

MASS INTENTIONS
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Saturday 20 th January – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Maureen & Noreen Walsh (R.I.P)
Sunday 21 st January – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am 11.00am	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P) Kathy & James Driver (R.I.P)
Monday 22 nd January – Feria	9.00am	John Tubman Family (Int)
Tuesday 23 rd January – Feria	9.00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
Wednesday 24 th January – St Francis de Sales	9.00am	Bridie Donnelly (R.I.P)
Thursday 25 th January – The Conversion of St Paul	9:00am	Maria Olivia (Int for health)
Friday 26 th January – Ss Timothy & Titus	9.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday 27 th January – Feria	9.00am	Eileen Jonas

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Saturday 27 th January – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Mary Ahern (R.I.P)
Sunday 28 th January – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am 11.00am	Susan Williams (R.I.P) John O'Keane (R.I.P)

Thought for the Week:

There is a winter in all of our lives, a chill and darkness that makes us yearn for days that have gone or put our hope in the days yet to be. We need a winter in our lives, like nature around us, a time of rest, a time to stand still, a time to reacquire ourselves with the faith in which we live. It is only then that we can draw strength from the one in whom we are rooted, it takes time to grow and rise through the darkness into the warm glow of your springtime. – www.marquette.edu



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

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
20th & 21st January 2024

Dear Friends,
There was a story in a magazine recently about a woman who battled through from being addicted to tranquillizers to rebuilding her life. Stories like that fascinate us because we know how difficult it is to change our lives.

One of the challenges of Christian faith is that it seems as if God is always saying to us 'you can change, you can grow'. We have to admit that we do need to change. In most of our lives, there is room for improvement.

In today's Gospel, Simon and Andrew found Jesus' invitation so compelling that they changed their lives in an instant. But that was only the beginning. They still had a long road of understanding and growing to travel. As Jesus' disciples today, we need their courage.

Questions for Personal reflection: In what way would I like to change and grow?

Question for sharing: Are there any ideas or attitudes we need to leave behind to be better disciples?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, direct the minds of those called to make crucial choices in their lives. Give them an understanding heart, sound Judgment and a burning desire to do what pleases you. We make our prayer through Christ or 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, Julia Stokes, Teresa Shorey, John Sinclair, Charles Stimpson, Crystal Stimpson, Julia Thomas, Theresa Wiseman, Elizabeth Wyles, Jay Spencer, Irene (Evelyn's sister), Clara Yankey and Dr Nikhil Rao. For those we know and the many we do not know, we pray to the Lord.

PARISH FINANCES:

13th & 14th January

Loose

£505.68

Envelopes

£336.50

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 10th 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 on Saturday 3rd of February 2024 starting at 11:30am. This is the day of retreat for all our candidates.

First Holy Communion Programme 23-2024:

The next meeting for parents and Children will take place this Thursday the 25th 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

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

Job Vacancies:

- Deputy Headteacher – St Anne Line Catholic Infant School & Nursery, Basildon
Deadline for applications: 4:00 pm, Friday 26th January 2024
- Headteacher – St Francis Primary School, Maldon
Deadline for applications: 4:00 pm, Friday 26th January 2024
- Headteacher – St Patrick's Primary School, Collier Row
Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Monday 12th February 2024

RIP:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Toufica (Philomena) Griffin who died recently. Her funeral arrangements will be made later. May she Rest in Peace.

Right to Life:

For all going through difficult pregnancies, we pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be given by their family, friends, and local communities.

Second Collection:

There will be second collection today taken up for the society for the protection of unborn children.

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

Christian Unity Service on 21st of January:

There will be a service for all our Churches this evening at St Albans at 06:30pm. All are welcome. Please join us if you can as we come together with our brothers and sisters to pray and share faith and hospitality