

MASS INTENTIONS
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 21 st January – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Maureen & Noreen Walsh (R.I.P)
Sunday 22 nd January – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Philip, Tom & Lorcan Bergin (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)
Monday 23 rd January – Feria	9.00am	Ann Dunn
Tuesday 24 th January – St Francis de Sales	9.00am	Christine Johnstone (Int)
Wednesday 25 th January – The Conversion of St Paul	9.00am	Roy North (R.I.P)
Thursday 26 th January – Ss Timothy & Titus	9.00am	Robin Brown (R.I.P)
Friday 27 th January – Feria	9.00am	Marie & Noelle Coeur De Lion Intentions
Saturday 28 th January – St Thomas Aquinas	9.00am	Holy Souls

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 28 th January – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Joseph Scanlon
Sunday 29 th January – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Angela Wood (Int)
	11.00am	Henry Skipper (R.I.P)

Reflection for this week: I am often filled with fear when I think of the future. I am haunted by past mistakes and hurts, afraid of what the future might hold, and I feel paralysed. I surrender it all to you Lord. I ask You heal all that is wounded in me and trust You to take care of all I worry about. You are the One who makes all things new. With You I will go forward, securely and joyfully, into freedom. **Amen**



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



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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)
21st & 22nd January 2023

The passage grave at Newgrange in Co. Meath is one of the great pre-historic sites in Europe. Inside, a long stone passage leads to a dark and eerie central chamber. Each year at winter solstice, on the longest dark night of the year, a small group of people squeeze into the dark chamber and wait for the dawn. When the sun rises it shines fantastically through a chink in the stone and lights up the central chamber. The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light, on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death, A light has dawned.

The sun shines through the darkness at Newgrange and a few days later, while still in the darkness of mid-winter, we Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. The gospel reading from Matthew Chapter 4, goes to great pains to tell us that Jesus 'Settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali'- so that we would realise that Isaiah's prophecy was being fulfilled in Jesus. And so, we can pray in faith. The Lord is my light and my help (Ps 26)

'There's a stretch to the evenings', we say as we desperately search for signs of light and hope in these dark January days. The days are dark, and the times seem dark. Tennyson's verse from In Memoriam seems apt for our times: Our little systems have their day, they have their day and cease to be; they are but broken lights of thee, And thou O Lord, art more than they. Sometimes we need to experience the darkness before we appreciate the light. Our attention and focus must be Jesus., the Light of the world and not broken human lights – because, as the poet says: They are but broken lights of thee and thou O Lord, art more than they.

Prayer: Father, Christ your Son brought a marvellous light into our world of sadness and shadows. We are still overwhelmed by its brightness. Help us to walk in it with courage and joy. We ask this through the same 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, Christine Johnson, 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, 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:

14th & 15th January

Loose

£789.14

Envelopes

£284.08

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 24-Saturday 29th July. All are welcome, including those who need assistance. Details regarding booking will follow soon.

Right to Life

Let us pray for women who are now experiencing a difficult pregnancy, that, with the help of family, friends and the Church community, they may, in time, rejoice at the birth of their new baby.

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 from our Parish, sadly, we have had to postpone race night on the 28th of January, but the good news is that the Knights of St. Columba are helping us replace it with a Quiz night in the Parish Centre. Tickets will be on sale from this weekend after every mass and to help raise funds on the night the Bar will be open, sweets and snacks on sale, and a raffle and a prize for the best brain boxes! You don't have to be a genius as it is all just good fun so, please come along and support our young pilgrim's journey to Lourdes.

Rest in Peace:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of David Jones who died recently, his funeral will take place this Wednesday 25th January at South Essex Crematorium at 3pm. 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 funeral arrangements will follow. **May they Rest in Peace.**

Confirmation 2022/2023:

The next Confirmation session will take place on the 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.

All Saints Catholic School, Dagenham- Sixth Form Open Evening

We warmly welcome you to 6th Form Open Evening 26th January from 6pm-8pm - Please come and meet our wonderful students, staff and explore the pathways of excellence on offer. For more information please see www.allsaintsschool.co.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-life/how-to-apply/

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service in St Alban's Church at 6.30pm this Sunday 22nd January. We join with our friends from the other Christian churches in Elm Park to celebrate the week of prayer together. All are welcome.

BCYS Youth Mass with Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, 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?