

**MASS INTENTIONS  
First Sunday of Advent (B)**

Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December – <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	6.30pm	Mick Webber (R.I.P)
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December – <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	9.00am	Teresa Jarrold
	11.00am	Eileen & Raymond Monie (R.I.P)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Monday of the First Week of Advent</b>	9.00am	Peg Cummings (R.I.P)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Tuesday of the First Week of Advent</b>	9.00am	Annamma Francis (R.I.P)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Wednesday of the First Week of Advent</b>	9.00am	Philip Oates (R.I.P)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>St Ambrose</b>	9:00am	Josie, Hans & Helmut Winter (R.I.P)
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	9.00am	Arun Jose (R.I.P)
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Saturday of the First Week of Advent</b>	9.00am	Fr Martin Fletcher (Int)

**Second Sunday of Advent (B)**

Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	6.30pm	In Thanksgiving
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	9.00am	Emilia Anene
	11.00am	Charles Owusu-Ansah (Int)

**Thought for this week: First Sunday of Advent**

Staying awake is not easy; it is really quite hard. At night, it is natural to sleep. Even Jesus' disciples did not manage to stay awake when told to stay awake. They did not keep watch. They fell asleep. But that same drowsiness can also overtake us. There is a dangerous kind of sleep: it is the slumber of mediocrity. It comes when we forget our first love and grow satisfied with indifference, concerned only for an untroubled existence. Without making an effort to love God daily and awaiting the newness he constantly brings, we become indifferent, lukewarm, worldly. When we come to Advent, we remember the promise that Christ has come and will come again, but we also remember that we are not ready to jump headlong into celebration. First, we must prepare and wait. – **Pope Francis**



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



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**First Sunday of Advent (B)  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**

Dear Friends,

Advent is God's rallying cry to his people before Christmas. Isaiah highlights how limited we are without the power of God, and he compares us to clay in the hands of a potter. He pleads with God to rescue us from our inadvertence to him. The Gospel cry of Jesus to be on our guard and to stay awake alerts us to the reality that self-interest always hinders our response to God. On the other hand, Paul is loud in his praise and thanks for the converts at Corinth who have responded so fully to God's gifts to them.

St Augustine in his life was restless and searching for meaning and it occurred to him when he closed his eyes in prayer, he discovered something deeper. He could see something, which he could not see with his bodily eyes. At this time, we are all tangled and twisted in this materialistic and confused world. So, Advent is a good time to reach out again to God, to allow Him to unravel the confusion of our lives. Jesus is calling each one of us by our name and we have to respond to his call. His question is 'Where are you?'

Together there is a pressing invitation to be attentive during these weeks to the wonder of God among us. Let us make space and time for him in prayer during this Advent season. It will be well rewarded.

**Prayer:**

Creator God, you rule the universe; you alone know the day and the hour when time will be no more. Accept our prayer on behalf of those in need. As we live out our appointed days, keep us mindful of your call to be faithful servants and to respond to the needs of your people. We pray this through Christ our Lord. **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, 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, 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), Clara Yankey and Nikhil Rao. For those we know and the many we do not know, we pray to the Lord.

**PARISH FINANCES:**

25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November

**Loose**

£489.87

**Envelopes**

£290.00

**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://stalbaniscic.my.canva.site/>

**Baptism Course:**

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

**BCYS YOUTH MASS:** – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@bcys.net)

Bookings are now open online for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. The pilgrimage is open to all those in school year 10-13 with all those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders (subject to attending a training weekend) All details and applications can be found on the website [www.bcys.net/events/sl24](http://www.bcys.net/events/sl24)

**Confirmation Programme**

The next session for the Confirmation programme will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm.

**First Holy Communion Programme 23-2024:**

The next meeting for parents and Children will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at 7pm.

**Walk with Me**

Walk with me is an Advent reflective prayer book. It could be a helpful tool for prayer during this season. On sale for £1 each at the back of the Church.

**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 also pray for the repose of the soul of Denis Doherty who died recently. His funeral will take place next Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 12:30pm. His remains will be brought into the Church this Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of December at 4.30pm. May he rest in peace.

**St Alban's Advent/Christmas Concert 2023:**

Our annual Advent/Christmas Concert will be held next Sunday 10 December at 5:45pm in our Church. It will feature our Parish Choir, St Alban's School Choir, the Children's Choir, Instrumentalists and the Nigerian Community Choir, 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 this Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.30pm at St Nicholas Church in Elm Park – all are invited.

**Right to Life:**

For all parents expecting a new child, that they might be blessed with a safe and healthy pregnancy for mother and baby.

**Bazaar:**

The Parish-School Bazaar was a tremendous success socially and financially. A very big 'thank you' to all who gave generously both in gifts and in support. We thank especially those who helped in the organisation of this event, all who manned the stalls and helped to prepare the hall and clear up afterwards. The whole afternoon was a team effort by all concerned. Your help and support are greatly appreciated. The amount raised was £2895.90. of which half will go to the school and the other half to the Parish.

**St Albans School Christmas Concert**

St Albans School will be holding their Christmas Concert in the Church on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of December at 6pm. All parishioners are welcome to come along and support the children in Years 3-6.

**Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2024**

These are now available for sale at the back of the Church. Prices are £2.95 each or £4.15 for the ring bound version.

**Job Vacancy**

The Ursuline Academy Ilford are looking for a Learning Support Assistant, starting ASAP, Closing Date: noon, Friday 15 December 2023. For further information please visit: [//uai.org.uk/vacancies](http://uai.org.uk/vacancies)