

MASS INTENTIONS
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 28th January – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Joseph Scanlon
Sunday 29th January – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Angela Wood (Birthday Int)
	11.00am	Henry Skipper (R.I.P)
Monday 30 th January – Feria	9.00am	James Magner
Tuesday 31 st January – St John Bosco	9.00am	Amaogechi Mbanu (Int)
Wednesday 1 st February – Feria	9.00am	Robin Brown (R.I.P)
Thursday 2 nd February – The Presentation of the Lord	9.00am	Patrick Monaghan (R.I.P)
Friday 3 rd February – St Anne Line	9.00am	Mrs Kathleen Webb (R.I.P)
Saturday 4 th February – Feria	9.00am	Holy Souls

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 4 th February – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Family & friends of the late Ann O'Connor
Sunday 5 th February – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Michael Palmer (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Borg & Abela (Family Int)

Scripture reflection: Realise that God is speaking to you in His Word. Jesus is the Word of God. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart so that you may truly hear God speak to you so that these words will sink deep within you. And pray them with faith, knowing that God is God and is Lord of all.

Sufferings bring patience, as we know, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. **Romans 5:3-5**

When you seek Me you shall find Me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will let you find Me. **Jeremiah 29:13-14**



ST ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER
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PARISH PRIEST: Canon Maurice Gordon



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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)
28th & 29th January 2023

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a prescription. It is a prescription for happiness. Everyone wants to be happy, but how do we go about it?

The world proposes many solutions that promise to make us happy, but often they do not make us happy. That is because there is a superficial or passing kind of happiness, and then there is a deep and abiding happiness, which we can call blessedness: that is the kind of happiness Jesus is talking about. Jesus' prescription has nine parts to it. We call them the beatitudes.

The word itself means 'blessedness' but we can think of them as attitudes of the heart. Jesus is telling us that what is in our hearts is vitally important for our happiness. The beatitudes remind us that ultimately, our happiness is never to be found completely in this world.

We have to keep our eyes on the eternal goal of heaven. What better way could we examine our consciences than to reflect prayerfully on the beatitudes?

Even if we have failed to measure up to them, we can begin anew through the grace of God's mercy in the sacrament of penance. Jesus has given us the prescription to be followed. Let us do all in our power, with his grace and help, to reach our destination safely.

Prayer: Eternal Father, we know that you care deeply for our happiness. Strengthen us and keep us close to you who are the source of our peace and joy. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**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, Rose Cahill, John Carty, Sarah Content, Maureen Daly, Katherine Day, 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, Jenny Jones, Julia Joseph, Kathleen Kavanagh, Stuart Keen, Francesca Kelly, Baby Stephen Kelly, George Kiparrisi, Vicky Loik, Mary Lynes, Amaogechi Mbanu, 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, Alan Stokes, 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:

21st & 22nd January

Loose

£469.36

Envelopes

£365.40

First Holy Communion 2022-2023:

The next session for the first Holy Communion will be on Thursday 9th February 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. 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 11th of February 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 24th Saturday 29th July. All are welcome, including those who need assistance. Details regarding booking will follow soon.

Right to Life

We pray for all who work in maternity units with expectant mothers, that they may recognise that God is truly with us in each unborn child.

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 year 10 and above; info and applications at www.bcys.net/eventssl23.

To support our young people, we are having a Quiz night this evening the 28th of January organised by the Knights of St. Columba. Everybody is welcome to attend. We start after the 6:30pm mass at 7:30pm.

Rest in Peace:

Please pray for Alma O'Sullivan whose Requiem Mass will take place on the 6th of February at 12:15pm. Please also pray for Isabella De Lucia whose Requiem Mass will take place on the 15th February at 10.45am. We also pray for Liam McDonald who died recently his Requiem Mass will take place on the 16th February at 11am. **May they Rest in Peace.**

Confirmation 2022/2023:

The next Confirmation session will take place next Saturday 4th February at Walsingham House. Coach will leave St Albans at 9am. Parents, please make sure that you send in the consent slip and £5 for the day, as soon as possible.

Accommodation needed:

A young Catholic man seeks accommodation. If you are able to help, please see Father Maurice.

BCYS Youth Mass with Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, This Thursday 2nd February

Join us in the Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm for pizza, refreshments and a chance to hear from guest speakers from Caritas and the SVP, helping us to think about charitable giving as we begin to prepare for the season of Lent.

Youth Mass is in the Cathedral at 7:30pm and will be celebrated by Fr Dan Kelly.

Everyone is welcome! See www.bcys.net or email gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org for more information.

Gardening Tools Needed

If anyone has any hand gardening tools that they could donate to St Albans Primary School, could they please bring them into the office please?

Job Vacancy

Sacred Heart of Mary Girl's School, Upminster are looking for a full time Learning Support Assistant (Permanent post – subject to probationary period) 29 hours a week term time only Monday to Friday 8:45 – 3:30 APTC Scale 2 Points 3 – 4 £24,012 - £24,408 per annum pro rata – actual pay £16,742 - £16,471 per annum. Please contact the School for an application form and further details or look at the 'Job vacancies' section of the school website www.sacredheartofmary.net and apply via the TES. Closing date: Monday 30th January 2022.

White Flower Appeal:

The second collection is taken up today for the White Flower appeal. Their mission is to save the lives of unborn babies and to protect women from abortion. Every new life is a wonderful gift from God and every baby is loved and cherished by God from the first moment of his or her existence.