

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December –	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Second Sunday Advent</b>	9am	Nora McDarby (R.I.P)
	11am	Theresa Desmond (RIP)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	9am	Theresa Desmond (RIP)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December –	10am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December – Feria	9am	John & Noreen Barry (RIP)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December – Feria	9am	Holy Souls
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>St Lucy</b>	9am	Mrs Jane Driscoll
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>St John of the Cross</b>	9am	Connie McCambridge Int

### Third Sunday of Advent (YEAR A)

Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> December –	6.30pm	Bernie Fennessy Int
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Second Sunday Advent</b>	9am	Jean Smith (RIP)
	11am	Theresa Desmond (RIP)

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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### Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Friends,

The Gospel today features John the Baptist preaching in the desert. We know that deserts are hot, dry, barren and empty open spaces. Notice that John does not preach in the city centre; he goes out into the wilderness. The desert environment provides silence and solitude, and those conditions allow the soul to connect to God and to hear him. In the midst of noise and distraction, it is much harder to keep God in mind. So John goes out, stripping himself of all unnecessary attachments. He is in the wilderness, dressed simply and with very basic food. He is living the message he preaches, of repentance, turning away from sin and distraction, to become free and open to God.

John is considered the last of the Old Testament prophets; the immediate forerunner to Christ, and he prepares the people for the coming of Christ. This makes him a good model for us to reflect on during these weeks of Advent.

Even though John is in the desert, many people leave the city to seek him and to hear him. His message is that the Lord is near, and you must prepare yourselves for him by repentance. To repent means to be honest with oneself, identify our failings and seek earnestly to change. John's message of repentance is aimed at us too.

As we get nearer to Christmas, there will be many demands and pressures on us. Let us try not to be sucked in by these, but to give space for the Lord to work in us. Let us try to follow John the Baptist and recreate the desert environment by facing ourselves honestly in prayer, with a repentant heart. In doing so, may we become ready to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

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**

23rd & 24th November 2019

**Loose**

£595.59

**Envelopes**

£448.10

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

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

**Celia Desmond and Family:** would like to thank everyone for their kindness and sympathy shown on the sad death of their sister Theresa. The attendance at the funeral and the Masses being offered for the repose of her soul has given great comfort to us.

**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.

**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.

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

**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.

**Signing of Primary School Forms:** for children starting September 2020 Father Maurice will be signing forms on this Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December between 6pm to 8pm and on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm to 7pm. This is the only time he is available.

**Partnership Joint Event in Advent:** As you are aware our parish is linked in partnership with St Peter's and La Salette. Last week an agreement between the parishes was signed by the parish Priests. There will be a combined Parishes get-together at La Salette Church, 1 Rainham Road, Rainham RM13 8SP **Carol Singing on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 7.00pm.** Cheese & biscuits will be served afterwards in the Club with the bar available. Please come and join us to celebrate.

**RIP:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Jean Smith (Tracey Brennan's mother) and Chris Chapman. The funerals will be at Upminster Crematorium Chris on 11<sup>th</sup> December at 12.40pm and Jean's on 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2.40pm. May they rest in peace.

**Campion School:** Would like to invite parishioners to their annual Senior Citizens Party on the 15<sup>th</sup> December between 1.30pm and 6.00pm at The Campion School. There is a limited number of places because of the popularity we can only send 15 please see Father if you are interested.

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

**Tea Dance:** The next Tea Dance will be on 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Baptism Course:** The next Baptism course will be in the Church Hall at 9.00am on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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