

MASS INTENTIONS
Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Saturday 3 rd December – Second Sunday of Advent	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 4 th December – Second Sunday of Advent	9.00am	Teresa Jarrold
	11.00am	Intentions of the Driver family
Monday 5 th December– Feria	9.00am	Paddy Shiels (R.I.P)
Tuesday 6 th December – Feria	9.00am	Bridget McManus (R.I.P)
Wednesday 7 th December – St Ambrose	9.00am	Tom Gorham (R.I.P)
Thursday 8 th December – Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00am	Nuala McManus (R.I.P)
Friday 9 th December – Feria	9.00am	Sean McManus (R.I.P)
Saturday 10 th December – Feria	9.00am	Rose Byrne (Int)

Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Saturday 10 th December – Third Sunday of Advent	6.30pm	Canon Maurice Gordon (Thanksgiving)
Sunday 11 th December – Third Sunday of Advent	9.00am	Bernardita Baradas Azores (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)

Reflections for the week (8th of December): This year the celebration of the Immaculate Conception will have special poignancy after the visit of the relics of St Bernadette to our Dioceses. The highlight for Bernadette came in 1862 when the church officially accepted that the apparitions were authentic and that a church would be built near the grotto. Lourdes is about Mary and not Bernadette. Her parish priest asked when the apparitions were taking place for the name of the lady. Eventually the lady said she was the “Immaculate Conception”. Many began to believe that the apparitions were authentic as “no illiterate uneducated girl” could have that knowledge. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception had only been declared four years before in 1854 by Pope Pius IX but had been discussed and reflected upon by the church for hundreds of years before. Mary is a sign of the Church in its perfection of how God would like the Church to be. As we look to Mary as an example to follow, we move from darkness to the light and become more like Mary. **Our Lady help of Christians Pray for Us**

Times for reconciliation:

Saturday mornings from 9:30-10:30am and Saturday evenings from 5:30-6:15pm. Confessions are also available on request when Father Maurice is available, and Father Joseph is also available.



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



Presbytery:
1 Ullswater Way, Elm Park, RM12 5JX
Tel: 01708451449

parishoffice@stalbanrcchurch.uk

Parish Deacon: Rev. Ken Carleton

kencarleton@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Mob: 07971 544921

Parish Website: <https://www.stalbanrcchurch.uk>

Fr. Joseph Farrell (Retired) – 2B, Langdale Gardens, RM12 5LA

Tel: 01708459709

St Alban's Primary School
Heron Flight Avenue, RM12 5LN
Tel: 01708 555644

Angela – Gift Aid Organiser
Mobile: 07510 243188
Safeguarding Representatives
Mobile: 07544 842677

Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)
3rd & 4th December 2022

Dear Friends,

The Gospel today features John the Baptist preaching in the desert. We know that deserts are hot, dry, barren and empty open spaces. Notice that John does not preach in the city centre; he goes out into the wilderness. The desert environment provides silence and solitude, and those conditions allow the soul to connect to God and to hear him. In the midst of noise and distraction, it is much harder to keep God in mind. So, John goes out, stripping himself of all unnecessary attachments. He is in the wilderness, dressed simply and with very basic food. He is living the message he preaches, of repentance, turning away from sin and distraction, to become free and open to God.

John is considered the last of the Old Testament prophets; the immediate forerunner to Christ, and he prepares the people for the coming of Christ. This makes him a good model for us to reflect on during these weeks of Advent.

Even though John is in the desert, many people leave the city to seek him and to hear him. His message is that the Lord is near, and you must prepare yourselves for him by repentance, to repent means to be honest with oneself, identify our failings and seek earnestly to change. John's message of repentance is aimed at us too.

As we get nearer to Christmas, there will be many demands and pressures on us. Let us try not to be sucked in by these, but to give space for the Lord to work in us. Let us try to follow John the Baptist and recreate the desert environment by facing ourselves honestly in prayer, with a repentant heart. In doing so, may we become ready to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

God Bless and Keep Safe,
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 Dumbrill 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 Morriseon, 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

PARISH FINANCES:

26th & 27th November

Loose

£486.78

Envelopes

£350.00

Confirmation 2022/2023:

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

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.

Altar Servers Training:

The next training session for the altar servers will be held on Saturday the 10th of December 2022 from 4-6pm.

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. Any Parishioner who wishes to support this group, is also invited to come along.

Baptism Course: The next Baptism course will take place next Saturday the 10th of December in the Parish Hall at 9am. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

Nigerian Mass:

There is a Nigerian Mass every first Sunday of the Month in our parish. The next monthly Mass will take place this Sunday the 4th of December at 2pm. All are welcome.

Right to Life:

In this Season of Advent, as we expectantly wait for the Christchild to enter our hearts, let us pray for all expecting mothers, that they would have all they need to joyfully welcome their new child into the world.

We invite you to join our parish choir

Our Parish Choir that sings at 9.00 am Mass every Sunday needs new singers to join in and add strength to its singing. We invite and welcome parishioners of any age - female or male - who would be interested in becoming part of the Choir, to please contact the Choir Leader Nigel D'Souza after the 9.00 am Mass on Sunday, to express your interest and find out more about the commitment you need to make, and how you could contribute to making the Mass more meaningful through praising our Lord in song. Alternately, you could also give Nigel a call on 07904900815 and have a discussion with him.

Brentwood Diocesan Directory

These are now available in the repository priced at £2.95, ring bound copies are also available priced at £4.15.

Job Vacancies

Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall Manager – St Mary & St Helen and Holy Cross - The successful applicant will ideally have administration experience and be able to demonstrate good numeracy skills. Excellent communication skills is also a requirement and Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel and financial experience. Hours: 3 hours per week. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com. Closing date for applications is 16 December 2022. Job description: [Cathedral Parish Halls Manager – Brentwood JD](#) (full job description is contained on www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us).

General Assistant – East London: The role is to support the day to day running of a charity. The successful applicant will require administration experience and be able to demonstrate excellent communication skills. Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel are also a requirement. Hours: Full time – 35 hours per week – 3-year contract. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter to HR@dioceseofbrentwood.org. Closing date for applications is 29 December 2022. Job description: [General Assistant – East London](#) (full job description is contained on www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us).

Repository

Only weeks to Christmas, your repository shop has a selection of Christmas cards, scented candles, calendars, roseries, crosses, missals, bracelets, reed diffusers etc.. all at reasonable prices. If you are still unable to get to the church, ring me and I will deliver any items needed. Liz Preston 01708 525186.

Campion School Sixth Form Open Evening

There will be an open evening held on Wednesday 7th December at 6.30pm, for external students for entry in September 2023. The Headteachers talk will take place at 6.30pm and 7.30pm.