

MASS INTENTIONS
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 11.00am	Alan Palmer (R.I.P) Rose Berecz (R.I.P)
Monday 13 th November – Feria	9.00am	Leonardo Roman (R.I.P)
Tuesday 14 th November – Feria	9.00am	Annemarie Ferry (Ints)
Wednesday 15 th November – Feria	9.00am	Repose of the Soul of the Father of Carol Williamson
Thursday 16 th November – St Edmund of Abingdon	9:00am	Holy Souls
Friday 17 th November – Feria	9.00am	Fr. Zachary D'Souza (R.I.P)
Saturday 18 th November – St Martin of Tours	9.00am	Ted Cummins (Int)

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 18 th November – Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Deacon Nichoas Holmes (Int)
Sunday 19 th November – Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am 11.00am	Henry Hughes (R.I.P) Special Intentions

Thought for this week:

Jesus tells us that there is a right time and a time when it will be too late. I ask God's help that I may realise what it is I might do now, how I might recognise the approaching bridegroom and welcome him. The lamp is given us by God and our prayer or time given to God is the oil. All of God's action in our lives is his gift, but it needs our openness and welcome. Prayer builds up our 'supple of oil', which can give light and fragrance to the rest of our lives. There is a time for preparation and a time for action. There is never a time for carelessness. I ask God to prepare me for the needs of this time. –

Sacred Space



ST ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Langdale Gardens RM12 5LA

PARISH PRIEST: Canon Maurice Gordon



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Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

11th & 12th November 2023

Dear Friends,

Many of us can picture the oil lamp. It was found in so many houses around the country before electricity came. There was a ritual almost in lighting the lamp on a winters evening, making sure that the match didn't touched the mantle, pumping up the oil to the right level to give a bright light, which filled the whole kitchen. With electrification, all it took was a flick of a switch, to give an even better light. However, many people held on to the old oil lamp and a drop of oil so that they would be ready when the electricity went off. There it stood, dusty and unused in some household corner, ready for an emergency.

Sometimes the gift of faith is treated in a similar fashion. Keeping faith in God or faith in people is not an easy thing to do. Something happens to us that doesn't fit into our understanding or expectation. The flame of faith can reduce to an ember. We can put it aside, like something from the past that no longer fits our life. Come a crisis and we fly to where we left it, but it's too weak to warm or light our path and there's no one to turn to.

It's a bit like that in today's Gospel. Be ready is the advice, hold on to some oil for the lamp. Be ready, for the Lord is coming and sometimes He comes in the dark. Keep your lamp trimmed and burning.

Prayer: We pray for the whole Church community. May we be alert to God's presence touching us and bringing us greater understanding of both his ways and ourselves.

**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, Fr Francis Coveney, 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:

4th & 5th November

Loose

£480.20

Envelopes

£360.80

WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY: – Is on the 26th of November 2023 the Feast of Christ the King. World Youth Day is a unique opportunity to celebrate the role and significance of young people in the Catholic Church, along with the global Church, and is celebrated each year on the feast of Christ the King. There will be a second collection for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service, and any money raised on will go towards supporting those in need of financial support to go on pilgrimages and to events, as well as allowing the BCYS to continue running events, such as the monthly Youth Masses, provide support and training to those working with young people and so much more. You will also see posters around the church with details on how you can get involved or donate online, and please pray for all our young people and those who work with them. To find out more about the work of the BCYS, please visit www.bcys.net

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/>

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.

BCYS YOUTH MASS: – Thursday 7th December 2023, 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral. Beginning with pizza & refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6pm, and an Advent Reconciliation service in the Cathedral before Mass. Youth Mass will then be celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish! No need to book, but do let us know if you have a group coming – just email info@bcys.net

First Holy Communion Programme 23-2024:

The next meeting for parents and Children will take place this Thursday 16th November 2023 at 7pm. Parents meet at the Church as usual and children in 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

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.

St. Albans Intake for Reception – September 2024

Father Maurice will be available to sign a Certificate of Catholic Practice on the 26th November from 5pm-7pm and again on Monday 27th November from 6pm-7pm.

Homes for Ukraine Matching Service

Caritas Social Action Network, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, are matching Ukrainian people displaced by the brutal war with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have room in your home and in your heart to consider welcoming a stranger displaced by war, then we'd love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk> for more information.

St Alban's Advent/Christmas Concert 2023

Our annual Advent/Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday 10 December at 5.45 pm in our Church. It will feature our Parish Choir, St Alban's School Choir, the Children's Choir, Instrumentalists and the South Indian Community Singers, who will entertain you with beautiful and popular Advent and Christmas music. This annual event has become very popular over the years, so please make sure you bring your family and friends along to enjoy the evening. There will also be an Advent Service on the first Sunday of Advent, 3rd December at 6.30pm at St Nicholas Church in Elm Park – all are invited.

Right to Life

Let pray for those soon expecting the arrival of a new baby, that labour and delivery would be uncomplicated and safe.