High Altar Reredos.

on the Chancel steps with fabric representing water flowing down the steps. After the service Coffee was served, but we decided not to stay as the Narthex was very crowded due to the baptism.

The oldest part of the Cathedral was built in 1864 as a chapel, when Oban was still very small. The railway

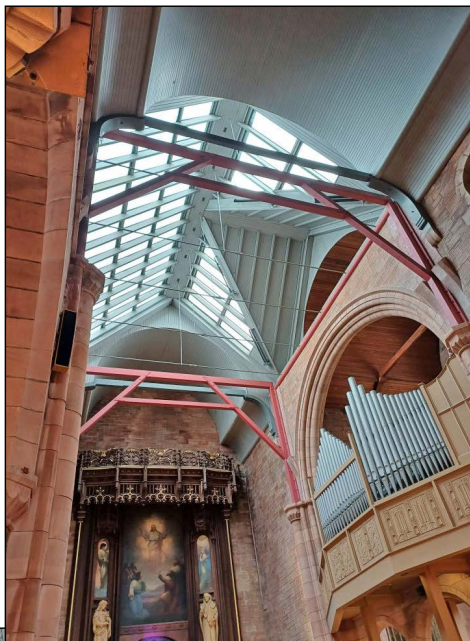


*The Steel Buttresses Supporting the Tower
(Picture from the Cathedral Website)*

reached Oban in 1880 and the town began to expand. A south aisle was added to the church in 1882.

A new church was proposed as a memorial to Bishop Chinnery-Haldane, who had died in office in 1906, and plans were drawn up by James Chalmers of Glasgow for a Cathedral-sized church on the existing site, at right angles to the original chapel, close to a true east-west orientation. Much of the funding came from the bishop's family, including the cost of the elaborate reredos behind the High Altar. Work was halted by lack of funds in 1910, when only the Sanctuary, Chancel, one Transept and one bay of the Nave were completed. The exterior is red sandstone, with a paler stone interior.

The new building was joined to the existing building, despite the 90-degree change in orientation. As a result, the new



The Glazed Roof of the Chancel and Extra Steel Supports.

central tower had to be supported with massive steel buttresses.

In 1920 the church became a Cathedral of the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles (there is another on the Isle of Cumbrae).

The Oban Cathedral Fund Appeal, a major, American-led, effort to raise the money to complete the cathedral, failed due to the Wall Street Crash in 1929. However, two clan chiefs from the Diocese, Maclean of Duart and Cameron of Lochiel, raised funds to allow the conversion of the 1882 south aisle, now liturgically the west end, into a Narthex, and in 1988 further work was carried out to stabilise the building after years of settlement.



The False Pipes of the Electronic Organ above the Choir Stalls.



The Console of the Electronic Organ.

In 1994 a digital organ was installed using the Bradford computing organ system. The motherboard failed in 2025 and an amplifier and speaker burnt out. Now they have a Makin Windermere 3-46 electronic instrument, originally provided to Norwich Cathedral in 2022/3 while the pipe organ there was under repair.

The sound is very close to that of a traditional British pipe-organ — indeed, we did not realise that was electronic until looking around after the service, when the lack of any more pipes behind the ornamental row was apparent and we read the display about their organ appeal in the Narthex.

Chris Smith

July's Floral and Horticultural Depictions

There are two parts to the flowers this time, internal and external aspects.

Firstly, the flower arrangements that were created for the Patronal Service and which were placed strategically around the church. Naturally red played a major part in the colour theme.



And then we have the meadow bathed in sunlight

.....and the flowers that have blossomed within or around.

Note: the orchid has returned.



Bagged! The United Highgate Food Bank

To be honest I couldn't remember when the food bank based at St Alban's first came into existence, so I've just had a happy time flipping through my past Christmas letters to friends and family to see if I could find the answer. In my letter for December 2013, I read that, with the arrival of the Revd Dr Nicholas lo Polito to be our Priest-in-Charge and Chaplain to the Academy "at last we are starting to see an engagement with the local community, including the development of a Food Bank in collaboration with the Academy, the Birmingham Central Mosque, Highgate Women's Group, Highgate Baptist Church and the Central Synagogue".

For many years we received regular contributions from the Synagogue (these slipped when the Vicarage was empty so there was no one to receive their donations). We continue to receive occasional contributions from the Academy. The vast majority of the food we distribute has always, however, been funded by grants from church-based trusts and individual donations.

