

MASS INTENTIONS
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 2 nd September – Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Ann Mount
Sunday 3 rd September – Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am 11.00am	Alex D’Souza (R.I.P) Sidney Galley (R.I.P)
Monday 4 th September – Feria	9.00am	Catherine Bennet & Family
Tuesday 5 th September – Feria	9.00am	Denis Doherty Int
Wednesday 6 th September Feria	9.00am	Sarah Content
Thursday 7 th September – Feria	9:00am	Patricia Kathleen North (R.I.P)
Friday 8 th September – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00am	Nancy Donovan
Saturday 9 th September – Feria	9.00am	Kian Carter-Adamson

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 9 th September – Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Romeo & Della Rodrigues (R.I.P)
Sunday 10 th September – Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am 11.00am	Temi & Raphael Akinwumi Birthday Thanksgiving Liam O’Connor

Thoughts for the week: St Padre Pio Feast Day 23rd September

Pray, hope and don’t worry. Worry is useless. Our Merciful Lord will listen to your prayer.
Do not worry over things that generate preoccupation, derangement and anxiety. One thing only is necessary: to lift up your spirit and love God.
If we are calm and persevering, we shall find not only ourselves, but our souls, and with that, God Himself.
Continue to be patient – it will all be for your good. Even if the world were to capsize, if everything were to become dark, hazy, tumultuous, God would still be with us.



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



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Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
2nd & 3rd September 2023

Dear Friends,
To follow Christ is to suffer, but there are great rewards. Today’s Gospel contains some of the most serious words of Christ. He says to his disciples and to us, “What good will it do to you, if you gain the whole world and lose your soul?” These words surely cannot fail to make us stop and think. We should recall them whenever we are faced with important decisions, when we have tough choices to make, and when we are setting goals for our lives. People can be faced with very difficult choices.

Jesus knew that a child of God always has to be prepared to move from the comfortable known to the fearful unknown. If we set out on the path of Jesus of Nazareth, we have no idea where it will bring us. There will be mountain top experiences where we feel happy and secure and close to God and to our family and friends. The seductive message of the world will be that we can stay there, on the mountain top with nice views and loving company in our hi-tech electronic homes fulfilling private wishes and goals. However, God points us towards the valley where our cross carrying, needy brothers and sisters live. That means all of us. God calls us to see through the make-believe designer world of the ad-man and ignore the seductive hi-tech voices of those who say that we can live without suffering or that we can be good or reach out to others without pain.
There is a price to be paid for discipleship, for following the path of Christ, and our Mass every week is not a sedative to lull us into self-satisfaction but a stimulant to open our eyes and ears and to rouse us into action. We should not be afraid to act on God’s prompting even if we do not know what the consequences might be.

*God Bless and Keep Safe,
Deacon Ken*

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 Dumbrell 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:

26th & 27th August

Loose

£478.77

Envelopes

£299.01

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.

Mother and Toddlers Group:

The Mothers and Toddlers group are expanding their meetings from September. There will be classes on Tuesday and Friday mornings and a playgroup takes place every Wednesday and Thursday in the Hall - all parents are welcome. Please call Maria on 07751 236262 to find out more details

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

Rest in Peace:

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mark Finigan (RIP) we extend our sympathy to his family in their grief and loss, may he rest in peace. **Amen**

Return to School

St Alban's pupils return to school this Wednesday. we hope they and the Teachers have had a good rest and are eager to start their new school year.

Christus Vivit (Christ Lives):

A new group for adults aged 18-35 will meet once a month in Clergy House, Brentwood 07:30pm. The next session is this Sunday 3rd September. All are welcome.

Drivers:

We have a number of Parishioners who would like to attend Mass but are unable to. If you are able to offer a lift to one of our Parishioners, please speak to Canon Maurice or Deacon Ken.

Right to Life:

The intrinsic human dignity that elevates all human beings is sometimes masked by outward appearances. Let us pray that the human dignity of those with disabilities, the homeless, and the unborn is always respected and protected.

Being the Change: Student leadership conference:

An inspiring and joyful day took place recently at De La Salle School, when 60 student leaders from 16 of our Catholic schools came together for a conference on leadership. They heard from Bishop Alan and others, engaged in discussions and challenges and focused on the practical responsibility of care for our common home. "Their ideas and feedback demonstrated thought, creativity and vision proving that they have insight into the problems and a range of solutions that were both practical and feasible," said Siân Thomas-Cullinan, Director of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood. The young leaders left the conference equipped with practical ideas to make a difference locally, nationally and globally. "The day was necessary, joyful, hopeful and motivating," said Siân.

Run the Royal Parks Half Marathon in aid of The Passage - Sunday 8th October 2023:

This stunning autumnal route showcases the iconic sites of London through four Royal Parks – Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park and Green Park. Run past some of the capital's most historic landmarks, including Buckingham Palace, Horse Guards Parade and the Royal Albert Hall. Although undulating in parts, the course is not hilly and is great for both experienced and first-time half marathon runners.

Registration fee: £20

Fundraising goal: £300

All money raised will go towards supporting those currently experiencing or threatened by street homelessness so that we can end homelessness for good.