

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**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 11.00am	Emilia Anene Charles Owusu-Ansah (Int)
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Monday of the Second Week of Advent</b>	9.00am	Peg Cummings (R.I.P)
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent</b>	9.00am	Brigid Barulis (R.I.P)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>St Lucy</b>	9.00am	Philip Oates (R.I.P)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>St John of the Cross</b>	9.00am	Michael Kelly (R.I.P)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Friday of the Second Week of Advent</b>	9.00am	Theresa Carty (R.I.P)
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Saturday of the Second Week of Advent</b>	9.00am	Eileen Jonas (Int)

**Third Sunday of Advent (B)**

Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	6.30pm	Francis Patros (R.I.P)
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	9.00am 11.00am	Brian Popkin (R.I.P) Deceased relatives of the Borg & Abela families

**Thought for the second week of Advent: Forgiveness**

Alexander Pope said, 'To err is human; to forgive divine.'  
 Forgiveness isn't easy. In fact, it is impossible without grace.  
 Forgiveness is a great idea until you actually need to forgive. Think of someone who has grievously hurt or offended you. Then think of offering them unconditional and complete forgiveness. It doesn't come easily or naturally. Resentment is a bitter pill yet easier to swallow. How do we forgive? Firstly, we pray, 'Lord, I can't possibly forgive that person'. The next step, 'Lord, forgive me, heal my anger and resentment so I may forgive from the heart and be set free.' We forgive more readily when we know we are forgiven. *Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, for in receiving forgiveness, they forgive.* – **Walk with Me**



**ST ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER**

Langdale Gardens RM12 5LA

PARISH PRIEST: Canon Maurice Gordon



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**Second Sunday of Advent (B)**

**10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Dear Friends,

Advent is an invitation to conversion and John the Baptist gives us some down-to-earth advice on how to change our lives for the better. He talks about filling in valleys of prejudice, levelling down mountains of pride and straightening out our crooked paths of justice.

Today we ask ourselves what in our lives needs a complete turnaround to allow God to come close to us. This time of Advent brings home to us the need to make a fresh start if only to prevent spiritual drift.

Preparing a way for God in our hearts is a time-consuming and costly business. It demands listening to what God is saying to us and, if necessary, acting upon it by making changes in our behaviour. Welcoming God involves removing all blockages and obstacles, which prevent him from coming close. Preparing a way for the Lord may mean walking a new path. As St Augustine said, "The God who created us without any involvement on our part will not save us unless we cooperate with him in freedom". God wants to come close to us but will not impose himself; he does not force an entry into our lives but waits to be invited.

**Prayer:**

We remember in prayer all the people whose lives are sad and unfulfilled; that they may sense the presence of the Lord and welcome him into their heart.

**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, Iivan 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:**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> December

**Loose**

£618.41

**Envelopes**

£279.00

**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 on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.bcys.net/events/sl24)

**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT:** is taking place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.bcys.net)

**Confirmation Programme**

The next session for the Confirmation programme will take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 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.

**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.

**R.I.P**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patrick Waters who died recently. His funeral will take place at South Essex Crematorium next Tuesday 12 December at 3pm. May he rest in peace.

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

Our annual Advent/Christmas Concert will be held this 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.

**Tree of Angels**

This weekend, please take an angel for the Tree of Angels which will be placed at the back of the Church. Please pray for someone you'd like to remember during this Christmas period. The tree will be placed on the Sanctuary over Christmas time.

**Right to Life:**

Let us pray for our politicians and decision-makers, that they would always strive to protect all human life and human dignity from the point of conception till natural death.

**St Albans School Christmas Concert**

St Albans School will be holding their Christmas Concert in the Church this 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.

**Altar Servers Meeting:**

The meeting for the altar servers will take place next Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December at 4pm. It is important that all servers attend as we organise the rota for the Christmas Services.