

MASS INTENTIONS

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 25 th January –	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 26 th January –	9.00am	Sesan Russell
	11.00am	Kathleen O'Donovan
Monday 27 th January – Fiera	9.00am	Terence Widnall (RIP)
Tuesday 28 th January – St Thomas Aquinas	10am	Vincent Friel (RIP)
Wednesday 29 th January Fiera	9.00am	Zoe Rodwell
Thursday 30 th January – Fiera	9.00am	Deceased Relatives of the Moodie Family
Friday 31 st January – St John Bosco	09.00am	Vincent Friel (RIP)
Saturday 1 st February – Fiera	9.00am	Michael Palmer (RIP)

The Presentation of the Lord (A)

Saturday 1 st February –	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 2 nd February –	9am	Vincent Friel (RIP)
	11am	Desmond Brothers (RIP)

Morning Prayer is recited every morning at 8.30am

Psalter: Week 3

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

Presbytery:

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The Third Sunday in Ordinary time (Year A)

25th & 26th January 2020

Dear Friends,

The passage grave at Newgrange in Co. Meath is one of the great pre-historic sites in Europe. Inside, a long stone passage leads to a dark and eerie central chamber. Each year at the winter solstice- on the longest dark night of the year – a small group of people squeeze into the dark chamber and wait for the dawn. When the sun rises it shines fantastically through a chink in the stone and lights up the central chamber.

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light, On those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

The sun shines through the darkness at Newgrange and a few days later, while still in the darkness of mid-winter, we Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. The gospel reading, from Matthew chapter 4, goes to great pains to tell us that Jesus 'Settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali' – so that we would realise that Isaiah's prophecy was being fulfilled in Jesus. And so we can pray in faith:

The Lord is my light and my help (Ps26)

'There's a stretch to the evenings', we say as we desperately search for signs of light and hope in these dark January days. The days are dark and the times seem dark. Tennyson's verse from In Memoriam seem apt for our times:

Our little systems have their day, They have their day and cease to be; They are but broken lights of thee, And thou O Lord, art more than they.

Sometimes we need to experience the darkness before we appreciate the light. Our attention and focus must be Jesus, the Light of the World, and not broken human lights –because, as the poet says

They are but broken lights of thee, And thou O Lord, art more than they.

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, John Doherty, Francesca Kelly, Paul & Eva AU,

PARISH FINANCES

18th & 19th January 2020

Loose

£ 304.41

Envelopes

£452.80

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 6th February 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.

Baptism Course: The next course is on 8th February at 9am in the parish hall.

200 Club Winners: Our apologies for the delay, the following people have won the 200 Club draw could you please collect your cheques from Father Maurice. T Corsan, T Rotheron, P Zindi and L Schaberg congratulations.

The Annual Lourdes Mass: will be celebrated at Brentwood Cathedral on Sunday 16th February at 3pm. This is an opportunity to give thanks for graces received in Lourdes and to seek prayers for the sick. During the Mass, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage: Bishop Alan, supported by the Youth Service, will lead a pilgrimage to Lourdes from 26 – 31st July, flying from Southend Airport. This is a wonderful opportunity for all to pray at the Grotto, grow in faith and enjoy the company of fellow pilgrims. please contact Tangney Tours www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood or 01732 886885

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Vincent Friel who died recently. His Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 29th January at 10.30am. His body will be received into the Church on 5pm Tuesday evening.

Music Day for Havering Deanery: To be held on 1st February at St Alban's, Elm Park from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. Singers and musicians most welcome even if you do not play an instrument or cannot read music. Free! No charge. Bring your own lunch. Tea/Coffee provided. The day will be led by Frances Novillo. Please let the Cathedral Music Office know if you are able to attend on music@dioceseofbrentwood.org or 01277.265288 or just come on the day if that not possible.

Sponsored Sleepout, Friday 3rd – Saturday 4th April, in the grounds of Walsingham House at Abbotswick. The evening begins at 8pm with a film and talk; or arrive at 11pm for Mass. Sleepout midnight – 7am. In this freezing weather, it is very difficult for those who are sleeping on the streets. The Sleepout is a powerful way to understand what it feels like to sleep outside, while raising money for homeless charities. Groups should register by emailing frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org; individuals can register on www.bcys.net. Open to anyone aged 15-105 (those aged 15-18 must be part of a group, and have parental consent).

Lent events at Gidea Park, Christ the Eternal High Priest Church, 410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Saturday 29th February 10.30am-3.00pm, John among the Gospels – Fr Victor Darlington will explore the Gospel according to John, and point to its unique features. Wednesdays 11th, 18th & 25th March 7pm-8.30pm The Great Johannie Gospels. On three evenings Fr Adrian Gaffy will speak about the Gospels of the Samaritan Woman (Third Sunday of Lent), the Man Born Blind (fourth Sunday) and the Raising of Lazarus (fifth Sunday) in preparation for the Sunday liturgy. We will conclude with a shared reading of the Gospel passage. To book GPstudydays@gmail.com or phone 01708 449914