Since the beginning the food has been stored at the foot of the tower, on shelves built for the purpose and in plastic boxes purchased for that purpose. But new purchases have always had to be carried down several steep stone steps, and food to be bagged for

distribution has had to be carried back up those steps. During Covid I used to leave a message for the Vicar that I was entering the church, and letting him know when I was leaving, for it was rather scary to be alone in the building and with those steps to contend with.... Over time my knees have begun to give me considerable cause for concern, and those steps have become increasingly daunting.

It is with huge pleasure and relief therefore that I now report that Fr Jacob located some useful shelving, and he and I moved the majority of the Food Bank stores on to those shelves behind curtains in St Patrick's Room this week. We even cleaned the storage boxes! Thirteen years of church dust makes an impressive black crust! No more will I need to carry things up and down those steps, no more will I hear the distant singing

of Happy Birthdays, me at the back of the church, everyone else in St Patrick's Room! I might even ask for help with the bagging on Sundays.

There is no doubt that take-up of food bank bags has fallen in recent years. Below is a delivery list from 2020 I found during the clear-out this week. The current delivery is very much smaller, but we need to ensure a reasonable supply of food is available to ensure no one locally is without access to basic essentials should they come knocking.

Amanda Cadman



The Trustees of St Alban's School

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee
Company Number 7287734
Charity Number 1139434

Hon Treasurer: C.A. Smith,
219 Gristhorpe Road
Birmingham B29 7SP
0121 471 1301

3 October 2019

Amanda Cadman
United Highgate Food Bank
55 Wychall Lane
Kings Norton
Birmingham
B38 8TB

Dear Amanda,

At the annual meeting of the Trustees of St Alban's School on 17th September, the Trustees agreed to make a grant of £1,500 to support the work of the United Highgate Food Bank.

As before, the grant will be administered by St Alban's PCC to reimburse the purchase of supplies for the food bank on production of invoices.

Kind regards,

Chris Smith

Christopher A. Smith
(Hon. Treasurer to the Trustees)

United Highgate Foodbank

Delivery details as at February 2020

Magnolia House	3 Families	Every week
Academy	1 Family	Every week in term time
Stanhope Hall	5 Singles	Every week (check with Fr Gerry)
St Basil's	3 Singles	Every week
St Anne's	2 Singles	Week A (delivered by C & R Smith)
Hanwood House	3 Singles	1 st Sunday

Virage 5 singles required

St Alban's Events Calendar for 2026

Parish Festivals:

These Saturday Services include a Parish Lunch after the Sung Mass at 11.00 a.m.

August 15th — Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 12th — Holy Cross

Heritage Open Days and Birmingham Heritage Week September 11th — 20th

During the National Heritage Open Days
and Birmingham Heritage Week
the church will be open to visitors as follows:

Friday	11 th September:	12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	12 th September:	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	13 th September:	12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
Monday	14 th September:	5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	15 th September:	CHURCH CLOSED.
Wednesday	16 th September:	5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	17 th September:	CHURCH CLOSED.
Friday	18 th September:	12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	19 th September:	No general visits; Organ/Choir events.
Sunday	20 th September:	12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

There will be no charge to visitors, but we will invite donations for Church Restoration and the Organ Fund. Volunteers are needed to staff the church and if possible, offer refreshments in St Patrick's Room. If you can help, please contact Fr Jacob.

We are also holding six free illustrated lectures or talks as follows:

Saturday	12 th September:	4:00 p.m. — The Building of St Alban's Church.
Sunday	13 th September:	5:00 p.m. — Anglo-Catholic Liturgical Heritage.
Monday	14 th September:	6:00 p.m. — St Alban's Stained Glass Windows.
Wednesday	18 th September:	6:00 p.m. — The Arts & Crafts Bunce Altarpiece.
Friday	18 th September:	6:00 p.m.— Anglo-Catholic Musical Heritage.
Sunday	20 th September:	12:00 noon — The Theology of the Pollock Brothers.

Congratulations To Sam On His Graduation Success

It is with tremendous pleasure and pride that Negash has shared with us these photographs of Sam's graduation which was held on the Birmingham University campus, shared with family and friends.

Sam read Mathematics and Computer Science and all his hard work paid off as he attained a first class honours degree. He popped into St Patricks rooms to share his good news in person.

Can anyone spot the proud father?!

But the celebrations did not stop there as the partying continued back at home where Fr Jacob and Amanda were invited to join in. Currently Sam is taking a well-earned break in Thailand before moving to London to start his job in August. *Cynthia*



And Congratulations to Tom on his Graduation Success

The next success story concerns a friend of St Alban's, Tom Howells, who has also graduated this summer, but this time from the Birmingham Conservatoire. Tom read music, specialising in organ studies, and has developed a keen interest in early music. He attained a first class honours degree and is now preparing to take up a position as organist at St Leonard's, Streatham, London.



