

MASS INTENTIONS
Christmas Day (Year A)

Saturday 24 th December – The Nativity of the Lord	6.30pm	Frances Nolan (R.I.P)
	12.00am (Midnight mass)	Dora Corry (R.I.P)
Sunday 25 th December – Christmas Day	9.00am	Paul Tolhurst (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Robin Brown (R.I.P)
Monday 26 th December– St Stephen	10.00am	Onodu Family Intentions
Tuesday 27 th December – St John	9.00am	James Driver (R.I.P)
Wednesday 28 th December – The Holy Innocents	9.00am	Holy Souls
Thursday 29 th December – St Thomas of Canterbury	9.00am	Dick & Kathleen Mahony (R.I.P)
Friday 30 th December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	9.00am	Eoin McCambridge (Int)
Saturday 31 st December – Seventh Day Within the Octave of Christmas	9.00am	Joanna Paes (R.I.P) & Dominic Paes

Mary, Mother of God (Year A)

Saturday 31 st December – Mary Mother of God	6.30pm	Mrs Ella Crabb (R.I.P)
Sunday 1 st January – Mary Mother of God	9.00am	John Walsh (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Canlas Family Thanksgiving

Reflections for the week: In his novel Anna Karenina, Leo Tolstoy observed: 'Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.' The truth is that all families are alike, and all families are happy and unhappy in their own way. What's certain is that here we learn the up and downs, and the rough and the smooth of daily living. Jesus was like us in all things, even growing up in a family. The family is a mini or domestic Church, where we first hear the gospel and learn the courage to witness. In the family we learn to put others first, to forgive, to be kind and merciful, to go the extra mile, but also to take responsibility for our faults and weaknesses, to repent and seek forgiveness.

Lord, may the Holy Family, who had to overcome many painful trials, watch over all families in the world, especially those who are experiencing problems and difficulties, pain and suffering. **Amen**



ST ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER
Langdale Gardens RM12 5LA
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*A Happy and Holy Christmas to
all our Parishioners*



O Come! Let us adore Him!

Dear Friends,

Christ's light shines. He was born into the world as the true light to enlighten everyone and today his light continues to shine in our world through our lives and deeds.

Christmas lights, glowing cosily in windows, on Christmas trees, strung across our streets on dark winter evenings, readily remind us that Christ came into the world as a light into darkness. Every act, every prayer, everything done for others, helps the light of Christ to shine forth.

Christmas is a family feast and in the family of God we are linked with all of our brothers and sisters. As Christians, our Christmas should be much more satisfying because our commitment opens our hearts to all who are marginalised and defeated. Our care and concern are what will save people from freezing to death in the cold of isolation and despair and will mean everything to someone who has nothing to hope for.

Allowing the light to shine means that we want to come away from the darkness; we want to be among those who have space in our heart and in our home for Christ and our neighbour. We are asked to fill our world with His light by our repentance, our prayer, our generosity and our charity because Christ, born poor, asks us to reach out to his people.

As we work and as we pray and as we help one another we can make every hour a sincere welcome to Christ, the eternal Son of God, who comes in love to give us healing and hope to fill us with lasting joy. May we recognise Him in His people and in the breaking of Bread.

I wish you a happy and Holy Christmas filled with God's blessings, joy and peace to each of you and to all those you love. May Jesus, Mary and Joseph protect you and your families at this Holy Season of Christmas and all through 2023.

***Take care, God bless,
Canon Maurice***

Feast of St Stephen: This Monday the 26th is the feast of St Stephen the Patron Saint of Altar servers. All the servers are invited to attend this Mass at 10am. Some Altar servers will be presented with St Stephen's medal.

St Albans School

Our school finished last Tuesday 20th December for our children and returns on Thursday 5th January 2023. We wish all our teachers, staffs and parents all of God's blessings during this Christmas season and we pray for our school as Mrs Gail McBride takes over as our new headteacher as we begin the New Year 2023. We thank Mrs Parker the acting headteacher for leading our school from September to December. We wish her all of God's blessings for her future happiness and wellbeing. We also thank Miss Hollie Westmore and Mrs Zammit for their dedication to our school over the years and we wish Hollie all the best in her new school. She will be greatly missed.

Brentwood Catholic Youth Service Summer Lourdes 2023

Applications are now open for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes from 23rd-30th July 2023. Open to anyone in school year 10 and above; info and applications at www.bcys.net/eventssl23. If you are intending to go to Lourdes there will be parish support for you, to help with the costs; please get in touch with Fr Maurice.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023

The annual diocesan pilgrimage led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Monday 24-Saturday 29th July. All are welcome, including those of us who need assistance. Details regarding booking will follow soon.

STUDY DAY ON THE APOSTLE PAUL:

The next Gidea Park Study Day will be on Saturday 21st January 2023 from 11 am until 1.30 pm at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. The speaker is Dr Sean Michael Ryan, chair of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain, and research associate at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge. Dr Ryan will speak about 'The Gospel according to St Paul'. The event is either in-person or live-stream. Coffee will be available for those attending in-person from 10.30 am. Please bring a packed lunch. Gidea Park Station (Elizabeth Line) is five minutes from the church. For those attending via live-stream simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org on the day. Recording of the talks will be made available after the event on the same website.

Welcome Back!

We welcome back Father Henry on the 2nd January, who will be with us for a few days while Father Maurice is away for a Christmas break. Father Henry is Chaplain to the Zambian community in London.

Rest in Peace:

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Roy North, Cornelius Clarke, Robin Brown and Bridget Kennelly who died recently. May they Rest in Peace.