

MASS INTENTIONS
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

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| Saturday 18 th February – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time | 6.30pm | Laura O'Dwyer (R.I.P) |
| Sunday 19 th February – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9.00am | Charles Stimpson (R.I.P) |
| | 11.00am | Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P) |
| Monday 20 th February – Feria | 9.00am | Father Jeremy Davies (R. I.P) |
| Tuesday 21 st February – Feria | 9.00am | Father Peter Edwards (R.I.P) |
| Wednesday 22 nd February – Ash Wednesday | 9.00am | Dorothy O'Sullivan |
| Thursday 23 rd February – Thursday after Ash Wednesday | 9.00am | |
| Friday 24 th February – Friday after Ash Wednesday | 9.00am | |
| Saturday 25 th February – Saturday after Ash Wednesday | 9.00am | |

First Sunday of Lent (A)

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| Saturday 25 th February – First Sunday of Lent | 6.30pm | |
| Sunday 26 th February – First Sunday of Lent | 9.00am | |
| | 11.00am | |

Thought for the week: (Growth in Life and Prayer)

Growth, or some movement, is an indication of life and change. In a reflective life, our prayer and our relationship with the Lord undergo some transformation. This may appear as a movement from self-reliance (pride) to reliance on God who is faithful. Growth in the Lord involves a movement from 'poor me' to genuine humility (which is based on the truth and is open) from finding an identity to having an identity in Christ; from unhealthy guilt to true guilt; from loneliness to solitude; from independence to dependence on God; from control to surrender, from my way to God's way; from my kingdom to God's Kingdom. **Fr Michael Drennan SJ**



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



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Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)
18th & 19th February 2023

We are called this Sunday in our readings to grow in holiness. The commandments sets out the law in black and white; 'Do not kill; Do not commit adultery...' They set a minimum requirement for Christian living. But Jesus challenges us and forces us to look beyond our actions to our attitudes that form what we do.

In the Gospel reading Jesus proposes a virtue which goes deeper than that of the Scribes and Pharisees, a virtue in depth from the heart. If our depths are sound, the heart is good; then the choice that comes from the heart will be good. The converse is also true. If we harbour bitterness in our heart towards someone, we will inevitably make choices which damage and hurt them. Beyond our behaviour lie our choices and beyond them lies the heart, the heart in which our choices are rooted. Only the Spirit who reaches the depth of God can really reach our own depths. It is the Spirit who renews and transforms our heart. "God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who he has given to us"
ROMANS 5:5

Reflection:

The heart is like a well-spring. All our thoughts, words and deeds flow from there like water from a hidden spring. If a spring is polluted, then the water that flows from it will also be polluted. But if the spring is pure and clear, then the water that flows from it will be clean and wholesome. 'Blessed are the clean of heart, they shall see God.' Christ said.

Prayer: All-seeing God, you alone judge rightly our inmost thoughts. Teach us to observe your law from the heart even as we keep it outwardly. Purify our desires, calm every anger, and reconcile us to one another. Then will our worship at your altar render your perfect praise. 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, Vicky Loik, Mary Lynes, Amaogechi Mbanu, Siobhan McKeon, Norah McLoughlin, Gladys McQuaid, Matthew Milnar, John Morrison, Jim Nolan, Brian Nash, Ivan 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:

5th & 6th February

Loose

£598.59

Envelopes

£264.22

First Holy Communion 2022-2023:

The next session for the first Holy Communion will be on Thursday 23rd February 2023 at 7pm. 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 next Saturday the 11th of March 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

Yesterday, we commemorated the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Let us especially pray for all medical professionals who work in hospice care, that they might continue to safeguard the dignity and wellbeing of all patients who are made in the image and likeness of God.

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.

There will be a meeting at 7pm on the 1st March for the Lourdes group and for all who are supporting them.

Rest in Peace:

Please pray for Isabella De Lucia her remains will be brought into the church this Tuesday the 14th of February at 4:30pm. Her Requiem Mass will take place this Wednesday the 15th February at 10.45am. We also pray for Liam McDonald who died recently his Requiem Mass will take place this Thursday the 16th February at 11am. Also pray for Nellie Ringrose her funeral arrangements will be made later. **May they Rest in Peace.**

Confirmation 2022/2023:

The next Confirmation session will take place on Saturday 4th March at 4pm.

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 school office?

Job Vacancies

- Vacancy for Head of School at St John Fisher Catholic Primary, Loughton- Start date September 2023. Closing date for applications 27/2/23 For further information please visit - [Catholic Teachers Gazette \(ctgonline.co.uk\)](http://Catholic Teachers Gazette (ctgonline.co.uk))
- Headteacher – St Clare's Primary School, Clacton-on-Sea
Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon) on Monday 20th February 2023
- Headteacher – St Teresa's Primary School, Colchester
Deadline for applications: 9:00 am on Monday 27th February 2023

Next Weekend

Next weekend is the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. We are having a gathering after all the Masses, with some refreshments. This is in Thanksgiving for our Parish community and also a way of getting to know new parishioners and supporting one another. All are welcome to join us after Mass.

Parish Variety Show

We are hoping to have a St Patricks variety show in the parish hall on the 18th March at 7:30pm, this is to support our young people's Lourdes fund. More information will be given over the next few weeks.

Earthquakes in Turkey & Syria

Like so many charities and organisations, Caritas Diocese of Brentwood is here in solidarity with those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. **We have a webpage dedicated to ways that people can help, through prayer and financial donations. All information is at:** www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/earthquakes

Pastoral Letter

There will be a pastoral letter from the Bishop read out this weekend at all Masses.