However, this is not the last we will see of Tom as Fr Jacob has invited him back to give a talk at St Alban's as part of heritage week. Hope to see you all there in September to support the initiative.

Cynthia

Australia Beckons for the Surma Family

In July, Dr Tarlumum, Doris and their children came to church to say goodbye to us as Tarlumum has accepted a medical position in Australia and they are emigrating later this month. Franca, their daughter, was baptised in St Alban's which was their entry into our congregation.

It is sad to see them go but it is a wonderful opportunity for the family which has come at just the right time, before the children start school.

We wish them well and hope that they will keep in touch

Cynthia



Pearson Church Organists Concert Series 2026

Following the success of the Pearson Church Organists Concert Series of 2025, we are pleased to announce the 2026 series, which started in March.

Lunchtime concerts are on the Saturday before the fourth Sunday of a month at 1.00 – 1.45 p.m. *[Please note it is not the fourth Saturday of every month — the Church calendar does not work that way.]* These are all free admission with a retiring collection for the St Alban's Organ Restoration Appeal.

We need to raise £100,000 to preserve our organ for future generations and to ensure that we can continue to provide an excellent standard of music. A simple buffet will be available in St Patrick's room, following each lunchtime concert.

We are extremely fortunate to have some of the very finest organists in the country playing in our Pearson Organists Concert Series this year.

August 22nd / 23rd — John Butt (*Musical Director, Dunedin Consort*)
Former Organist at St Alban's

September 19th / 20th — David Briggs (*Cathedral of St John the Divine, New York*)
Former Organist at St Alban's

David, now an internationally renowned organ recitalist, was eager to feature in this year's series, although he was already booked up on all of the 4th Sunday weekends this year, so we decided to do something different on the third weekend of September, with David rehearsing a choir drawn from all over the diocese, and beyond, for Choral Evensong, as part of the RSCM national **'Come and Sing Evensong'** outreach; and separately an Evening Concert at 7.30 p.m. with a buffet reception afterwards, **which latter will be ticketed at £20**, with students and children free.

David will also play for 10.00 a.m. Mass the following day.

September 26th / 27th — James Lancelot (*Tewkesbury*)

James's father was Assistant Priest at St Patrick's church and James frequently played for services at both St Patrick's and St Alban's churches.

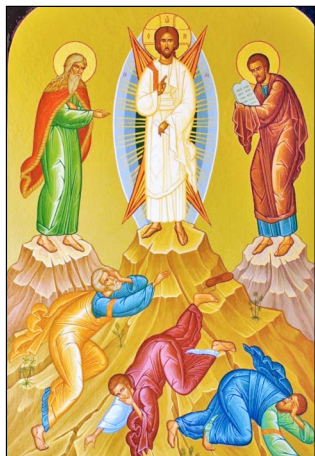
October 24th / 25th — Angela Sones (*St Alban's Church, Conybere Street*)

There have been numerous comments and messages from colleagues and organists around the country saying such things as *"I only hear good things about St Alban's"* and *"It's wonderful how music is coming alive again"*. Our best kept secret is really getting out!

Angela Sones, Director of Music

The Church's Year — August and September 2026

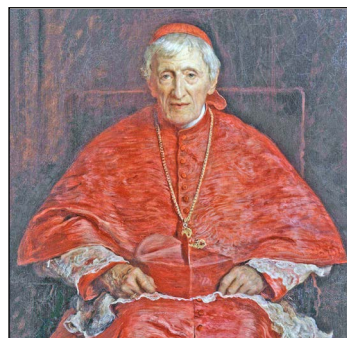
With August we are at the height of the summer months and the first day of August, a Saturday, is also Lammas Day — not a church festival but a day which was important for our mediæval ancestors, being “*Loaf Mass*” Day — the day on which a loaf made from the first reaped wheat was brought to be blessed and also a day on which country markets would be held — hence in many towns, such as Cambridge, a piece of land is still called Lammas Land, on which the markets originally were held.



The first great festival of this month is the glorious Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ on Thursday August 6th. Jesus went up “*a high mountain*” — traditionally Mount Tabor — and “was transfigured” before three of his closest disciples, Peter, James and John. They saw him in his radiant splendour as the Son of God, conversing with the two central figures of the Old Testament, Moses and Elijah. What are we to make of this? This was the “reality” of Jesus — both in his splendour and as the fulfilment of the whole of what we call the Old Testament.

