

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**The Baptism of the Lord (A)**

Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>The Baptism of the Lord (A)</b>	6.30pm	Rozalia & Jaroslaw Luczkiw (R.I.P)
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>The Baptism of the Lord (A)</b>	9.00am	Helen Pinto
	11.00am	Teresa & Thomas O'Sullivan (R.I.P)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January – Feria	9.00am	Elaine Mullins Family (Int)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January – Feria	9.00am	Bill Shorey
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January – Feria	9.00am	Florence Lynch (R.I.P)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January – Feria	9.00am	Malcolm Gowan (Int)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January – Feria	9.00am	Sheryl & Malcom Gowan (25 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> January – Feria	9.00am	Roy North (R.I.P)

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	6.30pm	Birth of Grand daughter Madeline and health of Parents Marta and James.
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	Philip Bergin (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Paddy Byrnes (R.I.P)

**Reflections for the week:** Between stimulus and response there is a space and in that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom. Viktor Frankl (1905 - 1997)

For yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision, yet today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well therefore to this day this moment.



**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@stalbansrcchurch.uk](mailto:parishoffice@stalbansrcchurch.uk)  
Parish Deacon: Rev. Ken Carleton  
[kencarleton@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:kencarleton@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

Mob: 07971 544921  
Parish Website: <https://www.stalbansrcchurch.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

**The Baptism of the Lord (Year A)**  
**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season.

Baptism is the key theme of today's Gospel, which describes the baptism of our Lord. Jesus is without sin and has no need for the baptism of repentance that John preaches. Nonetheless, he undergoes baptism in solidarity with us sinners. When Jesus is baptised, the Father affirms Him as His beloved Son and the Holy Spirit descends upon Him. When we are baptised, we are drawn into this life of the Trinity. God in His goodness dwells within us and we become temples of the Holy Spirit. Thus, Jesus opens the door of salvation to us, and by our Baptism, we pass through that door. But during our lives we often fail to retain the grace of God, that is, His divine life, in us. Serious sin can kill the life of grace in us. But the wonderful thing, which is being stressed, is that through repentance, the mercy of God can restore us to the life of grace. When we fall short and lose the life of grace, the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession / Penance), is the way that we experience God's mercy, and become a new creation again. Mercy is the tender love of God for the sinner who seeks Him. As we begin the New Year do not miss the opportunities of grace that has been offered to us. Seize the moment! The doors of mercy are always open to us; let us not be afraid to walk through the door.

**PRAYER:**

Father, we thank you for the grace of Baptism which makes us your children. Help us to live it out in our daily lives by showing you the trust of a child, and by becoming envoys of your love and peace to others. We ask this 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, 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

**PARISH FINANCES:**

31<sup>st</sup> December & 1<sup>st</sup> January

**Loose**

£550.96

**Envelopes**

£363.10

**First Holy Communion 2022-2023:**

The next session for the first Holy Communion will be on next Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 this Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 next Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> July. All are welcome, including those who need assistance. Details regarding booking will follow soon.

**Right to Life**

As we begin this new year, let us pray that the Holy Spirit would rest on all mothers and fathers expecting a new baby, giving them the peace and serenity they need as the birth of their child draws near.

**Brentwood Catholic Youth Service Summer Lourdes 2023**

Applications are now open for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes from 23<sup>rd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Open to anyone in school year 10 and above; info and applications at [www.bcys.net/eventssl23](http://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 18<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in the Presbytery.

**Study Day On The Apostle Paul:**

The next Gidea Park Study Day will be on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 this Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 12 Noon. We also pray for the repose of the soul of Cornelius Clarke, his funeral will take place this Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> January at 10am. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Robin Brown, his Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 10:15am. His remains will be brought into the Church on the 19<sup>th</sup> January at 4:30pm. We also pray for the repose of the soul of David Jones who died recently, his funeral will take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January at South Essex Crematorium at 3pm.

We also pray for Janet Hynes' father, Roy North, Teresa Shorey's brother, Peter Kelly, Jean Barry's mother Alma O'Sullivan and Isabella De Lucia – all of whom have died recently. **MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.**

**Toddler Group:**

A toddler group takes place every Thursday and Friday in the Hall between 10-11:30am - all parents are welcome. Please share this news with your friends and newcomers to the parish – spread the good news on any of your social media accounts! If you need any more information, please call Maria on 07751 236262. Email: [stalbanstoddler@yahoo.com](mailto:stalbanstoddler@yahoo.com)

**Pax Chirsti:**

Next Sunday is Peace Sunday, the theme chosen for 2023 by Pope Francis is: " *No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace* ". There will be a second collection to support Pax Christi.