

MASS INTENTIONS

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Year A)

Saturday 28 th December –	6.30pm	Intentions of Sisters Jude & Rosario
Sunday 29 th December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	9.00am	Mary Rice
	11.00am	Patrick Keogh (RIP)
Monday 30 th December –	9.00am	Chris Chapman (RIP)
Tuesday 31 st December – Fiera	10am	Holy Souls
	12.00am	People of the Parish
Eucharistic Adoration (and confessions available) from 10.45pm followed by Midnight Mass		
Wednesday 1 st January Mary Mother of God	10.00am	Anthony Dass (RIP)
Thursday 2 nd January –	9.00am	Barbara Mannon- Ryan (RIP)
Friday 3 rd January –	9.00am	Florence Lynch (RIP)
Saturday 4 th January –	9.00am	Thanksgiving

The Epiphany of the Lord (A)

Saturday 4 th January –	6.30pm	Vincent Friel
Sunday 5 th January –	9am	Dominic Paes (RIP)
	11am	Angela & John Quinlan (RIP)

Morning Prayer is recited every morning at 8.30am

Psalter: Week 4

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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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Year A) 28th & 29th December 2019

Dear Friends,

Today is the feast of the Holy Family, and we think about Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Today's gospel reading reminds us that they did not live in a cocoon. They had to face real problems, threats to their safety, living in a world that was often dark and corrupt. St Matthew tells us that an angel appears to St Joseph in a dream, telling him to take the Child and His mother to Egypt to escape the wicked King Herod. The gospel today is encouraging us to compare Herod's mentality with that of Joseph. Herod is anti-family, anti-life and anti-God. Everything that Herod does is to benefit Herod. Joseph on the other hand is obedient to the will of God, and cooperates with it to protect his family.

Threats to the family are not outdated. There are many threats to the family in the 21st century. They include a contraceptive mentality, which separates lives and love; individualism, which isolates the members of the family from each other. Increasingly, inside our homes we are locked into our own space, with our own TV, computer, mobile etc. Attempts to redefine marriage and family add to the confusion in society, especially among the young. Movies and soap operas often give poor moral examples, by making divorce, cohabitation and abortion all look like acceptable choices, but ignoring the serious harm they cause the family.

This is the culture we live in. How can families today deal with these modern Herods? We draw strength and courage from the Holy Family. Prayer must be at the centre of family life if we are to survive the storms that threaten us. The family is called to be a school of love, each member giving and receiving from the others, to build one another up. I know many wonderful families, many brave mums and dads, doing their best in tough situations. Let the Holy Family, who were not strangers to difficult situations, be our inspiration. May they inspire us to grow closer to God our Father.

Mary, Queen of Families, pray for us.

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 Morriseon 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, Paul & Eva AU, Vincent Friel

PARISH FINANCES

21st & 22nd December 2019

Loose

£ 433.00

Envelopes

£432.55

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.

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

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 New Year.

Thank You: A big thank you to everyone who was involved in preparing for this year's Christmas celebrations, especially to the cleaners, flower arrangers, readers, extraordinary ministers, servers, choir and organists, collectors and tea providers. Deacon Ken and I are also very grateful for all the cards and gifts received. It was a lovely celebration of Our Lord's birth, and I hope this time brought many blessings for you and your families.

New Years Midnight Mass: This year, we will again be having a Midnight Mass for New Year On Tuesday 31st December, Eucharistic Adoration will take place from 10.45pm (confessions will be available during this time) followed by Midnight Mass. Attending Mass is a brilliant way to start a new year. In many countries it is traditional, although perhaps less so in the West. It is a wonderful custom to adopt, to begin the New Year in prayer, asking for God's guidance and protection for 2020.

Welcome back: To Father Henry Mobela, Chaplain to the Zambian community who will be covering this weekend as Father Maurice is having a well-deserved break.

Visitor: We welcome Alexander Johnson who will be staying with us for 3 weeks. He is a 3rd year seminarian studying at Oscott College, Birmingham. As part of his formation, he is here to gain parish experience for his future ministry as a priest in the diocese.

Gift Aid: Gift aid is a government scheme that allows the parish to reclaim tax on all donations made. If you pay any tax at all and are not currently enrolled in the Gift Aid scheme please pick up a Gift Aid form at the back of the Church. For any further information, please contact our Gift Aid organiser Angelo whose information is on the front of the newsletter.

Vacancies in Finance Dept : Two vacancies in Brentwood Finance Dept have arisen full details of Jobs and descriptions can be obtained at recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org . The first is for a Management Accountant 35 hours a week £30,000 to £35,000pa.the second is for Finance Assistant 35 hours a week salary £25,000pa. Applications in to the same web address by Sunday 12th January 2020, Interviews are expected week commencing 20th January 2020

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: When the Blessed Sacrament is on the Altar please show your respect by not talking in Church. If you need to speak to someone please make sure you are outside before you start chatting.