On Tuesday August 11th the Church commemorates John Henry Newman, who died in 1890, formerly an Anglican priest who became a Roman Catholic and was recently canonised. He was, nay remains!, one of the greatest

and most original thinkers and writers on Christianity in the Church. His “*Apologia pro Vita Sua*”, his spiritual autobiography (‘Apologia’ here means, not apology, but ‘defence’ — his defence of his Christian thinking) was recognised at the time as a classic of English literature, beautifully written and deeply inspiring spiritually. I remember reading it many years ago in Heidelberg — of all places! His shrine is to be found in the Oratory on the Hagley Road.



One of the greatest of all Anglican writers is the Carolingian bishop, Jeremy Taylor, who died in 1667. We remember him in the Church's calendar just two days later, on Thursday August 13th. In St Alban's we are privileged to have a singular expert on Jeremy Taylor in Dr Andrew Harvey, who has written extensively on him — I remember the lecture he gave on Taylor several years ago in St Alban's — may we have a repeat of that before too long (perhaps this year!).

Saturday August 15th sees one of the greatest of all the Feasts dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary — described demurely in the Anglican lectionary simply as “*The Blessed Virgin Mary*”, but in practice observed, as we do at St Alban's, as the Glorious Feast of the



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We shall be holding a Sung Mass in St Alban's on this day at 11.00 a.m. — do come and join us for this glorious celebration. I shall never forget entering the great Basilica of St Peter's in Rome for the first time in my life when I was nineteen on this Feast Day and the impact the wonderful music and ritual of the service made upon me.

On Monday August 24th we celebrate St Bartholomew the Apostle, usually identified with the Nathanael in the first chapter of St John's Gospel. He may have spread the Gospel in India because we are told by the Church Historian,



Eusebius, that when *Pantaenus* of Alexandria visited India sometime between 150 and 200 he found there the "*Gospel of St Matthew in Hebrew*" which had been left behind by Bartholomew. We remember especially in our prayers on this day the great church of St Bartholomew, also known as the Old Church, in Edgbaston, one of the oldest and most distinguished of all Birmingham churches — may they continue to be inspired by their Patron Saint!

The month ends with three days in a row of great significance for the Christian Church. The first is Thursday August 27th when we remember St Monica,

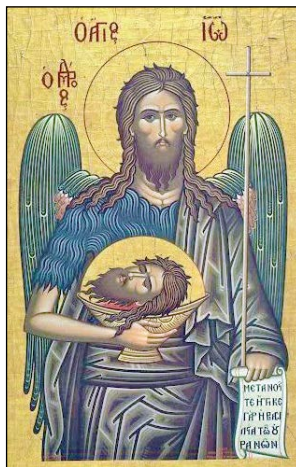


the mother of St Augustine. She is one of the most famous mothers in history, thanks to the vivid descriptions of her in the Confessions of her son Augustine, on whom she had a great influence. In Augustine's younger, wild days she wept bitterly for him. In her despair for her wayward son, she turned to a bishop and never forgot his consoling words — *it is impossible that the son of so many tears could be lost*. Those words were wonderfully fulfilled by the conversion of Augustine, who went on to become one of the most significant figures in the history of the Church. He gives a moving description in his "*Confessions*" of the death of his mother who said that she didn't care where she would be buried, *because the Lord will know from where to raise me up*, and asked only that her sons should remember her at the altar of the Lord.

And Augustine's day is the following day, August 28th, the day on which he died in 430, when the Vandals were besieging his episcopal city of Hippo in Roman North Africa. His

most famous writing, *The Confessions*, is a highly readable classic of Christian literature and should, I think, be read by every Christian. It was this work which helped to convert me to an active Christianity in my student days. I made and presented a TV programme on him way back in 1968 and shall happily send a copy of the script to anyone who wants one — write to me at andrewlenox44@gmail.com with your name and postal address.

The third of these three days is Saturday August 29th on which the Church remembers the Beheading of John the Baptist. We have the dramatic account of how this happened in the first three Gospels — John being imprisoned by Herod Antipas, one of the sons of the King Herod in whose reign Jesus was born, the daughter of his wife, Herodias, dancing and asking for “the head of John the Baptist on a charger (a large wooden plate)” — all graphically described by Oscar Wilde, of all people, in his French play *Salome*. So, John, the great Baptist and forerunner of Jesus, ended his life as a glorious martyr for his uncompromising stand for morality, since he had bluntly told Herod that he should not have married Herodias, who, at the time, was the wife of Herod’s brother, Philip. With that inspiring example we can venture forth spiritually into September.



