

MASS INTENTIONS
Third Sunday of Lent (Year C)

Saturday 19 th March – St Joseph	6.30pm	Ron Barnes (R.I.P)
Sunday 20 th March – Third Sunday of Lent	9.00	People of the Parish
	11.00	Marian Burke (R.I.P)
Monday 21 st March – Feria	9.00am	Clare Greenan
Tuesday 22 nd March – Feria	9.00am	Michael Dear (R.I.P)
Wednesday 23 rd March– Feria	9.00am	Pam Zammit (R.I.P)
Thursday 24 th March– Feria	9.00am	Samantha Donnelly (R.I.P)
Friday 25 th March – The Annunciation of the Lord	9.00am	Oh Lord Show my Family Mercy
Saturday 26 th March – Feria	9.00am	Robert Chave (Int)

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

Saturday 26 th March – Feria	6.30pm	Peter Quinn
Sunday 27 th March – Fourth Sunday of Lent	9.00	People of the Parish
	11.00	Charles Ginty (R.I.P) Danny McLaughan

Reflections for this week on Ukraine:

Pray for all those affected:

O Lord, you see in secret, and you reward us beyond our every expectation. Hear the prayers of those who trust in you, especially the lowly, those sorely tried, and those who suffer and flee before the roar of weapons. Restore peace to our hearts; once again, grant your peace to our days. Amen. – Pope Francis



ST ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER
Langdale Gardens RM12 5LA
PARISH PRIEST: Canon Maurice Gordon



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Third Sunday of Lent (Year C)

19th & 20th March 2022

The readings for today, the Third Sunday of Lent, present an urgent call to repentance, to recognise and acknowledge God's infinite power and glory, compared to our human weakness and sinfulness, and to seek His help and guidance in all the events of our lives.

The fig tree in the Gospel is a metaphor for repentance. For three years the owner comes to it and finds no fruit and is inclined to cut it down. The gardener says he will leave it one more year, give it some help and manure it and if it does not produce fruit the next year, will have it cut down. The fig tree represents our souls, which should produce good fruits. For this to happen, we need the disposition to let ourselves be worked on, to be humble enough to turn to God, accepting that we are sinners in need of grace and forgiveness. Then we can be renewed and begin to show good fruits.

It is important to remember that God is not absent from our sufferings. He came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ to suffer in love for us, that we might unite our sufferings with His and in that way, receive His grace and strength.

We are all in need of His grace and strength. It takes humility to admit that. St. Paul says in the second reading that even 'the man who thinks he is safe must be careful he does not fall.'

The purpose of repentance is to receive the forgiveness of God and peace in our souls. As the psalm today says, 'It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave'. Let us seize the opportunity that Lent offers us to repent and turn back to God.

God Bless and Keep Safe,
Canon Maurice

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Greta Anglim, Nell Addison, Paul & Eva Au, Michael Balfour, Doreen Banister, John Barry, William Bradbury, Vincent Brady, Rob Brown, Rose Cahill, John Carty, Sarah Content, Maureen Daly, Katherine Day, Celia Desmond, Desmond family, Denis Doherty, Gerry Dique, Rose Dique, Charlotte Dudenney, Dylan Dunbar, Nancy Donovan, Ann Dunn, James Francis, Maisie Glennon, Maureen Gorham, Kevin Harty, Bernadette Heddle, Peter Hemsley, Ellen Hurley, Mathew John, Christine Johnson, Jenny Jones, Julia Joseph, Kathleen Kavanagh, Stuart Keen, Francesca Kelly, Neil Kelly, Baby Stephen Kelly, George Kiparrisi, Mary Lynes, Siobhan McKeon, Norah McLoughlin, Matthew Milnar, John Morrison, Jim Nolan, Brian Nash, Ivan Opoku-Agyemang, Baby Teegan Oakley, Cecilia O'Connor, Vincent Okolo, Dean Partleton, Teresa Pitman, Baby Teddy Rands, Jennie Reddy, Rosetta Reehill, Nellie Ringrose, Dorothy Ryan, Mary Sayers, Marina Scarff, Teresa Shorey, John Sinclair, Charles Stimpson, Crystal Stimpson, Julia Thomas, Theresa Wiseman, Elizabeth Wyles, Jay Spencer and Clara Yankey. For those we know and the many we do not know, we pray to the Lord

Beginning Experience Weekend

If you are single again following divorce, separation or the death of your partner, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 8th to 10th April 2022 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. If you would like more details, please ring Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 07795-498445 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com

Confirmation Programme

The next meeting will take place on Saturday 2nd April 2022 from 4.00-6.30pm.

Baptism Course: The next Baptism course will take place on 9th of April in the Parish Hall at 9am. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

First Holy Communion Programme

The next session will take place next Thursday 24th of March at 7pm. The children will meet in the hall and parents to meet in the Church, as usual, for their session.

Journey in Faith Programme (RCIA) The R.C.I.A programme continues every Monday at 7.30pm in the Presbytery. Anyone interested in joining the church or learning more about the faith is welcome to come along.

Stations of the Cross

This will be held at St Nicholas next Friday 25th at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of James O'Keefe who died recently. His funeral will take place on the 28th of March at 1pm at the Upminster cemetery. May he rest in peace.

Gift Aid Envelopes

Thank you for your kind donations throughout the year. The new Gift Aid boxes can be found at the back of the church, please make sure you pick them up for the new tax year. If you are expecting a box and cannot find it, please come into the office where we will give you a box. We are trying to tidy up our collection numbers to save the boxes we need to pay for.

Chrism Mass

Please note that this year the Chrism Mass will be held at Brentwood Cathedral on the 13th April at 11am. A coach will leave the Parish at 09.30am. A list will go up at the back of the Church for those wishing to go along, everyone is welcome at no expense. There will be no morning Mass at St Albans that day.

Right To Life UK

This Monday, we will celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. We pray especially for the lives of all unborn children diagnosed with Down's syndrome, that as a society we would not view them as a problem to resolve, but as people to love and protect.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes this Summer

Bishop Alan will lead the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes from 24-29th July, a time to pray at the Grotto of Our Lady and enjoy the opportunities of this experience. The pilgrimage team includes a doctor and nurses, for those who need assistance. For those with limited mobility, there will be many young people on hand to assist with wheelchairs. It is a wonderful week, Canon Maurice will be attending and if you would like to go, you can book online at www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood. For further information, please phone Cathy O'Connor on 01206 735623.

Headteacher Vacancy

St Alban's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch. Required from 1st September 2022. Group 2: L11 – L17 (starting salary based on experience). NOR: 210 (1 form entry). The Governors of St Alban's Catholic Primary School are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher from September 2022, due to our long-standing Head Teacher retiring. St Alban's is a caring, friendly school and community where our Catholic Ethos is central to all that we do. Our new Head Teacher will work with governors to shape the strategic direction of the school and will be responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of St Alban's. Deadline for applications: **12:00 noon on 19th April 2022.** For further information please contact School Business Manager Katrina Arrowsmith at contact@st-albans.havering.sch.uk, or call the office Tel: 01708 555644 for an application pack or to arrange a mutually agreed date and time to visit.