

MASS INTENTIONS
Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

Saturday 23 rd December – Fourth Sunday of Advent	6.30pm	The Boon Family (Int)
Sunday 24 th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent The Nativity of the Lord	9.00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)
	06:30pm	Frances Nolan (R.I.P)
	12:00am (Midnight)	Dora Corry (R.I.P)
	9.00am	Paul Tolhurst (R.I.P)
Monday 25 th December – Christmas Day	11:00am	Kathy & James Driver (R.I.P)
Tuesday 26 th December – St Stephen's Day	10.00am	Alfreda Willis (R.I.P)
Wednesday 27 th December – St John the Evangelist	9.00am	Comfort Afar (R.I.P)
Thursday 28 th December – The Holy Innocents	9:00am	Jibi & Sini - 25 th Wedding Anniversary
Friday 29 th December – St Thomas of Canterbury	9.00am	Clement Janganant (R.I.P)
Saturday 30 th December – Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas	9.00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (B)

Saturday 30 th December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	6.30pm	John Hughes (Int)
Sunday 31 st December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	9.00am	Thomas Mathew (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Michael Hemir (R.I.P)

Thought for Christmas week:

Great witnesses of faith inspire and encourage us. During this season we are of course drawn to Our Lady, St Joseph, St Francis of Assisi (the founder of the first nativity scene) and St Nicholas. Their outstanding witness of courage and self-sacrifice shines as a beacon of hope, pointing to no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. Most of us won't be called to make the ultimate sacrifice, but we are called to lay down our life in small acts of love and kindness. We are, if you like, silent witnesses, called to shine in the rhythm of daily living: going the extra mile, offering a kind word when a bitter or harsh one would be easier, forgiving not resenting. –

Walk with Me



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



Presbytery:

1 Ullswater Way, Elm Park, RM12 5JX

Tel: 01708451449

parishoffice@stalbansrcchurch.uk

Parish Deacon: Rev. Ken Carleton

kencarleton@brcdt.org

Mob: 07971 544921

Parish Website: <https://www.stalbansrcchurch.uk>

Fr. Joseph Farrell (Retired) – 2B, Langdale Gardens, RM12 5LA

Tel: 01708459709

St Alban's Primary School

Heron Flight Avenue, RM12 5LN

Tel: 01708 555644

Head Teacher: Ms Gail McBride

Angela – Gift Aid Organiser

Mobile: 07510 243188

Safeguarding Representatives

Mobile: 07957 131646/07896 639525

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)
23rd & 24th December 2023

Dear Friends,

As Christmas draws near let us remember that at the heart of all is Christ. He is God who comes to us as one of ourselves. He is the Lord who shares in our life so that we can share in His. Today in our Mass let us welcome Him with thanksgiving and joy.

Christmas Day:

The time has come for Mary to have her child, her time of waiting is ended. We, the Church, who have been praying "Come, Lord Jesus" today we celebrate the reality of His coming in history. The penitential purple of Advent gives way to the joyful white of Christmas. Our response to this day can only be that of the Shepherds who went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

Canon Maurice, Fr Joseph and Deacon Ken wish you and your family a grace-filled and peaceful Christmas, and every blessing for the New Year (2024).

**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:

16th & 17th December

Loose

£638.02

Envelopes

£386.10

Mother and Toddlers Group:

The last session for the Mothers and Toddlers group before Christmas will be this Thursday 21st December and will re-open next Wednesday 3rd January. For more information, please visit <https://stalbanscic.my.canva.site/> We thank Maria, Sarah and all of the staff who support our Mother and Toddlers group.

Baptism Course:

The next Baptism course will take place on Saturday 13th January in the Parish Hall at 9am. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

Brentwood Catholic Youth Service

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

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT: is taking place next Saturday 6th January, for anyone aged between 18 and 27 (having left school) to develop their faith and community as a young leader in the church.

FLAME 2025 tickets will be on sale soon and you can request yours now! (all details are in a previous email, please do get in touch if you need further information)

VOLUNTEER AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE for the academic year 2024/2025 – applications are now open for anyone currently in year 13 or above.

All information for the above can be found on their website – www.bcys.net

Confirmation Programme

The next session for the Confirmation programme will take place next Saturday 6th January at 4pm.

First Holy Communion Programme 23-2024:

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

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.

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.

RIP:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Catherine Fowley who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday the 16th of January at 12 noon. Followed by burial at the City of London Cemetery at 02:00pm. May she Rest in Peace.

Right to Life:

Today, with the Nativity of Christ in sight, our prayer focuses on expectant mothers. For all those going into labour now and in the next months, we pray for the safety and wellbeing of both mother and baby.

Our Lady said “Yes” to God’s plan for her pregnancy, and for the birth of the Child Jesus. Let us pray for all parents experiencing an unexpected pregnancy, that the Lord would give them the necessary graces to repeat Mary’s “Yes” for their new child.

St Albans Catholic Primary School

School finished on Tuesday the 19th of December for the Christmas holidays and they will return on Thursday the 4th of January. We wish all of our staff, teachers, children and families, all of God’s blessings.

The SVP are looking for volunteers willing to help children put their faith into action. Could this be you?

The St Vincent de Paul Society have primary school groups called Mini Vinnies, and volunteers would support teachers or youth leaders wishing to start a group in their school or parish. They will talk to children about how they can make a difference to those living in poverty and share resources to support the group. The role is flexible but does need people with some availability during school hours (at least 2 mornings or afternoons per month) who are willing to travel within the diocese (all costs are covered). If you are passionate about helping children discover how they can make a difference in their communities, please email Sarah for more information on youngvincentians@svp.org.uk. You do not have to have previous experience of working with children as all training will be given. Our next initial training day is on Tuesday 27th February 2024.

Retrouvaille: Do you need help in your Marriage?

Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8 – 11 February 2024 or there is a Face-to-Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14 – 16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com – or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk