

‘THAMESLINK PILGRIMAGE’ TO THE SHRINE OF ST. ALBAN

Friday 21st June 2024

SAINT ALBAN is venerated as the first recorded British Christian martyr, for which reason he is considered to be our protomartyr. He is traditionally thought to have been beheaded in Verulamium (present day St. Albans) during the 3rd or 4th century, for having tried to take the place of a priest whom the Roman authorities wished to kill. Alban was a Pagan but was so impressed by the priest whom he was protecting, he converted to Christianity. When he refused to worship to the Roman Gods, he was tortured and finally executed.

His patronal feast day in the Roman Catholic calendar is 20 June and in the Anglican calendar it is 22 June and our visit falls between both dates; Fr. Simon will be saying a pilgrim Mass for St. Alban at St. Mary Magdalene’s on Thursday 20 June.

You are now invited to join us on a one-day pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Alban within St. Albans Cathedral. We travel by train from Bexhill and plan to arrive at the Cathedral around 11:45am, immediately proceeding to the Lady Chapel where there will be a Roman Catholic Mass, commencing at 12 noon. It is planned that Fr. Simon will concelebrate. After Mass we go to the Shrine Chapel of St. Alban where we have the privileged opportunity to venerate the relic and spend time in quiet private prayer before the reliquary, until 1:30pm.

The remainder of our time (1:30pm-3:15pm) is free to explore the beautiful Cathedral, its extensive grounds and the nearby restaurants for lunch, before coming together again for the walk back to the railway station.

TRAIN TIMES OUTWARD

Bexhill-on-Sea	dep	08:37
Haywards Heath	arr	09:46
Haywards Heath	dep	09:49
St. Albans City	arr	11:11

TRAIN TIMES HOME

St. Albans City	dep	15:57
Haywards Heath	arr	17:21
Haywards Heath	dep	17:37
Bexhill-on-Sea	arr	18:51

COST

The train fare with a Railcard from Bexhill to St. Albans City is £29.40p return. [Please purchase your own ticket in advance, from the Booking Office]

If you do not hold a Railcard, you can join us under a global ‘GroupSave’ ticket at £30.00 return, but you **MUST** travel on the designated trains with the group. If you miss any train, you will then have to purchase your own ticket with no refund. If you wish to be part of the ‘GroupSave’ please let Bonita in the office have your cheque/cash for £30.00 before 18 June. No refunds after that date.

Finally, from St. Albans City station to the Cathedral it is a distance of about ¾ mile on a gentle uphill approach. Walking time about 15 minutes, and there are buses to the city centre. Those who might like a shared taxi ride can let us know on the train and it will be arranged. The taxi costs approximately £3.50p per person.

That morning, we all meet in the foyer of Bexhill railway station at 8:20am for the 8:37am train. The Cathedral map and information will be handed out on the day. *Bring something to drink for the train journey as there are no refreshments en-route.*

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01727-844844 Corker Taxis at St. Albans Rly St.