Tuesday September 1st is the Feast Day of St Giles, a famous hermit, who died at the beginning of the eighth century in 710. His day is still celebrated with fairs and festivities, following on from the example of our ancestors. Oxford has a famous St Giles’ Fair at this time — on the first weekend of the month. St Giles was particularly associated with lepers, those poor outcasts of society, and many churches which welcomed lepers as worshippers were named after him. He is also a reminder to us that an “active” life in the secular sense



is not necessarily all that God wants — a hermit is someone who deliberately withdraws him- or herself from society in order to pray and meditate and thereby to strengthen the Christian Church. This way of life was regarded positively by our Christian ancestors, and rightly so — a reminder of the need, especially in our busy lives, of occasional solitude and a retreat from the everyday world in order to refresh our own spiritual lives.

On Thursday September 3rd, we remember Gregory the Great, the Bishop of Rome who sent Augustine (named after the more famous Augustine mentioned above) with some monks from Rome to convert the wild English tribes to the Christian faith — one can say English because the Angles, together with the Saxons,

had already invaded Britain after the Romans had left. So, Augustine arrived in Kent in 597 — an important date in English history — and set about his work of conversion, supported by the King of Kent, who became a Christian, and his wife, who was already a Christian.

Tuesday September 8th marks the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary and we can give thanks again for her obedience to the message of the angel who told her that she was to bear Jesus — and also remember the words of Gabriel to her, when she at first objected “*I do not know a man*” — to which Gabriel replied, With God nothing

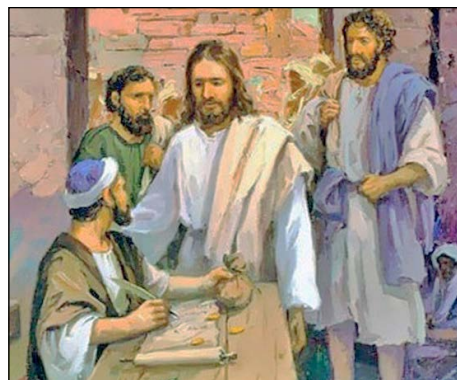


shall be impossible. What words of encouragement for us in these

tumultuous times! On this same day we also celebrate the fourth anniversary of the accession of our noble King Charles III and give thanks for his steadfastness and, indeed, for the successful diplomacy which he exercised on his visit to America recently.

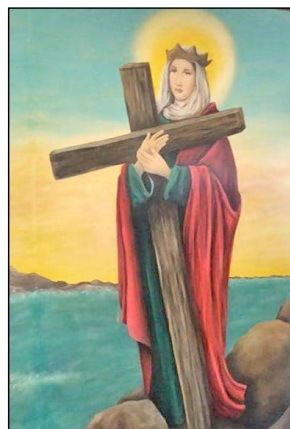
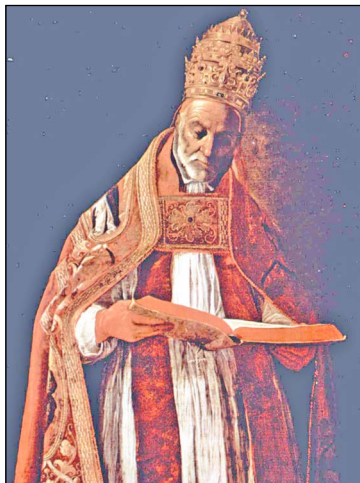
Holy Cross Day is actually on Monday September 14th but at St Alban's we shall be

celebrating it with a Sung Mass followed by a lunch at 11.00 a.m. on the preceding Saturday, September 12th. This is an important date in the history of the witness of our parish to the Gospel and we warmly welcome everyone to join us in this celebration. Holy Cross Day celebrates the finding of the “*true Cross*” by the Empress Helena, the mother of Constantine, the first Christian Roman Emperor, who was almost certainly influenced in his faith by his mother, to whom he was much devoted. The day also celebrates the recovery of the “*true Cross*” by the Emperor



Heraclius from the Persians who had seized it during some earlier campaign. It serves as a reminder to us of the importance of this vital emblem in the Christian faith.

On Monday September 21st we celebrate St Matthew, the Apostle and likely author of the Gospel named after him. He had been a “*publican*”, which means a tax collector — a despised profession at that time because they

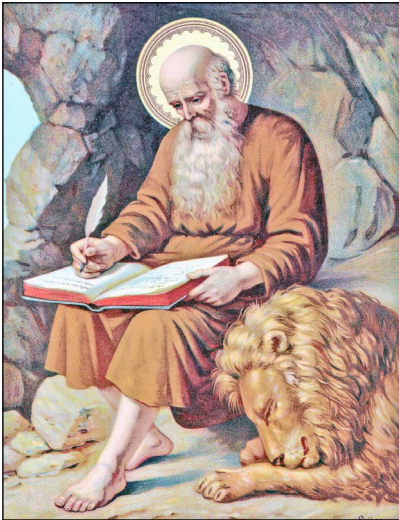


were collecting for the Romans — but when called by Jesus to follow him immediately obeyed and celebrated his calling with a feast. His Gospel is famous not least for containing the Sermon on the Mount, chapters 5 to 7, as well as for its portrayal of the Jewish background to much of Jesus' teaching.

