

MASS INTENTIONS

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Saturday 19 th December -	6.30pm	Rita Mill (R.I.P)
Sunday 20 th December - (Expectant Mothers)	9.00am	Val Greenwood (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Helen Ging (R.I.P)
Monday 21 st December – Feria	9.00am	Lilly Teresa (R.I.P)
Tuesday 22 nd December – Feria	10.00am	Con Rohan
Wednesday 23 rd December - Feria	9.00am	Margaret & Arthur Brennan
Thursday 24 th December – Feria	9.00am	Alex Fialho (R.I.P)
Friday 25 th December – The Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day	12:00am Midnight	Stimpson Family Intentions
	8.00am	Frances Nolan (R.I.P)
	9.00am	Paul Tolhurst (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Francis & Shiny Wedding Anniversary
Saturday 26 th December - St Stephen	10.00am	Oliva Murillo (R.I.P)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (B)

Saturday 26 th December -	6.30pm	Maria & Emmanuel Formosa
Sunday 27 th December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	9.00am	Alfreda Willis (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Oliva Murillo (R.I.P)

Year of St. Joseph

With the Apostolic Letter “**Patris corde**” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “**Year of Saint Joseph**” from **8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021**. We will be saying a prayer in honour of St. Joseph at the end of Mass during this year.



ST. ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

(Langdale Gardens)

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Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

19th & 20th December 2020

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the last Sunday before Christmas, the fourth Sunday of Advent. In today's Mass, our thoughts are turned to Mary. She is presented as central to our understanding of the Christmas story. As we prepare with her for the coming of Christ, remembering how she welcomed him. Each of us in our own way must open our hearts to 'Receive Him'. We approach this Christmas from a year of upheaval and turbulence and many of us are struggling in different ways. If we feel ourselves weighed down with fears and anxieties the Birth of Christ offers us hope. Let us bring all our troubles to the Christ Child, drawing strength and consolation from him, because he came among us to save us and bring us peace.

Covid-19 has taught us many lessons. As we kneel before the crib, we picture the nativity scene, which shows the poverty in which Jesus came to earth, to share his divine love and to come to us in our vulnerability and brokenness. At this time of natural, social and financial disasters, which have almost reached breaking point, we cry out for help.

How urgently we need a light to shine in the darkness, that light is no other than the Christ child in the crib. With his help, we hope and pray for a safer and better future in 2021. So Father Maurice and Deacon Ken wish you and your family a grace-filled and peaceful Christmas, and every blessing for the New Year.

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, 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, George Kiparrisi, Rosetta Reehill, William Bradbury, Roy Francis, Rob Brown, Dylan Dunbar, Nell Addison, Maureen Gorham, Jack Lawless, Maisie Glennon and Michael Dear, Kathleen Kavanagh, Mathew John, Doreen Banister, Charlotte Dudenney, Dorothy Ryan, Sheila Fry

Repository

No need to spend ages walking around in the cold for ideas for Christmas. Your repository shop has a selection of cards/scented candles/calendars/rosaries/crosses/missals/bracelets/reed diffusers etc... If you cannot see what you want, we may be able to order it for you. Put Christ back into Christmas and support your parish.

Liz Preston - 01708 525186

We have been asked to provide details so that parishioners can pay their donations by direct debit or standing order. It is an easier form of donation the details are as follows

Bank HSBC

Account name: Catholic Church Elm Park St Albans

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account number: 31019848

We can still collect the gift aid for these donations so please remember to fill in the gift aid form.

Thank you

Standing order Donations

Could the following people who already make a standing order donation please come into the office or phone the presbytery, David Morris and JG & DC Kennelly. We have some paperwork we would like to discuss.

Christmas Cards

Christmas cards are still available this weekend. Please note the times of Masses over the Christmas period as we have put on an extra Mass on Christmas Day to help us to minimise the numbers. At all times, we will be socially distancing, sanitising and please be aware of each other's safety. Everybody will be welcome and nobody will be turned away. We have a midnight night at 12:00am and on Christmas day; masses are 8.00am, 9.00am and 11.00am. Father Maurice will be available for the sacrament of reconciliation for this week before Christmas day. Please, if you are able to help with Stewarding at Masses, please let Frank or any of the stewards know.

Advent Carol Concert Online – available throughout Advent.

You are warmly invited to pull up a chair with a cup of tea – or beverage of your choice – and join us from the Walsingham House at Abbotswick chapel as we present a beautiful concert of carols and readings for Advent, led by very talented young musicians. The direct link is www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rQteQkyUx0 and you will find more information at www.bcys.net/events/adventcarols – including a booklet with the words of the carols, so you can sing along at home! The concert is **free** and donations are welcome to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service and the Trussell Trust (who support and run foodbanks across the Diocese).

Rest in Peace

Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Tom Gorham. His Requiem Mass will take place on the 29th December 2020 at 1.00pm in St Albans Church followed by a service at South Essex Crematorium at 2.40pm.

Finally, please also pray for the repose of the soul of Sheila Murray who died recently, her Funeral Mass will take place on the 30th December at 10:30 am in St. Albans.

May them REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY

Schools

On Friday, our Schools finished for the Christmas holidays. It has been a difficult term for everybody and we thank our teachers and all who care for our children and young people. We pray that next term, that life will improve for them all. We hope that they all have a safe and blessed Christmas.

Times of the Masses over the Christmas period are also displayed on our church website.