

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	6.30pm	Christine Johnson (R.I.P)
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am 11.00am	Anne Palme (Int) Geraldine, Helen & Tom Patterson
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January – Feria	9.00am	Nikhil Rao (Int)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January – Feria	9.00am	Joe O’Sullivan (R.I.P)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>St Antony Ab</b>	9.00am	Leandra O’Sullivan (R.I.P)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January – Feria ( <i>Octave of prayer for Christian Unity – 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January</i> )	9:00am	Onodu Family
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January – Feria	9.00am	Josie Keane (R.I.P)
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> January – Feria	9.00am	Fr Richard Moroney (R.I.P)

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	6.30pm	Maureen & Noreen Walsh (R.I.P)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> January – <b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am 11.00am	Kathy & James Dwyer (R.I.P) Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)

**Thought for the Week:**

The sacrament of Reconciliation, or Confession, for me is a humbling experience. I simply have to recognise that I have faults. I have fault lines that run through me causing things to happen that I’d prefer not to happen. The sacrament is basically me handing all these matters over to God and asking for his grace as I live with my faults. The only good thing about them is that they throw me back on God’s love. *“The sacraments are all to do with the physical celebrations by which divine life penetrates our human histories”.*

– Alan Hilliard



**ST ALBAN’S PARISH NEWSLETTER**

Langdale Gardens RM12 5LA

PARISH PRIEST: Canon Maurice Gordon



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**The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**  
**13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Dear Friends,

Relationship is at the heart of our Scriptures today. We listen in on the spiritual awakening of Samuel in the Temple in our first reading. He is called by his name, spoken to in his personhood. His dignity and vocation are awakened, and it is the task of the older generation, represented by the priest, Eli, to help him to understand who he is and who he is called to be and what it means to be a servant of the living God. It’s easy in our culture to hear Paul’s call to purity as an exercise in prudishness, with the Apostle as kill-joy, denying people their fun. But actually, he’s inviting them, once again, to embrace their dignity. He’s asking us at what level we wish to live. Stuff, images, cheap tricks, highs – these are never going to help us to live well in God’s world. They are certainly never going to empower us to engage with the needs of our broken world in any mature way, because they are mere distractions, evasions of responsibility, compensations for life’s disappointments. ‘But you are the Temple of the Holy Spirit!’ insists St Paul. AI is no substitute for real relationships, real love, real life. ‘That is why you should use your body’ – by which Paul means your whole self – ‘for the glory of God’. And then we come to one of the great encounters in all literature, the meeting of Jesus with those two disciples of John the Baptist, who set off after him, perhaps without even knowing why they did so. ‘What are you looking for?’ he asks. ‘Where do you live?’ they stammer in reply. And so the story begins, a story which includes their recognition of him, not only as Teacher but as Messiah, a story in which they find their true identity in listening to his voice. ‘You are Cephas – meaning rock,’ Jesus tells Simon. He wants to speak to our hearts, too. He wants to tell us who we really are and who we are really called to be. He wants to enter into dialogue with us – not like some AI chatbot at a call-centre but as a living, loving Lord, speaking heart-to-heart with his brothers and sisters. There’s nothing fake here.

**Prayer**

As the Spirit descended like a dove on your Son at his baptism, so grant that the same Dove of Peace may open up paths to a just peace for all in our world today. We ask 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 Dumbrill 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://stalbaniscic.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 10<sup>th</sup> February 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 next Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

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

The next meeting for parents and Children will take place next Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at 7pm.

**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 takes place each Monday at 7:30pm in the Presbytery. Any Parishioner who wishes to support this group, is also invited to come along.

**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 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](http://www.bcys.net)

**Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School - Personal Assistant to The Headteacher**

Salary: Scale 5 points 12-15 (£30,036 - £31,443 pro rata) (Actual £27,011 - 28,276). Hours: 36 per week (Term time + 2 weeks). Contract type: Term Time + 2 Weeks /fixed contract Closing date for applications 24th January 2024. For more information please contact 01708 222660 or e-mail: [admin@mary.havering.sch.uk](mailto:admin@mary.havering.sch.uk)

**RIP:**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Catherine Fowley who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will take place this Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 this Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 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:**

We pray for the families and friends of pregnant women. That they would recognise their responsibility to care for the mother and child, and that they would shower them with love and support through the journey of pregnancy and beyond.

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

***Congratulations to Father Joseph who celebrates 50 years of priesthood. Fr Joseph will celebrate Mass in thanksgiving this Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 at 09:15am at St Mary's Church Hornchurch. All are welcome. He was ordained there by Bishop Casey on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 1974. Many blessings for the future.***