The last great Feast in September is the Feast of Michaelmas, or St Michael and All Angels on Tuesday September 29th, again, for our forebears in the faith, one of the great Feast Days of the Christian year, as is shown by the fact that even today several educational establishments name this term the Michaelmas Term. It is a reminder of the richness of the spiritual realm which surrounds us as we struggle on in life — the angels are there to support and to uphold us, invisible though they are! Also, the victory of Michael over the forces of evil, represented by the Devil, in the Book of Revelation is a reminder that we are already on the winning side! despite the trials of this life.



Again, I cannot resist mentioning that the very last day of September, Wednesday September 30th is the Feast Day of St Jerome, one of the most acerbic, admittedly!, of all saints and at the same time one of the greatest scholars who have ever lived. He was



a contemporary of St Augustine — with whom he exchanged some letters in which his acerbic attitude comes strongly to the fore! in contrast to the gentler and more diplomatic attitude of Augustine — how human, we may say, they were! — and, at the same time (something which is sometimes overlooked) he had an acute pastoral awareness of the needs of pilgrims to the Holy Land, for whom he set up a hostel. It was thanks to him that the Bible was at last translated into a Latin version of the highest literary quality — the “*Vulgate*” (which simply means *for the people*) version of the Bible, which has had an immense authority ever since. He has been scandalously “*demoted*” in the Anglican lectionary from his fitting status as a Lesser Festival (on which we find his fellow Latin Doctors of the Church, Augustine, Ambrose and Gregory) to a mere

“*commemoration*”. I protested against this demotion in a paper I read many years ago at the Oxford Patristic Congress, In praise of St Jerome and against the Anglican cult of “niceness”, since I am convinced that it is simply because Jerome may not have been regarded as a “very nice” person that he was demoted. In support of St Jerome I quoted, among other sources, Dame Edna Everage’s famous satirical song, *How nice it is to be nice. There’s nothing nicer than niceness*. Is it too much for me to hope that that paper may at some time bear fruit?! On that hopeful note I shall end my comments on this month of September!

Fr Andrew

Calendar for August 2026

1st	Saturday	Lammas Day
2nd	Sunday	Trinity 9 (18th Sunday OT)
3rd	Monday	Weekday in OT
4th	Tuesday	Weekday in O T
5th	Wednesday	St Oswald, Mr
6th	Thursday	Transfiguration of Our Lord
7th	Friday	Weekday in O T
8th	Saturday	St Dominic, R
9th	Sunday	Trinity 10 (19th Sunday OT <i>(Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Mr)</i>
10th	Monday	St Laurence
11th	Tuesday	St John Henry Newman
12th	Wednesday	St Bonaventure, B, Dr <i>(Mary Sumner)</i>
13th	Thursday	Jeremy Taylor, B
14th	Friday	St Maximilian Kolbe, Mr
15th	Saturday	Assumption of the BVM Sung Mass 11.00 am
16th	Sunday	Trinity 11 (20th Sunday OT)
17th	Monday	Weekday in O T
18th	Tuesday	Weekday in O T
19th	Wednesday	Weekday in O T
20th	Thursday	St Bernard, Dr
21st	Friday	Weekday in O T
22nd	Saturday	Weekday in O T
23rd	Sunday	Trinity 12 (21st Sunday O T)
24th	Monday	St Bartholomew, Apostle
25th	Tuesday	Weekday in O T
26th	Wednesday	Weekday in O T
27th	Thursday	St Monica
28th	Friday	St Augustine of Hippo
29th	Saturday	Beheading of St John the Baptist
30th	Sunday	Trinity 13 (22nd Sunday O T)
31st	Monday	St Aidan, B

