

MASS INTENTIONS

The Epiphany of the Lord (A)

Saturday 4 th January –	6.30pm	Vincent Friel
Sunday 5 th January –	9.00am	Dominic Paes (RIP)
	11.00am	Angela & John Quinlan (RIP)
Monday 6 th January – Fiera	9.00am	Christine Merriman (RIP)
Tuesday 7 th January – Fiera	10am	Mary Moodie's Intentions
Wednesday 8 th January Fiera	9.00am	James Moodie's healing
Thursday 9 th January – Fiera	9.00am	Nan Mainod
Friday 10 th January – Fiera	9.00am	Mrs Teresa Pitman
Saturday 11 th January –	9.00am	Morris Family

The Baptism of the Lord (A)

Saturday 11 th January –	6.30pm	Intentions of Eileen Brand
Sunday 12 th January –	9am	Len Addison (RIP)
	11am	Theresa Desmond (RIP)

Morning Prayer is recited every morning at 8.30am

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)

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The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity) 4th & 5th January 2020

Dear Friends,

In the Gospel today we hear of the journey of the wise men to Bethlehem. On their way, they temporarily lose sight of the star they are following, and proceed to King Herod's palace to enquire as to where the Child is to be born. Herod is deeply disturbed by their mention of a newborn 'King of the Jews.' Herod himself was not a Jew, but had been appointed King of Judea by the Romans, and was dangerously paranoid about threats to his power. He is eager to eliminate this new threat and after learning that the scriptures point to Bethlehem as the place of the Child's birth, he sends the wise men on, telling them to return with information.

The wise men listen to Herod but are not taken in by him. They persevered and continued to patiently seek for the child, not allowing their own expectations, or the illusions, deceptions and snares of Herod to trap them. The wise men display a certain holy cunning. They have a spiritual shrewdness, which enables them to recognize danger and avoid it; once they do find the child, they listen to the angel in their dream and do not go back to Herod. The wise men teach us how to discern good and evil voices, and to make good and wise decisions. We should aim to be simple, but also need to be astute, as Jesus told his disciples, 'Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.'

We pray that, like the wise men, we will always be open to the directions and promptings of the Holy Spirit, to navigate the obstacles of our life's journey, and reach safely the joy of eternity.

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, Paul & Eva AU, Vincent Friel

PARISH FINANCES

28th & 29th December 2019

Loose

£555.82

Envelopes

£351.89

Confirmation Programme 2019/2020: The next session will be held on 1st February 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.haverling.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.

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

White Flower Appeal 2020 : The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend. On 21 October 2019 the most extreme abortion regime in Europe was imposed on the people of Northern Ireland by the government at Westminster. Abortion will now be permitted for any reason up until at least 24 weeks, and even beyond that. The abortion lobby now wants to introduce this in England and Wales. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack.

An Hour of Prayer: at St Joseph's Social Centre St Mary's Lane Upminster Tuesday 7th January at 8pm. To thank God, praise Him, have prayers of petition and an opportunity for private prayer for healing. For details contact Richard & Frances Healy 01708250717

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.