

## MASS INTENTIONS

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

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>	6.30pm	John Hughes (Int)
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December – <b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>	9.00am	Thomas Mathew (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Michael Hemir (R.I.P)
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January – <b>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</b>	9.00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January – <b>Ss Basil the great and Gregory Nazianzen</b>	9.00am	Bill Shorey (R.I.P)
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January – <b>Feria of Christmas Time</b>	9.00am	Catherine Bennet & Family
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Feria of Christmas Time</b>	9:00am	Gerard McMahon (Int)
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Feria of Christmas Time</b>	9.00am	Tom Gorham (R.I.P)
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Feria of Christmas Time</b>	9.00am	Salvatore Spadafora

### The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	6.30pm	Mary Doherty (R.I.P)
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	9.00am	Lesley & Matilda Wilks
	11.00am	Paddy byrnes (R.I.P)

### Family prayer for the New Year:

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of a new year. We pray that you will guide us and bless us throughout this year. We ask that you help us to grow in faith, hope, and love. May we be a light to others and share your love with those around us. We pray for peace in our homes, our communities, and our world. May we be instruments of your peace and work towards justice and reconciliation. We pray for those who are suffering, that they may find comfort and healing. We pray for those who are lost, that they may find their way. Keep our family in your care today, tonight and always. **Amen.**

– Fr Paul Clayton-Lea



## ST ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Langdale Gardens RM12 5LA

PARISH PRIEST: Canon Maurice Gordon



### Presbytery:

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Tel: 01708451449

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Parish Deacon: Rev. Ken Carleton

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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

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

30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Dear Friends,

Today we continue to think about the mystery of God coming close to us. Jesus was born into a human family, in a particular culture, and so knows all our limitations from, as it were, the inside. It is because Jesus knows us through and through that he can sympathise with us in our weakness, and we can have confidence in calling him for his mercy. This is also the last day of the year – we are thinking of endings and new beginning – and again we think of how we need both forgiveness for the silly things we have said and done in 2023 and ask for a new start in 2024.

### Prayer:

Lord, we believe in you: increase our faith. We trust in you; strengthen our trust. We love you: let us love you more and more. We are sorry for our sins: deepen our sorrow. We worship you as our first beginning, we long for you as our end, we praise you as our constant helper, and call on you as our loving protector. Guide us by your wisdom, correct us with your justice, comfort us with your mercy, and protect us with your power. **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.

**Mother and Toddlers Group:**

Mothers and Toddlers group will re-open this Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. For more information, please visit <https://stalbanescic.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 next 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 this 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 this Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm.

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

The next meeting for parents and Children will take place next Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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:**

Let us pray for all those worried about not having the resources to support their new baby, that they would have the faith of Mary and Joseph that God will provide and watch over them.

**St Albans Catholic Primary School**

School finished on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December for the Christmas holidays, and they will return this Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of January. We wish all of our staff, teachers, children and families, all of God's blessings for the New Year 2024.

**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](mailto: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 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) – or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)