

MASS INTENTIONS

Second Sunday of Easter (A)

Saturday 18 th April – Fiera	6.30pm	John Dwyer (R.I.P)
Sunday 19 th April –	9am	People of the Parish
	11am	Theresa Desmond (R.I.P)
Monday 20 th April – Fiera	9.00am	Francis Nolan (R.I.P)
Tuesday 21 st April – Fiera	10am	John Kirk
Wednesday 22 nd April – Fiera	9.00am	Canon Eddie Matthews (R.I.P)
Thursday 23 rd April – St George	9.00am	John Moody (R.I.P)
Friday 24 th April – St Mellitus	9.00am	Heather Broom (R.I.P)
Saturday 25 th April St Mark	9.00am	Pauline Fennessey (R.I.P)

Third Sunday of Easter (A)

Saturday 25 th April –	6.30pm	Stella & Clarence Miranda (R.I.P)
Sunday 26 th April –	9am	Thanksgiving for Nigel D'Souza
	11am	Jean & John Barry 45 th Wedding Anniversary

Sacrament of Reconciliation: to be arranged

Peace Garden

The peace garden remains open from 7:00 am to 7:30 pm each day. All are welcome to visit and spent a little time in prayer but still keep our social distancing individually as laid down by the Government.

ST. ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

(Langdale Gardens)

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Second Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Divine Mercy Sunday

18th & 19th April 2020

Dear Friends,

The doors were locked. More fear than peace was in the room. But somewhere behind the locked doors in those frightened apostles' hearts, there was a little vulnerability. That unprotected space in their hearts drew Jesus like a magnet. Put simply, it means that God can help us even when we cannot help ourselves. Love, especially God's love, can walk through any closed door.

Many of us are familiar with a painting by Holman Hunt, depicting Christ with a lighted lantern knocking softly on a door, which has no outside handle. What we would all have drawn from that picture is that only the person inside can open the door. Sometimes, however, all the effort, patience and love in the world cannot get through to a frightened, sick, and depressed person. While that may be true of human love, it is not the case with God's love.

What are your locked doors? Doors of doubt, fear, grief? Doors of anger, selfishness, despair? Doors of control, greed, pride? Let us pray to be as vulnerable as Thomas.

The Good News today is that there is no private hell of wound, depression, fear, Covid19, sickness or even bitterness that God's love cannot breach. Once there, it will breathe out the peace of the Holy Spirit and bring about healing even in death.

Please keep safe and mind yourself and each other

God Bless

Father 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, Crystal Stimpson, Theresa Wiseman, Elizabeth Wyles, Clara Yankey, Teresa Pitman, Julia Joseph, Mary Kakari, John Barry, Sarah Content, Celia Desmond, Bill and Teresa Shorey, Jean Berry, Dennis Doherty, Francesca Kelly, Paul & Eva AU, Rose Dique, Jim Nolan

Please pray for the repose of the souls:

Freda Willis (Maria Content's sister) who has died recently, her funeral will take place on 20th April 2020, Monday at 1.30pm at South Essex Cemetery

Philomena Pickney who has died recently (Sheila Leahy's sister) her funeral will be on 27th April 2020, Monday at 2.40pm at South Essex Cemetery

Frances Nolan who has died recently, her funeral will take place on 23rd April 2020, Thursday at 11.40am at South Essex Cemetery

Bill Shorey who has died recently his funeral will take place on 5th May 2020, at 12 noon at South Essex Cemetery. We pray for his wife Teresa who also lost her sister Mary Anderson in Kent during the week.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Diocese has provided each Church with their own direct on link for the offertory. <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=elm-park>
Please remember if you are a taxpayer and have envelopes make it known on your donation, otherwise we will not be able to reclaim the tax paid.

We have also been asked about Easter Offerings for the priest please make that known also if donating on line.

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

People of different churches are putting about various opinions about the present pandemic, some of them rather bizarre. Much of this can mislead and worry people. We should be guided by what Pope Francis is saying, that the present situation is above all an opportunity to build a better world by listening to God's word, providing for the poor, and looking after creation. Here is a very helpful excerpt from the Good Friday sermon of the papal preacher, Fr Raniero Cantalamessa

'God is our ally, not the ally of the virus! If these scourges were punishments of God, it would not be explained why they strike equally good and bad, and why the poor usually suffer the worst consequences of them. Are they more sinners than others? No! The one who cried one day for Lazarus' death cries today for the scourge that has fallen on humanity. Yes, God "suffers", like every father and like every mother. When we will find this out one day, we will be ashamed of all the accusations we made against him in life. God participates in our pain to overcome it. Did God the Father possibly desire the death of his Son in order to draw good out of it? No, he simply permitted human freedom to take its course, making it serve, however, his own purposes and not that of human beings. This is also the case for natural disasters like earthquakes and plagues. He does not bring them about. He has given nature a kind of freedom as well, qualitatively different of course than that of human beings, but still a form of freedom ----- freedom to evolve according to its own laws of development. He did not create the world as a programmed clock whose movements could all be anticipated. It is what some call "chance", but the Bible calls "the wisdom of God."