

MASS INTENTIONS
Thirty 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)
Monday 6 th November – Feria	9.00am	Mary Kutty Chacko (R.I.P)
Tuesday 7 th November – Feria	9.00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 8 th November – Feria	9.00am	Phyilis Magoran (R.I.P)
Thursday 9 th November – Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	9:00am	Thanksgiving
Friday 10 th November – St Leo the Great	9.00am	John McMilligan
Saturday 11 th November – St Martin of Tours	9.00am	Dominic Capps (R.I.P)

Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 11 th November – Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Gerry Dique (R.I.P)
Sunday 12 th November – Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Alan Palmer (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Rose Berecz (R.I.P)

Thought for this week:

To be a saint is synonymous with being blessed, blissful, happy. Sanctity is the gift of God that fulfils all human aspirations; it is the fullness of the Christian life that consists in being united to Christ, learning to live as children of God with the grace of the Holy Spirit and living the perfection of charity. 'Holiness, the fullness of the Christian life consists in being united with Christ, in living his mysteries, in making our own his example, his thoughts, his behaviour. Holiness is measured by the stature that Christ attains in us, by the degree to which, with the power of the Holy Spirit, we model our whole life after his.' – Pope Benedict XVI



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



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St Alban's Primary School

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Head Teacher: Ms Gail McBride

Angela – Gift Aid Organiser

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Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
4th & 5th November 2023

Dear Friends,

In today's gospel Jesus has some harsh criticism to make of the scribes and Pharisees. He called them hypocrites, who preached one thing and did another. Which of us can truthfully say that our deeds always match our words? We cannot achieve either holiness or happiness by pretending to be what we are not. The moment we try to be what we are not we become unreal. Humility, on the other hand helps us to be ourselves and gives us the greatest freedom. Christ was able to see beneath the appearances.

He was able to see the inner person. What joy it gave him when he found a genuine person. When he met Nathanel he said, 'Here is a true Israelite, a man in whom there is not a trace of deceit or a shadow of pretence'. He gladly put up with Peter because he knew that in spite of his faults his heart was sound. He reached out to those who were lost, but who were desperately searching for something deeper, like the women at Jacob's well.

It caused him great sadness, however, to meet people like the Pharisees, people who were wasting their time on the exterior, and who had no time for the interior. It was St Thomas Merton who said, 'Many religious people are not saints because they never succeed in being themselves'. One of the ways the Lord supports us in living the gospel is through the community of faith. The Spirit is a work in each one of us. Our call is to keep learning from Christ our teacher, to be open to all he wants from us.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, deepen our faith that we may grow in your love and always serve you with generosity and a sincere heart. 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, Iivan 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:

28th & 29th October

Loose

£566.08

Envelopes

£417.65

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://stalbanscic.my.canva.site/>

Congratulations to our Toddler Group who are finalists in the Best Activity Class or Group for Under 5s in Havering! If you could help support them by voting at <https://www.mumsguideto.co.uk/romford/awards.php> Voting runs until 12th November.

Baptism Course:

The next Baptism course will take place on Saturday 2nd December in the Parish Hall at 9am. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

Horticultural Society

There will be a meeting of the Horticultural Society held in the Parish Centre on Saturday 11th November at 2.30pm – all are welcome.

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.

Job Vacancies

The Ursuline Academy Ilford, School Administrator:

Start: ASAP, Closing Date: noon, Friday 17 November 2023. For further information please visit: [//uai.org.uk/vacancies](http://uai.org.uk/vacancies)

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 this Wednesday the 8th of November at 11.30am. Her remains will be brought into the Church this 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.

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 ddillon@bccs.org.uk.

Right to Life

Let us pray for all those who are alone and suffering with a terminal illness in hospital or hospice care, that they might experience the love of Christ from their carers and that their suffering might be eased.

St Albans Primary School Open Day:

For those who are interested in joining Reception 2024, the open day will be this Tuesday the 7th of November at 09:15am, 2pm & 6pm.