

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> February -	6.30pm	Jean Berry (R.I.P)
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> February –	9.00am	Charles Stimpson (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Noreen Walsh (R.I.P)
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February – Fiera	9.00am	Christopher Andrew Almeida (R.I.P)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February – Fiera	10.00am	Eucharist Service
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	9.00am	Kevin Hopkins (R.I.P)
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	7.30pm	Roy Francis (R.I.P)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	8.30am	Mary Corbett (R.I.P)
	10.30am	Noreen Walsh Requiem Mass
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February – Fiera	9.00am	Elizabeth Kelly (R.I.P)
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> February - Fiera	9.00am	Bridie Daly (R.I.P)

**First Sunday of Lent (B)**

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> February -	6.30pm	Frances Nolan (R.I.P)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> February –	9.00am	James Brewty (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Bernadette Hall (R.I.P)

**St Joseph**

As Pope Francis has propagated this year 8/12/2020 to 8/12/2021 in honour of St Joseph. We have a picture of St Joseph in Our Lady's Shrine and there is a prayer in front of it, which you could say during this year.

**ST. ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER**

(Langdale Gardens)

**PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Maurice Gordon**

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**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

**13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Dear Friends,

Leprosy is a disease, which has affected mankind for thousands of years. It is much less prevalent now because of modern medicine, but can still be found in parts of South America, Africa and India. It causes damage to the skin, nerves, limbs and eyes, and is still a social stigma: sufferers can be excluded from their societies, and must live in isolation in leper colonies.

In the Gospel, we hear a few times of Jesus coming into contact with lepers. This particular man in today's Gospel reading came to Jesus on his knees, pleading, 'if you want to, you can cure me.' This leper must have felt totally isolated. The first reading, from the book of Leviticus tells us how lepers were excluded, and had to cry 'unclean, unclean!' if anyone approached them. In addition to the physical pain, they were also despised and feared by the people of the day.

Jesus understood the leper's isolation. They were isolated not because of anything they themselves had done, but because of their illness. Any form of isolation is an unpleasant experience, because there is a longing in every human heart to belong. This man had reached rock bottom; he had nobody, and in desperation, comes to Jesus on his knees. Jesus does not hesitate for a moment – he reaches out and heals the man.

The message in the Gospel gives us hope, because Jesus sees into the depths of our hearts, and knows how we can be wounded by exclusion and the fear of rejection. Just like the leper, we too turn to Jesus to be touched by his healing love and forgiveness. During this time of the pandemic, we pray for those who feel isolated and alone, we keep them in our prayers, thoughts and in our love.

*God Bless and Keep Safe,  
Father Maurice*

### **Please pray for all who are sick, including:**

Nell Addison, Paul & Ava Au, Michael Balfour, Doreen Banister, John Barry, William Bradbury, Vincent Brady, Rob Brown, Rose Cahill, John Carty, Sarah Content, Maureen Daly, Katherine Day, Michael Dear, Celia Desmond, Desmond family, Dennis Doherty, Gerry Dique, Rose Dique, Anthony Doherty, Charlotte Dudenney, Dylan Dunbar, Nancy Donovan, Ann Dunn, Sheila Fry, Maisie Glennon, Maureen Gorham, Fr Joseph Farrell, Kevin Harty, Bernadette Heddle, Peter Hemsley, Ellen Hurley, Mathew John, Jenny Jones, Julia Joseph, Mary Kakari, Kathleen Kavanagh, Ann Kelly, Francesca Kelly, Neil Kelly, George Kiparrisi, Jack Lawless, Mary Lynes, Siobhan McKeon, Norah McLoughlin, Matthew Milnar, John Morrissey, Jim Nolan, Baby Teegan Oakley, Cecilia O'Connor, Vincent Okolo, Dean Partleton, Teresa Pitman, Baby Teddy Rands, Rosetta Reehill, Nellie Ringrose, Dorothy Ryan, Mary Sayers, Marina Scarff, Teresa Shorey, John Sinclair, Charles Stimpson, Crystal Stimpson, Theresa Wiseman, Elizabeth Wyles and Clara Yankey

### **Repository**

Due to Tier 4 restrictions, we can offer a “phone and collect” or deliver service. We have a good stock of cards i.e. Sympathy, Mass, New Baby, New Home, Birthdays etc. as well as candles, rosaries and a few calendars. Just ring Liz if there is anything in particular you need. **Liz Preston - 01708 525186**

### **Donations and Gift Aid Form**

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.

#### **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.

#### **Request**

Some Italian friends of Fr Michele Bonfitto of the Verona Fathers (who served as a priest in our parish) are trying to obtain a copy of the musical score of “Alba di Gloria”, an oratorio he wrote which had its first London performance in St Alban’s Church on 29th May 1960. Can anyone help at all? Please contact Deacon Ken if you have any ideas or suggestions.

### **Rest in Peace**

Please pray for Noreen Walsh, whose Requiem mass will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 10:30 am.

Please pray for Georgina West, whose funeral will take place at South Essex Crematorium, Upminster on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 3:20pm.

Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Roy Francis who died recently his funeral arrangements will be made later.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bernadette Hall, John Appleton's sister who also died recently

We extend our sympathy to all the families on the death of their loved ones.

***MAY THEY REST IN PEACE***

**Rediscover Your Marriage** – Retrouvaille offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It has saved many hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples that have already separated or divorced. There is no group therapy or group work. [Sixteen couples attended our last weekend (six of whom were in the process of divorce) and almost all of the couples are still attending the follow up sessions. The feedback from the weekend was very positive and there are advantages in being able to attend the weekend from your own home.] ***For confidential information about ‘Retrouvaille’ or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)***

**Bishop John Arnold** is the first speaker in a weekly series of talks focused on the **Catholic response to Climate Change**. He is speaking on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm – 8.30pm and the talks continue via Zoom on Thursdays in Lent. To register please email [jane@catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto:jane@catholicclimatemovement.global) and for more information about this area of Catholic life and faith have a look at [www.catholicclimatemovement.global](http://www.catholicclimatemovement.global)

### **Ash Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

Is the beginning of Lent and is a day of Fasting & Abstinence. Times of the Masses are 9.00am and 7.30pm. There will be blessing and distribution of Ashes at both Masses. We begin our preparation for Easter. Lent is a great opportunity to come close to the Lord. It is a time of Repentance, taking stock of ourselves. We have all fallen short but we have the chance to look again at our lives and how we live them. The key words for Lent should be Change of Heart, Repentance, Forgiveness, Prayer and Reconciliation.