Calendar for September 2026

1st	Tuesday	St Giles, Hermit
2nd	Wednesday	Martyrs of Papua, New Guinea
3rd	Thursday	St Gregory the Great, Pope, Dr
4th	Friday	Weekday in OT
5th	Saturday	Weekday in OT
6th	Sunday	Trinity 14 (23rd Sunday OT)
7th	Monday	Weekday in OT
8th	Tuesday	The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9th	Wednesday	Weekday in OT
10th	Thursday	Weekday in OT
11th	Friday	Weekday in OT
12th	Saturday	Holy Cross Day (<i>Transferred</i>) 11.00 am Sung Mass)
13th	Sunday	Trinity 15 (24th Sunday OT) <i>St John Chrysostom, B, Dr</i>
14th	Monday	Weekday in OT (Holy Cross)
15th	Tuesday	Weekday in OT
16th	Wednesday	St Ninian, B
17th	Thursday	St Hildegard of Bingen, V, Dr
18th	Friday	Weekday in OT
19th	Saturday	Weekday in OT)
20th	Sunday	Trinity 16 (25th Sunday OT) <i>St Theodore of Tarsus, Dr)</i>
21st	Monday	St Matthew, Apostle (6.30 pm Said Mass)
22nd	Tuesday	Weekday in OT
23rd	Wednesday	Weekday in OT
24th	Thursday	Our Lady of Walsingham
25th	Friday	St Lancelot Andrewes, B (<i>Ember Day</i>)
26th	Saturday	Sergius of Radonezh, R
27th	Sunday	Trinity 17 (26th Sunday OT) <i>St Vincent de Paul, R</i>
28th	Monday	Weekday in OT
29th	Tuesday	St Michael, and All Angels
30th	Wednesday	St Jerome, Pr, Dr

Music in St Alban's for August 2026

Sunday 2nd — 9th Sunday after Trinity (OT 18) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: White in E♭

Hymns: 436 Praise my soul, the King of heaven
190 Christ, the fair glory of the holy angels (Tii)
295 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
368 Guide me, O thou great redeemer

Voluntary: Concerto in A minor (1st movement) BWV 593 J. S. Bach

Sunday 9th — 10th Sunday after Trinity (OT19) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Missa de Angelis

Hymns: 200 Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult (T48 Stuttgart)
338 At the name of Jesus
353 Dear Lord and Father of mankind
433 O worship the King (omit *verses)

Voluntary: Offertoire sur les Grands Jeux (Messe des Paroisses)

— François Couperin

Tuesday 11th — Requiem Mass for Edward Fellows — 11.00 a.m.

Introit: The souls of the righteous — Dr Roy Massey MBE

Mass setting: Darke in E (Collegium Regale)

Hymns: 333 All my hope on God is founded...
St Alban's Hymn
282 Faithful Shepherd ...

Anthem: Lord, let me know mine end — Maurice Greene

Recessional: Sortie in E♭ — Louis-James Alfred Lefébure-Wély

Saturday 15th — The Assumption of the B V M — 11.00 a.m.

Mass setting: An Anglican Folk Mass

Hymns: 21 A great and mighty wonder
9 Come, thou Redeemer of the earth
161 For Mary, Mother of the Lord (T. 385 St. Botolph)
185 Sing we of the blessed Mother

Voluntary: 'Springtanz' from Terpsichore — Michael Praetorius

Sunday 16th — 11th Sunday after Trinity (OT 20) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: White in E♭

Hymns: 498 Son of God, eternal Saviour
474 Who is this so weak and helpless
369 Happy are they, they that love God
461 There's a wideness in God's mercy (Corvedale)

Voluntary: Sinfonia from Cantata BWV 29 — J. S. Bach

Sunday 23rd — 12th Sunday after Trinity (OT 21) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Sumsion in F

Hymns: 513 God is love, and where true love is

333 All my hope on God is founded

272 All for Jesus!

205 Christ is made the sure foundation

Anthem: My eyes for beauty pine — Herbert Howells

Voluntary: Toccata from Symphonie II — Marcel Dupré

Pearson Church Organist: John Butt

Sunday 23rd — Solemn Choral Evensong & Benediction 6.00 p.m.

Responses: Ayleward

Psalm: 104 vv1–25 (Benjamin Lamb/Lindsay Gray)

Canticles: Noble in B minor

Hymns: 467 Through all the changing scenes of life

360 Firmly I believe and truly

Anthem: Like as the hart — Herbert Howells

Voluntary: Fantasia and fugue in G minor BWV 542 — J.S. Bach

Pearson Church Organist: John Butt

Sunday 30th — 13th Sunday after Trinity (OT 22) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: White in E♭

Hymns: 372 He who would valiant be

Be still, for the presence of the Lord (sheet)

357 Father, hear the prayer we offer

339 Be thou my vision

Voluntary: Alla Marcia — John Ireland

Organist: Adam Heron

Marian Anthem — Angelus throughout Trinity

No Choir Athem on 2nd, 9th, 15th, 16th and 30th

Choir rehearsals:

Thursdays, 7.15 p.m.; Sundays 9.00 a.m.; Saturday 15th 10.00 a.m.

Solemn Choral Evensong & Benediction 23rd 4.30 p.m.

