

MASS INTENTIONS
The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

Saturday 6 th January – The Epiphany of the Lord	6.30pm	Mary Doherty (R.I.P)
Sunday 7 th January – The Epiphany of the Lord	9.00am 11.00am	Lesley & Matilda Wilks Paddy Byrnes (R.I.P)
Monday 8 th January – The Baptism of the Lord	9.00am	Joaquim Lobo (R.I.P)
Tuesday 9 th January – Feria	9.00am	Margaret & John Conway, Ellen & Jack Fennessy
Wednesday 10 th January – Feria	9.00am	Ann O'Connell (R.I.P)
Thursday 11 th January – Feria	9:00am	Patrick Jordan (R.I.P)
Friday 12 th January – Feria	9.00am	Anthony Staunton
Saturday 13 th January – Feria	9.00am	Father Maurice Gordon (Int)

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Saturday 13 th January – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Christine Johnson (R.I.P)
Sunday 14 th January – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am 11.00am	Anne Palme (Int) Geraldine, Helen & Tom Patterson

A prayer for Family:

Heavenly Father, please shine your light upon my family. Give us strength to overcome all of the difficulties that we are dealing with now and protect us against any and all problems we may encounter in the future. O Lord, please bring us together as we are meant to be. May the love that binds us only grow stronger as we fulfil the destiny you have laid out for us. Grant my family forgiveness for any sins we have committed. May we also forgive one another Lord, as it is sometimes difficult to do. We want to live in peace with you and one another. May the blessings of this Christmas strengthen us to face this New Year 2024 with courage and perseverance. Grant this through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**



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



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The Epiphany of the Lord (B)
6th & 7th January 2024

Dear Friends,

Today is our special day of celebration. We give thanks because Jesus came not just to his own people, but to all of us. The wise men who come from afar represent ourselves, the outsiders discovering their true home.

We too can make complicated journeys to God. Some of us begin quite close to him in families of faith and then drift away through the distractions and complexities of life. We lose the light and get ourselves into dreadful muddles which involve others as well as ourselves. Others of us, start out without much enlightenment anyway and only gradually stagger from the darkness. Others of us again are so confident, that we own the light, that we fail to see that it is but the false light of our own pride and self-righteousness. For all of us, the Magi are reassuring patrons. Not only do they give us courage to continue our pursuit, but they also console us that at the end of the day, we will be acceptable. We will learn to praise and do homage. And our particular gifts, whatever they are, will be acceptable.

The feast of the Magi reminds us that all nations are called to share in Christ's glory. We are still learning what that means in terms of our acceptance as individuals and our acceptance as different human races and cultures, but the final point remains that we are all acceptable on our knees at the crib.

BLESSING

May the Father reveal to you the glory of his love. May the Son help you find your way to his true light. May the Spirit lift your hearts and kindle your hopes.

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 has now reopened. For more information, please visit <https://stalbanisc.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 this Saturday 13th January in the Parish Hall at 9am. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

Confirmation Programme

The next session for the Confirmation programme will take place on Saturday 20th January 2024.

First Holy Communion Programme 23-2024:

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

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 ADULTS:

FLAME 2025 tickets will be on sale soon and you can request yours now!
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

Lost Jewellery

If you found a crucifix after Mass last weekend, could you please hand it in to Father Maurice or Anne Palmer.

Thank You

We would like to thank all of those who made our Christmas celebrations, such joyful events. We thank Nigel and the Parish choir and St Albans School for their participation in the 6.30 Mass on Christmas Eve and we also thank Michelle for leading the Choir at the 11 o'clock on Christmas Day. We also thank all those who participated in preparing the Church beforehand or taking part in the Masses, the cleaners, the flower arrangers, altar servers, readers, Eucharist ministers and the stewards and all of those who came to join in the celebrations. Canon Maurice would like to thank all parishioners for all of their cards, presents and generous Christmas offerings.

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 begins again this Monday the 8th of January 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 next Tuesday the 16th of January at 12 noon. Followed by burial at the City of London Cemetery at 2:00pm. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Carmelina Earp who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will take place next Thursday 18th January 2024 at 2.00pm followed by a committal service at South Essex Crematorium at 3.30pm. May they Rest in Peace.

Right to Life:

As we begin this new year, we pray for all who may be considering an abortion. We pray that we will see a decrease in cases of abortion, and instead a year of increased support, both practical and emotional, from all of us in society, bettering the care for all expectant mothers. Pro-abortion MPs, Stella Creasy and Diana Johnson, have tabled two extreme abortion amendments in an attempt to hijack the Criminal Justice Bill. Right To Life UK has launched a tool on its website that makes it easy for you to email your MP to ask them to oppose the two extreme abortion up to birth amendments and sign Early Day Motion 131 to stop abortion pills being sent out without an in-person medical appointment. Please visit <https://righttolife.org.uk/abortionamendments> to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds.

Health and safety and fire precautions:

Last year a fire risk assessment was carried out. This was done by the health and safety consultants used by the diocese. Every parish in the diocese is involved. A number of requirements were highlighted, and most have been carried out. One however was the provision and training of fire marshals. The duties are not onerous but will ensure the ongoing safety of parishioners and the premises. A 45-minute training video has been provided by the H & S consultants, which covers, fire safety, evacuation, good housekeeping and use of fire extinguishers. If anyone is interested in assisting with this important role, could they let Fr Maurice or myself know or sign the sheet in the church porch leaving contact details. Once numbers are known a training session will be arranged. This could be done at a convenient time to everyone. Weekday evening, Saturday or Sunday during the day. Please let us know your preference. Frank

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

Congratulations to Father Joseph who celebrates 50 years of priesthood. Fr Joseph will celebrate Mass in thanksgiving on Friday the 19th of January 2024 at St Mary's Church Hornchurch. All are welcome. He was ordained there by Bishop Casey on the 19th of January 1974. Many blessings for the future.