

MASS INTENTIONS
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
Monday 2 nd January – SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	9.00am	Mrs E Fitzgerald (Int)
Tuesday 3 rd January – Feria of Christmastide	9.00am	All Souls
Wednesday 4 th January – Feria of Christmastide	9.00am	Angela & John Quinlan (Anniv)
Thursday 5 th January – Feria of Christmastide	9.00am	Teresa Carty (R.I.P)
Friday 6 th January – The Epiphany of the Lord	9.00am	Helen (Barry)
	7.30pm	Evelyn Nephthali
Saturday 7 th January – Feria of Christmastide	9.00am	Gwen Field

The Baptism of the Lord (A)

Saturday 7 th January – The Baptism of the Lord (A)	6.30pm	Rozalia & Jaroslaw Luczkiw (R.I.P)
Sunday 8 th January – The Baptism of the Lord (A)	9.00am	Helen Pinto
	11.00am	Teresa & Thomas O'Sullivan (R.I.P)

This Friday is the feast of the Epiphany a Holy day of Obligation

Reflection for the week: Today's feast is a celebration of light; a light which brought certainty to a struggling world. It had been a world which had listened a little, but which still got the wrong answers because it couldn't see clearly. The wise men in today's Gospel were first to use their experience and study in their search for the light, and from the star they were led to the fullness of light which is Jesus Christ. Before they found Him, they had to travel through unknown lands, mix with different people and listen to conflicting ideas. They experienced the artificial hospitality of Herod's court and then came face to face with the ordinary family with a newborn baby. But all that mattered was that they had faith in the light that had guided them, and their faith was confirmed.



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



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Mary, Mother of God (Year A)
31st December 2022 & 1st January 2023

Dear Friends,

We often say, 'I don't know where a year has gone'. The Latin phrase '*tempus fugit*' 'time flies', captures this perfectly. New Year's Day is an opportune moment to reflect on the passing of time. It takes courage to look back to the year that has gone and fortitude to look forward to the year to come; courage to square up to our mistakes or faults, and fortitude to face the future with bold faith, and confident of God's love and mercy.

We begin each new year with the feast of Mary the Mother of God. We are under her watchful care. We seek her intercession, offering up all our joys, hopes and fears, knowing that God hears the cry of our heart. Mary teaches us how to pray. Like the Psalmist, she treasured and pondered all that God has done (Luke 2:19). 'I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work and meditate on your mighty deeds' (Psalm 76(77):11-12).

Prayer for the New Year: Lord God, teach me to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm, and to look forward to the future with courage and confidence. Every blessing to all for the year 2023.

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

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

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, Desmond family, Denis Doherty, Gerry Dique, Rose Dique, Charlotte Dudenney, Dylan Dunbar, Nancy Donovan, Ann Dunn, Margaret Dumbrell John Finan, James Francis, Anna Gawlik, 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, Baby Stephen Kelly, George Kiparrisi, Vicky Loik, Mary Lynes, Siobhan McKeon, Norah McLoughlin, Gladys McQuaid, Matthew Milnar, John Morrison, Jim Nolan, Brian Nash, Iivan Opoku-Agyemang, Baby Teegan Oakley, Cecilia O'Connor, Vincent Okolo, Dean Partleton, Teresa Pitman, Michelle Pointer, 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, Theresa Carty, Jay Spencer, Irene (Evelyn's sister) and Clara Yankey. For those we know and the many we do not know, we pray to the Lord

First Holy Communion 2022-2023:

The next session for the first Holy Communion will be on the 12th January 2023. Parents will meet in the church and the children will meet in the Parish Hall.

Journey in Faith Programme (RCIA):

Anyone who wishes to know more about the basics of the Faith or is interested in joining the Church is invited to the weekly sessions which take place on Mondays at 7:30pm in the Presbytery. The next session will take place on the 9th January 2023. Any Parishioner who wishes to support this group, is also invited to come along.

Baptism Course: The next Baptism course will take place on Saturday the 14th of January 2023 in the Parish Hall at 9am. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

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 who need assistance. Details regarding booking will follow soon.

Right to Life

Mary pondered all of these things in her heart. Let us join Mary in reflection, especially on the precious gift of human life at all stages and how society might better support mothers.

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. The next meeting for this young peoples Lourdes group will take place on the 18th January at 7pm in the Presbytery.

St Albans School

Our School returns on this Thursday 5th January 2023. We wish all of our teachers, staff, pupils and parents all of God's blessings for the new year. We pray for our new Head Mrs Gail McBride as she takes over as our new Head Teacher. We will have a whole school Mass on the 9th January at 2pm in the school.

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.

Rest in Peace:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Michael Cogan who died recently. His Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 11th January at 12 Noon. We also pray for the repose of the soul of Cornelius Clarke, his funeral will take place on Friday 13th January at South Essex Crematorium, East Chapel at 3pm. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Bridget Kennelly who also died recently, her Requiem Mass will take place on the 18th January at 10am. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Robin Brown, his Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 20th January at 10:15am. His remains will be brought into the Church on the 19th January at 4:30pm. We also pray for Janet Hynes' father, Roy North who died recently and Teresa Shorey's brother, Peter Kelly who also died before Christmas. **MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.**

Thank You

Many thanks to all who made our Christmas celebrations special, the people who decorated the church, the welcomers, the Eucharistic ministers, the readers, the choirs, the altar servers and all who contributed to the prayerful celebration of our Christmas feast. Father Maurice would like to thank all parishioners for their kind Christmas wishes, cards and offerings.

Confirmation 2022/2023:

Next Confirmation session will take place on Saturday 7th January 2023, at 4pm.