

**MASS INTENTIONS
First Sunday of Lent (B)**

Saturday 17 th February – First Sunday of Lent	6.30pm	Chris Jordan (R.I.P)
Sunday 18 th February – First Sunday of Lent	9.00am 11.00am	Charles Stimpson (R.I.P) Dean Wheeler
Monday 19 th February – Monday of the First Week of Lent	9.00am	Sheila Watson (R.I.P)
Tuesday 20 th February – Tuesday of the First Week of Lent	9.00am	David Jones (R.I.P)
Wednesday 21 st February – Wednesday of the First Week of Lent	9.00am	Donald Maclean (Int)
Thursday 22 nd February – The Chair of St Peter the Apostle Feast	9:00am	Maria Concetta Formosa (R.I.P)
Friday 23 rd February – Friday of the First Week of Lent	9.00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
Saturday 24 th February – Saturday of the First Week of Lent	9.00am	Lena Brown (R.I.P)

Second Sunday of Lent (B)

Saturday 24 th February – Second Sunday of Lent	6.30pm	Mary Hyde (R.I.P)
Sunday 25 th February – Second Sunday of Lent	9.00am 11.00am	The Holmes Family Denis Doherty (R.I.P)

Prayer for the Week – Prayer for Victims of Abuse:

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your Son to save us by his blood on the cross. Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them. Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters who have been gravely harmed, and the cries of those who love them. Soothe their restless hearts with hope, steady their shaken spirits with faith. Grant them justice for their cause, enlightened by your truth. Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labours. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in Justice. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. **Amen.**



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



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**First Sunday of Lent (B)
17th & 18th February 2024**

Dear Friends,

This Sunday we start our Lenten journey to Easter. It is a time of prayer, reflecting on all God has done for us especially through the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is also a time of penance when we try to turn away from the roots of our sinfulness and in doing so, we grow in the life of Love. In Today's gospel we see Christ in the desert struggling with the tempter.

Through prayer, fasting and fidelity to the word of God he emerges victorious. We all have to face temptations. Lent provides us with a great opportunity to intensify our efforts to overcome them. This requires a turning away from ourselves and a turning to others in love.

Lent is about letting the victory of Christ begin to happen in us. We are reminded that we are never alone in our struggles. The change of heart to which Lent calls us can be accomplished, most of all through the power of prayer.

Prayer:

Lord, each spring you renew the face of the Earth. May you also renew each of us, so that we may be able to celebrate Easter in newness of mind and heart.

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, Mary Gallet, 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, Dean Partleton, Michelle Pointer, Baby Teddy Rands, Dr Nikhil Rao, 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, Julia Thomas, Bernie Whoriskey, Elizabeth Wyles, Jay Spencer, Irene (Evelyn's sister) and Clara Yankey. For those we know and the many we do not know, we pray to the Lord.

PARISH FINANCES:

10th & 11th February

Loose

£477.12

Envelopes

£672.30

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 9th March 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 2nd of March 2024 at 4:00pm.

First Holy Communion Programme 23-2024:

The next meeting for parents and Children will take place on Thursday the 29th February 2024 at 7pm.

Journey in Faith Programme (RCIA):

This Sunday at the Cathedral in Brentwood, we have what is known as the Rite of Election for those people who are hoping to be received into full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. In this celebration the Candidates from our diocese will be presented to the Bishop. We the Parish Community pray for our Seven Catechumens: Martin Deme, Harry Betts, Veronika Urszin, Antonia Moafi-Jozani, Precious Edobor, Sinead Loughnane and Alan Driver. We are asked to encourage and support them with our love and example.

Dates for your Diary:

- 18th February 2024: Rite of Election at Brentwood Cathedral
- 26th February 2024: St Albans Primary School reopens after Half-term
- 16th of March 2024: St Patricks Variety Show at St Albans Parish Hall at 7:30pm

Young Adults:

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 Peter's Primary School, Romford](#)
Deadline for applications: 09:00 am, Monday 26th February 2024
- [Headteacher - St Thomas More Primary School, Saffron Walden](#)
Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Monday 26th February 2024
- [Headteacher - St Joseph's Primary School, Harwich](#)
Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Wednesday 28th February 2024
- [Deputy Headteacher - Convent High School, Grays](#)
Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Friday 8th March 2024

RIP:

Please pray for Lily Cordina who died recently. Her funeral will take place on the 1st of March at 12pm. May she Rest in Peace.

Right to Life:

We pray for our society. That we would promote a culture that values life, and that we would seek the protection of all humans from conception to natural death.

Diocesan Pilgrimage 2024:

Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Friday 19 – Friday 26 July). To book, please go online: [Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours \(tangney-tours.com\)](http://Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com)) If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please e-mail Kathryn Young: kathrynyoung@mail.com

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

Stations of the Cross:

To help us in our Lenten journey we have our Stations of the Cross this Friday at St Albans Church at 07:30pm.

Pro-Life Amendment:

This week you will receive a postcard for you to sign and to send to your local MP to support the amendment to change the abortion time limit from 24 to 22 weeks in England and Wales. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

SJOG Homes for Ukraine:

As an official provider of the government scheme, SJOG Homes for Ukraine acts as a matching, training, and support pathway for guests from Ukraine and hosts in the UK who are willing to provide much-needed support. Our programme operates collaboratively with the esteemed Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN). At SJOG Homes for Ukraine, we offer a range of services to ensure fulfilling experience for both guests and hosts. These services include matching, training for hosts and guests, transportation assistance, a Welcome Box for Ukrainian guests upon arrival, and support during the placement.