

MASS INTENTIONS
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 28 th October – Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Tony Eastman (R.I.P)
Sunday 29 th October – Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Toba Akinwumi & Family (Thanksgiving)
	11.00am	John Moody (R.I.P)
Monday 30 th October – Feria	9.00am	Hilda Dollisen (R.I.P)
Tuesday 31 st October – Feria	9.00am	Dr Cedric Magaway (R.I.P)
Wednesday 1 st November – All Saints	9.00am	Grace Egboh (Birthday Int)
	7.30pm	Eileen Jones (Int)
Thursday 2 nd November – All Souls	9:00am	Cathridna Bennett & Family
Friday 3 rd November – Feria	9.00am	Brian Popkin, Maria Formosa, Emmanuel Formosa & Alfreda Willis
Saturday 4 th November – St Charles Borromeo	9.00am	Thanksgiving

Thirtieth First Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 4 th November – Thirtieth First Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Chris Cullinan (R.I.P)
Sunday 5 th November – Thirtieth First Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Margaret & Bernard Hughes (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Alfredo Canlas (R.I.P)

Thought for this week:

In 1999, Pope John II challenged the whole Church to conversion, renewal, and reform in what he named a *new evangelisation*. The very core of this evangelisation, he said, is a fresh *encounter with Christ*. Not knowledge about Christ but a relationship with him. It is more important to know the teacher than his teaching. Nobody describes it better than Pope Benedict XVI in his profound words: *Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction*. Pope Francis says 'I never tire of repeating these words which bring us to the very heart of the Gospel.
– Fr Sean Smith



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



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Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
28th & 29th October 2023

Dear Friends,

The centre of the Christian life in Matthew's mind revolves around love, the love of God, neighbours and self. These are all interrelated and, on such love, all law and teaching are based. Love must be put into practice. The first reading makes it very plain that what God wants of us is not grandiose declarations of faith or impressive religious observances, but the very ordinary things of life like taking care of the weak and the orphaned, not exploiting the poor, welcoming and respecting the stranger.

When we realise that without these things our love of God is empty, then we are on the right track. We can begin to use the directions Jesus gives, we can follow his example and please God be welcomed by him into our heavenly inheritance. Religion is not something separate from the rest of life. God is very close to us – as close as our neighbours, as close as the person sitting next to you.

Practical Suggestion for the coming week

Spend some time thinking of all the ways God has shown his love for you. Thank him Spend some time thinking of the ways others show their love of you. Thank some of them for their love this week. Identify how you show your love for people and make a special effort this week to do something loving for someone you normally overlook.

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, Iwan 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:

21st & 22nd October

Loose

£603.62

Envelopes

£328.00

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 next Saturday 4th November 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 7th of November at 09:15am, 2pm & 6pm.

Catechist training and Resource Day:

Takes place on Saturday 4th of November at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School in Upminster from 10am to 3:30pm. It will be an opportunity to hear about fresh resources, as well as receiving input to assist you in your First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes.

First Holy Communion Programme 23-2024:

The next meeting for parents and Children will take place on 16th November 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 take place each Monday at 7:30pm in the Presbytery. Any Parishioner who wishes to support this group, is also invited to come along.

R.I.P

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Marquette who died recently. Her funeral will take place on Wednesday the 8th of November at 11.30am. Her remains will be brought into the Church on Tuesday the 7th of November at 5.00pm. May she rest in peace.

November is the month specially dedicated to prayer for our departed loved ones and all who have gone before us. If you would like the deceased members of your family remembered, please fill in the form at the back of the church and place it in the box, which will go on the Altar during November.

Christmas Bazaar:

This year's Christmas Bazaar, which is a combined St Alban's Catholic Primary School and Parish event, will be held at the parish centre on 25th November, running from 12pm until 3pm. Whilst we thank you for your kind donations so far, we still require donations of toiletries, bottles and toys and we thank you in advance for your kindness and consideration. Raffle tickets are to be sold after the 9am and 11am Masses this Sunday. There are many fantastic prizes this year and we hope you bag yourself a winning ticket. Forms remain at the back of the church if you wish to offer your assistance on the day or for the setup of the hall the day before. Alternatively please send your contact details to fosaastalbans@gmail.com. We very much look forward to seeing you, your family and friends, on the day, for some seasonal festivities and fun.

Walsingham House volunteer team:

Applications for the Walsingham House at Abbotswick volunteer retreat team are now open. If you are aged between 18-23 and are considering a gap year, then please consider the Walsingham House Team. For more information please see our website: <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

Tree of Angels

This November, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is pleased to re-launch their virtual **Tree of Angels** which will allow you to light up a symbolic angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of BCCS. Please visit www.bccs.org.uk and click on the Christmas tab where you will see 'Tree of Angels'. You can read more about this initiative and can click onto the Tree of Angels portal to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Damian dillon@bccs.org.uk.