

MASS INTENTIONS
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 22 nd July – Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Clemencia Patros (R.I.P)
Sunday 23 rd July – Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	People of the Parish
	11.00am	Richard Mahoney (R.I.P)
Monday 24 th July – Feria	9.00am	The Prosper Family (R.I.P)
Tuesday 25 th July – Feria	9.00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 26 th July – Feria	9.00am	Peter & Family (R.I.P)
Thursday 27 th July – Feria	9.00am	Richard Mahoney (R.I.P)
Friday 28 th July – Feria	9.00am	Ann O'Connor (R.I.P)
Saturday 29 th July – St Mary Magdalene	9.00am	Padraig Hester (R.I.P)

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 29 th July – Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Richard Mahoney (R.I.P)
Sunday 30 th July – Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	Anne O'Flaherty
	11.00am	Gift Agwuncha

Thoughts for the week:

We must speak to God as a friend speaks to a friend, now asking some favour, now acknowledging our faults and communicating to Him all that concerns us, our thoughts, our fears, our projects, our desires, and in all things seek His counsel. – St Ignatius of Loyola (1491 – 1556)

Feast Day 31st of July We pray with Pope Francis that the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.



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



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Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
22nd and 23rd July 2023

Dear Friends,

Our Lord says in today's Gospel that the world is like a field in which wheat and weeds grow side by side. The Church is the same and so is each of us. Each of us is a mixture of good and evil. Today's parable of the wheat and the darnel forcefully reminds us that there is much work to do. In our life, good and evil live side by side. If we wait until all sin is removed from our life, we will never offer the Eucharist on this earth. On the other hand, if the Mass is mere ceremony with no impact on our lives, this is hypocrisy. What the Lord asks of us is that at each celebration we genuinely try to prepare ourselves to unite our work with his.

We do this by working for the same purpose as Jesus himself to make his church one, to bring his people together in true community. The God we meet in the Eucharist in the words of the first reading is a "God who cares for everything, is mild in judgement and after sin will grant repentance". If we are to unite our gift with his and our work with his, then we must be kindly towards everyone. Evil will not finally be removed from our life until the harvest at the end of the world. But what gives us hope in our weakness is that the Holy Spirit is working in us, moving us towards love for God and people and prompting us to work for one body, one spirit in Christ.

Amen

God bless and Keep Safe,
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, Marlene Camay, John Carty, Macmillan Chitoma Bras-Goncalves, Sarah Content, Maureen Daly, John Detheridge, 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, Rev Tom Keighley, 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, 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:

16th & 17th July

Loose

£766.89

Envelopes

£444.56

Donations and Gift Aid Form:

We have been asked to provide details so that parishioners can pay their donations by direct debit or standing order. It is an easier form of donation the details are as follows:

Bank HSBC

Account name: Catholic Church Elm Park St Albans

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account number: 31019848

We can still collect the gift aid for these donations so please remember to fill in the gift aid form.

Right to Life:

Let us pray for all those who are close to death, especially those who are alone, that they would always be treated with respect and have their human dignity upheld.

Toddlers Group:

Mothers and Toddlers Group A toddler group takes place every Thursday and Friday in the Hall between 10- 11:30am - all parents are welcome. Please call Maria on 07751 236262.

St Albans School

School has now finished for the summer; we wish all the staff, children, and their families a well-earned restful summer break. Staff returns on the 4th of September and Children return to School on the 6th of September. Gates open for all at 8:30am.

Welcome

We welcome Father Henry who will be covering for Father Maurice while he is away on his holiday in August.

Farewell:

This weekend we say farewell to Andrei Ilies who has been on a parish placement for the last month. He returns to the Beda College in Rome in September as he continues his studies for the priesthood. We pray for him and wish him God's blessings for the future. We were blessed to have him with us.

First Holy Communion Programme 23-2024

Application forms are now available at the back of the church. This is for children in year 4 and above. Applications must be returned by 17th September, in an envelope addressed to Tracey Knight or handed in to Canon Maurice or Deacon Ken. The first meeting for parents, to provide general information regarding the programme, will be held at the Parish Centre on Sunday 24th September at 4.30pm.

Help Your Marriage

Retrouvaille is a program to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully save their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a virtual weekend on 6-9 July or a Face-to-Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 13-15 October 2023., call 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Lourdes

Bishop Alan will lead the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes from 24-29th July, Canon Maurice will be going on the pilgrimage and if any parishioners would like to give him prayer petitions, he will bring them to the Grotto of our Lady on your behalf. There is a box at the back of the Church so if you would kindly put them in and he will bring them with him.

World Youth Day (2nd of August – 6th of August 2023):

World Youth Day at home: World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with Pope Francis, taking place in Lisbon this summer. If you can't attend the main event, why not join WYD in London run by the Religious of the Assumption - a day celebration on Saturday 5th August 2023 from 11am-5pm in the church by Leicester Square. Venue : Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX. Donations only. To register a group or individually, fill in the form: [//bit.ly/wydlondon](http://bit.ly/wydlondon)

Holy Relics of St Columba, St Margaret of Scotland and St Andrew the Apostle

The Holy Relics are being toured throughout Great Britain by the Knights of St Columba and will visit the parish of St Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch, from Sunday 30th July, midafternoon, until Wednesday 2nd August, leaving late morning. The relics will be available for veneration before Mass on Monday and Tuesday and for ninety minutes after Mass on both days. On Wednesday morning the church will be open from 9am until 11am for veneration, the Holy Relics will then travel to St Anthony of Padua, Forest Gate. We sincerely hope you are able to visit the Relics to venerate and enjoy the amazing peace and serenity that surrounds them. May St Columba, St Margaret of Scotland and St Andrew intercede on your behalf and may your prayers be answered.