

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> September – <b>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	6.30pm	Mary & Joe Kelly
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> October – <b>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	Frederick Onodu (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Bridget & Owen Cullen (R.I.P)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October – <b>The Holy Guardian Angels</b>	9.00am	Cathridna Bennet & Family
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October – Feria	9.00am	Denis Bramwell (R.I.P)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October – <b>St Francis of Assisi</b>	9.00am	Twinto Christian
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October – Feria	9:00am	Sally McInernery (R.I.P)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October – Feria	9.00am	Mary Denning
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> October – <b>Our Lady of the Rosary</b>	9.00am	Ann Keane

**Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> October – <b>Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	6.30pm	Mr Samuel Nti (R.I.P)
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> October – <b>Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Pray for Abba Family

**Please Pray for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome, which begins this week:**

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, as we gather in your name. With you alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in you our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son forever and ever. **Amen**



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



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**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**  
**30th September & 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives a parable of two sons invited to go to work in their father's vineyard. The first refuses initially but later goes, whilst the second promises to go but never does. In both cases, the action is more important than words. Our love for God, our faith, must also be more than words. It must always move us to action, whether through personal repentance, seeking the Lord more closely in prayer, or reaching out to our brother or sister in need. Holy thoughts are good, but they only do us real good when we act on them. Jesus commends the good actions of the 'tax collectors and prostitutes,' which are making their way into the Kingdom of God ahead of the spiritual leaders of the day, who are full of their own pride and lack humility. These tax collectors and prostitutes are like the first son in the parable, who initially resisted the will of God and went their own sinful, stubborn way. But later they say 'yes' to God's will and undergo conversion. If Jesus were talking to us today, He might say, 'the drug addicts, the alcoholics, the gang members' are making their way into the Kingdom of God before you.' That might sound shocking but if they really have come to know the grace of repentance and the mercy and love of Jesus for them, it makes sense; it might be that we know about Jesus in our heads, but He hasn't touched our hearts really. As the First Reading tells us, 'When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live'. Renouncing sin means to recognise our wrongdoing and seek to repair the damage caused by our transgressions. We come to the Lord for forgiveness, in humility, because we know well that we are all susceptible to falling from grace. But knowing the mercy of God, we can approach Him with confidence. Our actions do not always match our words, but it is better to be a person who resists God's will but eventually does it, like the first son in the Gospel, than to be a person who says he will do God's will but never does. Best of all, of course, is to say 'yes' to God's will and then do it, like Mary, who pondered the word of God in her heart and carried it out.

*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, 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:**

24th & 25th September

**Loose**

£422.40

**Envelopes**

£312.60

**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 now open on Tuesdays-Fridays. On Tuesdays and Fridays there are different classes and on Wednesdays and Thursdays there are two playgroup sessions per day. For more information, please visit <https://stalbanstoddlers.com>

**Baptism Course:**

The next Baptism course will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October in the Parish Hall at 9am. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

**St Albans Primary School Open Day:**

For those who are interested to join Reception 2024, the open day will be on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November at 09:15am, 2pm & 6pm.

**Catechist training and Resource Day:**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of November at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School in Upminster from 10am to 03:30pm.

**First Holy Communion Programme 23-2024**

The next meeting for parents and Children will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7pm. Parents meet at the Church as usual and children at 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 commence this Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7:30pm in the Presbytery. Any Parishioner who wishes to support this group, is also invited to come along.

**Upminster Parish Mission:**

St Joseph's Upminster is holding a parish mission led by the Sion Community from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 8<sup>th</sup> October, coinciding with the centenary of the parish. The programme for each weekday includes Mass at 6.15pm followed by a free supper and a talk or service from 7.45pm. All welcome. For more information visit [stjosephschurchupminster.com](http://stjosephschurchupminster.com)

**Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School Open Evening**

The open evening for the 2024 admissions is this Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2023. Tours begin at 6pm. Headteachers address at 7.30pm. Parking for disabled guests only on site.

**Confirmation Programme:**

Forms are now available at the back of the Church for those wishing to make their Confirmation this year. If you wish to join the programme, please complete the form fully and bring it to your interview on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2023. Please sign up for a time on one of these dates – again, the sign-up sheet is at the back of the Church.

**R.I.P**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Cecilia O'Connor who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will take place this Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 11am. Her remains will be brought into the Church this Wednesday evening at 04:30pm. Please also pray for Cathy Driver who died recently, her funeral arrangement will be made later. May they rest in peace.

**Secondary School Forms**

Father Maurice will be signing Secondary school forms (for September 2024) on the 8<sup>th</sup> October from 5pm-7pm and then the 9<sup>th</sup> October from 6pm-7pm.

**Right to Life**

The Church commemorates our Guardian Angels this week. Let us ask Our Lord to direct our Guardian Angels to watch over and care for all of us, and particularly those who need special protection like little babies and children, and the unborn.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day**

The CAFOD Family Fast Day will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October and envelopes will be given out this week. Please return your envelopes to Church next week.

**Prisoners Sunday – 8<sup>th</sup> October**

There will be a second collection next week in aid of Prisoners Sunday which falls on the 8<sup>th</sup> October.

**BCYS Youth Mass:**

This takes place this Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October in Brentwood Cathedral at 6pm.