

MASS INTENTIONS

Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Saturday 14 th December –	6.30pm	Bernie Fennessy Int
Sunday 15 th December – Third Sunday Advent	9am	Jean Smith (R.I.P)
	11am	Theresa Desmond (RIP)
Monday 16 th December – Feria	9am	Albina Malgapo (RIP)
Tuesday 17 th December – Feria	10am	Mrs E Abrahams (RIP)
Wednesday 18 th December – Feria	9am	Ramon Galit (RIP)
Thursday 19 th December – Feria	9am	Annick Intentions
Friday 20 th December – Feria	9am	Sister Anne-Marie and community intentions
Saturday 21 st December – Feria	9am	Lily Theresa (RIP)

Fourth Sunday of Advent (YEAR A)

Saturday 21 st December –	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 22 nd December – Fourth Sunday Advent	9am	Frank Ragel
	11am	Kerry & Patrick Hammond

Morning Prayer is recited every morning at 8.45am

Psalter: Week 2

Rosary is said every morning after Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 9.30am and 5.30pm
-6.00pm.

ST. ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

(Langdale Gardens)

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Maurice Gordon
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St Alban's Primary School
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Head Teacher: Lisa Schaberg

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Third Sunday of Advent (Year A) 14th & 15th December 2019

Dear Friends,

Waiting is associated with inconvenience, frustration, annoyance. We can see that very much at this time of year when everyone is rushing about. The second reading speaks of the patience of a farmer, who faithfully does his job, and sows the seed, but is then compelled to wait for the crop to emerge. St James compares this to the coming of the Lord. The prophets of the Old Testament longed for and foretold the coming of Christ, but the world had to wait, and most of the prophets did not live to see this with their own eyes.

The first reading describes what Christ came to do. It speaks of a desert bursting into bloom, the eyes of the blind being opened, the ears of the deaf cleared, the lame leaping and the mute singing. Christ came to transform the world, and put right what was wrong. He came to restore creation after the fall, which should never have happened, but did happen, due to man's pride, causing disharmony. But now, after much waiting and longing, Jesus comes to amend the destruction and disharmony, and through His power, there is no situation that cannot be restored.

Like the farmer, we do our bit and we try to open ourselves to God and to wait. But we must not lose heart, the first reading says 'to all faint hearts: courage! Do not be afraid.'

Amen.

*Have a good week
God Bless
Fr Maurice*

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Michael Balfour, Vincent Brady, Rose Cahill, John Carty, Maureen Daly, Katherine Day, Desmond family, Gerry Dique, Anthony Doherty, Nancy Donovan, Ann Dunn, Kevin Harty, Bernadette Heddle, Peter Hemsley, Ellen Hurley, Jenny Jones, Ann Kelly, Neil Kelly, Sheila Leahy, Mary Lynes, Siobhan McKeon, Norah McLoughlin, Matthew Milnar, John Morrison Frances Nolan, Cecilia O'Connor, Vincent Okolo, Dean Partleton, Nellie Ringrose, Mary Sayers, Marina Scarff, John Sinclair, Charles Stimpson, Theresa Wiseman, Elizabeth Wyles, Clara Yankey. Julia Joseph, Mary Kakari, John Barry, Sarah Content, Celia Desmond, Bill and Teresa Shorey, Jean Berry, Sue & John Doherty. Francesca Kelly

PARISH FINANCES

7th & 8th December 2019

Loose

£385.08

Envelopes

£431.50

Confirmation Programme 2019/2020: The next session will be held on 4th January 2020 at 4pm

First Holy Communion 2019/20: The next session will be held on Thursday the 9th January 2020, at 7pm.

Journey in Faith Programme (RCIA): Anyone who wishes to know more about the basics of the Faith or is interested in joining the Church is invited to the weekly session, which takes place on Mondays at 7:30pm in the Presbytery. Any Parishioner who wishes to support this group is also invited to come along.

Training for New and Established Readers: On Saturday 18th January from 9.30am to 1.00pm in the Parish Hall there will be a training session for readers.

Vocations: 27th December Students and Enquirers for the priesthood Mass and gathering at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Leigh on Sea 12.00pm

Sacred Heart of Mary School: are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly effective Examinations and Data Manager for the school. Applications are invited from those with experience of managing and processing data. Start Date March 2020 please contact the school at admin@mary.havering.sch.uk for information

Repository: The Brentwood Directories are on sale in the repository for £2.80 each. There is still a wide range of gifts, cards, cribs, 2020 calendars and many more items. Please support your church.

Tea Dance: The next Tea Dance will be on 15th January 2020 from 13.30 to 16.30 music by Finbar Black. Admission £5 including refreshments. Thank you to all who have supported the tea dance. Wishing you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

St Alban's School : The School finishes this Friday for the Christmas holidays. We wish all our staff and students a restful break. The School reopens on 6th January 2020

St Nicholas Church: Are having a Carol service on the fourth Sunday in Advent 22nd December at 6.30pm All are welcome to attend.

Christmas Cards: Will be distributed this weekend. Please take a copy, or please take a few to give to your family or neighbours.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Will be available to all parishioners after all Masses today and next weekend. What better way to welcome the Saviour than by experiencing his healing love and forgiveness in this sacrament. Also on Friday 20th December at 7pm there will be a Reconciliation service at Our Lady of La Salette church in Rainham.

Please Pray: For the repose of the soul of George Waidson (Debbie Evans' father) His funeral Mass will take place at St Alban's on 19th December at 11.00am

Christmas by Candlelight in the beautiful chapel at Walsingham

House at Abbotswick: Join us on Thursday 19th December at 6pm for a reflective time of Advent and Christmas music, interspersed with scripture readings, poems and inspiring words about Christmas. After around an hour in the chapel we will move to the main house for mince pies, mulled wine and luxurious hot chocolate. Tickets are just £10, and there are a maximum of 60 tickets available. All money raised will support young adults travelling to Lourdes next Easter with HCPT – The Pilgrimage Trust – to help children with additional needs. For tickets email josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org or phone 01277373959 and ask for Joe.