

MASS INTENTIONS
Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

Saturday 25 th March – Fifth Sunday of Lent	6.30pm	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)
Sunday 26 th March- Fifth Sunday of Lent	9.00am	Frances Seamen (R.I.P)
	11.00am	James Driver (R.I.P)
Monday 27 th March – Feria	9.00am	Brian Gaffney (R.I.P)
Tuesday 28 th March – Feria	9.00am	Anne Kelly (R.I.P)
Wednesday 29 th March – Feria	9.00am	James Driver (R.I.P)
Thursday 30 th March – Feria	9.00am	Nellie Ringrose (R.I.P)
Friday 31 st March – Feria	9.00am	Victoria (Intentions)
Saturday 1 st April – Feria	9.00am	Holy Souls

Palm Sunday (A)

Saturday 1 st April – Palm Sunday	6.30pm	Nellie Ringrose (R.I.P)
Sunday 2 nd April – Palm Sunday	8.45am	Driver & Keys Family (Int)
	11.00am	Alma O'Sullivan (R.I.P)

Reflection for the Week:

Reform and change involves a dying to old ways and abandoning destructive ways of thinking and acting. The NHS suffers from complex problems and challenges leading to dangerous level of patient care. The police must deal with racism and misogyny within its ranks. The Church has had to face up to the scandal of child abuse. Change and reform mean old ways must die: cowardice, lack of transparency, self-deception. New ways must flourish: honesty, truthfulness and a profound respect for the human person.

Prayer: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise (Psalm 51:7,17). – **Walk with me - a journey of Prayer for Lent**



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



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Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)
25th & 26th March 2023

Dear Friends,

In today's Gospel we see a scene which is all too common in our own world, people weeping over the death of a loved one. Jesus is at the heart of this sad scene, for it is his good friend Lazarus who is dead.

“Jesus wept”. These two words tell a wonderful story. The story of a God who sheds tears of grief. Jesus is no stranger, aloof from human feelings. He knows well the wrench of death which causes the heart to bleed with tears. He is close to the broken hearted. We cry because we love. The two are inseparable. In life injured love calls forth tears, often shed in silence and unknown. In death love explodes in tears. That is the most natural thing in the world – for men as well as women. In a way tears help to wash and soothe the emotional wound of grief.

The human heart needs space and time to weep – to weep not in self-pity – but out of love for another. When we shed tears, our heart is rested, we see more clearly, and the light of life is re-kindled.

In the midst of darkness Jesus sheds the light of hope. He tells Lazarus' sisters that those who believe in him never really die. He says the same to us. During this time of Lent as we look forward to celebrating the Risen Christ, we ponder on this great mystery which is central to our lives.

Prayer: Merciful God, you showed your glory to our fallen race by sending your Son to confound the powers of death. Call us forth from sin's dark tomb. Break the bonds which hold us, that we may believe and proclaim Christ, the cause of our freedom and the source of life, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. **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 Hedde, Peter Hemsley, Ellen Hurlley, Mathew John, Jenny Jones, Julia Joseph, Kathleen Kavanagh, Francesca Kelly, Baby Stephen Kelly, Vicky Loik, Mary Lynes, Amaogechi Mbanu, Siobhan McKeon, Norah McLoughlin, Gladys McQuaid, Matthew Milnar, John Morrison, Ann Mount, 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, Dorothy Ryan, Mary Sayers, Marina Scarff, Elizabeth Smith, 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:

18th & 19th March

Loose

£623.05

Envelopes

£925.86

Altar Service Training:

There will be a training session held for altar servers for Holy Week next Saturday the 1st of April 2023 at 10:00am. All Altar Servers are expected to attend.

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.

Confirmation 2022/2023:

The next Confirmation session will take place this Saturday 1st April at 4pm.

Baptism Course: The next Baptism course will take place on Saturday the 15th of April 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 to Saturday 29th July. All are welcome, including those who need assistance. Details regarding booking will follow soon.

Right to Life

Yesterday, we celebrated the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, the day we commemorate when the Lord Jesus took on human flesh. Let us pray that all expectant mothers and fathers will be given the grace of God and the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Pastoral Care

If anybody is going into hospital and would like pastoral care, please contact Helen Miranda on 01708 477890

Diocese of Brentwood - Foundation Governor Vacancies

Vacancies for Foundation Governors have arisen at a number of Catholic schools across the Diocese and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry. The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment. Foundation Governors are personally appointed by the Bishop to Diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole. Our schools would benefit from people with a range of skills and experiences including Finance, Education, Special Needs, Legal and Administration. Anyone interested in the role and mission of Foundation Governor should not be put off by a lack of experience. Appropriate training is available during the period of service. If you are interested in becoming Foundation Governor please email your expression of interest to victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org or call Victoria on Telephone: (01277) 265284

Job Vacancies

St Alban's Primary School are looking to appoint an experienced or qualified teacher to join our school from 1st of September 2023. The deadline for the application is 12pm (noon) on Friday 31st April 2023. Further information can be found on the school's website: www.stalbansschool.net

Palm Sunday

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and the 9am Mass will begin at 8:45am in the Parish Centre as our brothers and sisters from St Nicholas Church will join us for the blessing of the Palms. Mass & Service Times for Holy Week will be given out this weekend. Please take your copy.

Chrism Mass

Chrism Mass will take place on the 5th April at 11am. A coach will leave St Albans Church at 9.15am, please sign up on the sheet at the back of the Church if you wish to go. Please note that there will be no morning Mass here on that day.

Variety Show

Our variety show was a great success and a happy family occasion. It was a real coming together of the Parish community in sharing talent and enjoyment. We thank everybody for their support – we raised over £1500!

School Holiday

St Albans finishes this Friday 31st March for the Easter Holidays and return on Monday 17th April. We wish them all of God's blessings during Holy Week and Eastertide.

BCCS Child & Family Counselling Services

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society offers therapeutic support directly to children, young people, families and parents through their Child and Family Counselling Service (CFCS) located in their head office in Billericay. Their CFCS team consists of several experienced and highly qualified therapists working in specially adapted therapy rooms. Families can contact BCCS directly by emailing Catherine Munns cmunns@bccs.org.uk who will outline the type of support that will be provided for them or their child. There is a charge for this service but they urge any families needing support to contact them. More information is available on their website: www.bccs.org.uk