*Director of Music — Angela Sones,
Music Secretary — Bryce Somerville*

Music in St Alban's for September 2026

Sunday 6th — 14th Sunday after Trinity (OT 23) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Mass setting : Sumsion in F

Hymns: 449 Soldiers of Christ, arise
104 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
18 Ye servants of the Lord
296 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour

Anthem : Lead me Lord — S.S. Wesley

Voluntary : Prelude in A minor BWV 543 — J.S. Bach

Sunday 13th — 15th Sunday after Trinity (OT 24) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Ireland in C

Hymns : 263 All creatures of our God and King
101 The Lamb's high banquet we await
66 Forgive our sins as we forgive (T. Epworth)
393 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Anthem : View me Lord — Lloyd

Voluntary : Introduction and Toccata on 'Lasst uns erfreuen' — N. Choveaux

Saturday 12th — Holy Cross — 11.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Mass of the Quiet Hour — George Oldroyd

Hymns : Lift high the Cross (sheet)
84 It is a thing most wonderful
82 Drop, drop, slow tears
204 Blessed City, heavenly Salem (T. 205 Westminster Abbey)

Anthem : God so loved the world — John Stainer

Voluntary : Prelude in B minor BWV 544 — J.S. Bach

Saturday 19th — RSCM Choral Workshop and 5.00 pm Choral Evensong with David Briggs *See details of this weekend's events on Page 10*

Responses : Ayleward

Canticles : Stanford in Bb

Psalm : 121 (Walford Davies)

Hymns : 241 Before the ending of the day

Anthem : I was glad — Charles Hubert Parry

Final Responses : David Briggs

Voluntary: Intrada — Grayston Ives

Organ Concert by David Briggs
Saturday, 19th September, 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 20th — 16th Sunday after Trinity (OT 25) — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: White in E♭

Hymns: 498 Son of God, eternal Saviour
474 Who is this so weak and helpless
369 Happy are they, they that love God
461 There's a wideness in God's mercy (Corvedale)

Voluntary: Sinfonia from Cantata BWV 29 — J. S. Bach

Pearson Church Organist: David Briggs

Sunday 26th — Harvest Festival — 10.00 a.m.

Mass setting: Little Organ Mass — Joseph Haydn

Hymns : 262 We plough the fields
259 Come, ye thankful people, come
276 Bread of heaven, on thee we feed (T.ii Bread of heaven)
285 For the beauty of the earth (T.i England's Lane)

Anthem : Thou visitest the earth — Maurice Greene

Voluntary : Sonata No.3 in A Op. 65 (1st movt) — Felix Mendelssohn

Pearson Church Organist: James Lancelot

Sunday 26th — Solemn Choral Evensong & Benediction 6.00 p.m.

Responses: Ayleward

Psalms: Psalms 120, 123 and 124

Canticles: Sumsion in G

Hymns: 247 O gladsome light, O grace
252 The day thou gavest, Lord is ended

Anthem: Te lucis ante terminum — Balfour Gardiner

Voluntary: Pièce Héroïque — César Franck

Pearson Church Organist: James Lancelot

Marian Anthem — Angelus throughout Trinity

Choir rehearsals:

Thursdays, 7.15 p.m.; Sundays 9.00 a.m.; Saturday 12th 10.00 a.m.
Solemn Choral Evensong & Benediction 4.30 p.m.

*Director of Music — Angela Sones,
Music Secretary — Bryce Somerville*

Organist and Director of Music: Angela Sones ☎: 07885 783758 E-mail: domstalban@hotmail.com Music Secretary Bryce Somerville bryce@thesomervilles.biz	S Alban's Academy ☎: 0121 464 7811 E-mail: info@stalbansacademy.org Principal: Mr Guy Rimmer Chair of Governors: Richard Hammond
P.C.C. Secretary Dr Rachel Smith 219 Gristhorpe Road Selly Oak Birmingham B29 7SP ☎: 0121 471 1301 Email: rachelsammons@blueyonder.co.uk	Printing Unit and Magazine Production Mrs Maureen Fellows "Richeldis" 343, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 0BH ☎: 0121 777 1120 maureen.fellows@blueyonder.co.uk
P.C.C. Treasurer Dr Christopher A. Smith 219, Gristhorpe Road, Birmingham B29 7SP ☎: 07305 320968 E-mail: chris.smith-sammons@blueyonder.co.uk	Flowers Dr Rachel L. Smith Servers Simon Wainwright simon@anglo-french.co.uk
Electoral Roll Officer and The Friends of S Alban and S Patrick Secretary Dr Rachel L. Smith 219, Gristhorpe Road B29 7SP ☎: 0121 471 1301	Website www.stalbanbirmingham.org.uk www.saintalban.co.uk 

