

MASS INTENTIONS

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

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| Saturday 2 nd May – | 6.30pm | Father John O'Halloran (R.I.P) |
| Sunday 3 rd May – | 9am | Len Addison (R.I.P) |
| | 11am | Father Stephen Foster (R.I.P) |
| Monday 4 th May – English Martyrs | 9.00am | Mrs E A Abrahams (R.I.P) |
| Tuesday 5 th May – Fiera | 10am | Bill Shorey (R.I.P) |
| Wednesday 6 th May – St John Payne | 9.00am | Canon John Berry (R.I.P) |
| Thursday 7 th May – Fiera | 9.00am | Fr Joseph McGovern (R.I.P) |
| Friday 8 th May – Fiera | 9.00am | Stella Clarence Miranda (R.I.P) |
| Saturday 9 th May Fiera | 9.00am | Canon Michael Hazel (R.I.P) |

Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

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| Saturday 9 th May – | 6.30pm | Patrick O'Keefe (R.I.P) |
| Sunday 10 th May – | 9am | Florence Brennan-Friel (R.I.P) |
| | 11am | Patrick O'Keefe (R.I.P) |

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)

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Maurice Gordon

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Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

2nd & 3rd May 2020

St Alban's Primary School

Heron Flight Avenue

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Head Teacher: Lisa Schaberg

Angelo – Gift Aid Organiser

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Dear Friends,

The image of Christ as our shepherd need not result in a childish, immature understanding of our relationship with God. Rather, it challenges us to get to know God and to walk in his way. We need to learn to recognise his voice by spending time in prayer, in listening to his words in the scripture, in meeting him in the sacraments and in the people and events of our lives. And it means learning to follow him, to identify with the people he spent time with – the poor, the outcast, the marginalised and neglected. It will mean committing ourselves, learning to “lay down our life” for others: giving our time, energy and skills in the service of others.

As Pope Francis said in his Easter message, “Indifference, self-centeredness, division and forgetfulness are not words we want to hear at this time. We want to ban these words forever. They seem to prevail when fear and death overwhelm us, that is, when we do not let the Lord Jesus triumph in our hearts and lives. May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of his glorious day, a day that knows no end”.

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 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, Teresa Shorey, Jean Berry, Dennis Doherty, Francesca Kelly, Paul & Eva AU, Rose Dique, Jim Nolan

Please pray for the repose of the souls:

Ben John Stanley who has died recently his funeral will be on Thursday, 14th May 2020 at 12.40pm at South Essex Cemetery.

James Keane who died last week (brother to Tim Keane and father to Father Paul Keane) his funeral will be on Wednesday, 13th May 2020 at 1.00pm at the City of London Cemetery.

Bill Shorey who has died recently his funeral will take place on Tuesday, 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 last 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 online.

Prayer on the Feast of St Catherine of Siena – Patron Saint of Europe

Pope Francis said “Let us pray for Europe, for the unity of Europe, for the unity of the European Union, so that everyone together might move forward as brothers and sisters”.

Reflection on Europe and the virus (Covid-19)

Mortality was a world away, disasters were elsewhere, far from our own world that seemed to keep us safe. Death was present, but consumerism and the good life distracted us, suppressing the fear of death in our hearts. An entire generation in Europe grew up in this shallow world and knew no other. Of course, economic crises sometimes troubled our security, but going out of an evening, traveling, a passion for consumerism all eclipsed our questioning and eclipsed our doubts too.

All that has changed now. Death, which had a secondary role behind the scenes far away from us, has returned to the center of the stage. Death and the finite nature of existence radically raise the question of the meaning of our life. Isolation and confinement are an opportunity to explore these matters and to reach a true conversion.

Our religious practice was shaped in the image of our societies: the “consumption” of religion does not make us women and men of God. It is listening to the Word, meditating on it in our hearts that makes us turn toward God. It is not the divine, understood as a religious product to be consumed, that gives us a sense of happiness, but God the Father, who loves us beyond the end of our life, beyond our death.

And a true and sincere conversion always leads us to the human beings created by God and loved by him. A true conversion not only transforms our heart, but also changes our way of life, our actions.