

MASS INTENTIONS
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	The Holmes Family
	11.00am	Denis Doherty (R.I.P)
Monday 26 th February – Monday of the Second Week of Lent	9.00am	Onodu Family (Int)
Tuesday 27 th February – Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent	9.00am	O'Neill Family (Int)
Wednesday 28 th February – Wednesday of the Second Week Of Lent	9.00am	Tim & Margaret O'Leary
Thursday 29 th February – Thursday of the Second Week of Lent	9:00am	John & Ellen Stewart
Friday 1 st March – St David	9.00am	Francis Dique (Int)
Saturday 2 nd March – Saturday of the Second Week of Lent	9.00am	In Thanksgiving

Third Sunday of Lent (B)

Saturday 2 nd March – Third Sunday of Lent	6.30pm	John Black (R.I.P)
Sunday 3 rd March – Third Sunday of Lent	9.00am	Mgs Canon H Turner
	11.00am	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)

Thought for the Week:

I desire neither death nor life. Were the Lord to offer me a choice, I would not choose. I will only do what he wills, and I am pleased with whatever he does. I have no fear of the last struggle, or of any pain, however great, which my illness may bring. God has always been my help; he has led me by the hand since I was a child, and I count on him now. Even though suffering should reach its furthest limits, I am certain he will never forsake me. – **St Therese of Lisieux**



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



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Second Sunday of Lent (B)
24th & 25th February 2024

Dear Friends,

Have you ever taken on a commitment without understanding fully what was in store for you, and found yourself really stretched? Sometimes loving a partner or a child can feel like that.

Our faith may also feel like that at times. It is not easy to understand what it means for our lives. In today's Gospel, the disciples don't really understand the meaning of what happens to Jesus in the moment when they see him transfigured. They are not ready for the mystery of Christ's death and raising to glory. They have yet to discover what it means for them.

During this Lent, there are many people making a special effort to find and understand Christian faith, in 'Have Another Look' groups as well as through the RCIA and other ways. They deserve our support and prayers. They remind us that we all struggle to understand sometimes, or don't feel ready to respond to all that faith asks of us.

Prayer:

Let us pray for the courage to deepen our faith, especially when we don't understand or when the demands it makes, seem too great. We pray too for all those who are enquirers or candidates for sacraments during this Lent and ask that they may find and treasure the light of faith. **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, Fiona Forder, 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:

17th & 18th February

Loose

£454.76

Envelopes

£325.55

Mother and Toddlers Group:

Mothers and Toddlers group has now reopened. For more information, please visit <https://stalbanscic.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 next Saturday 2nd of March 2024 at 4:00pm.

First Holy Communion Programme 23-2024:

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

Journey in Faith Programme (RCIA):

Last Sunday at the Cathedral in Brentwood, we welcomed over 200 candidates from the parishes in our Diocese in a ceremony called the 'Rite of Election'. We congratulate Martin Deme, Veronika Urszin, Antonio Moafi-Jozani, Precious Edobor, Sinead Loughnane and Alan Driver on reaching this stage. They are now called the Elect as they go forward to be received into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Dates for your Diary:

- 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
- 27th of March 2024: Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral at 11am. Coach leaves St Albans at 09:30am.

Job Vacancies:

- [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

St Patricks Celebration & International Variety Show

Tickets for the St Patricks night celebration will be on sale next week after all Masses. Prices for tickets are £5 adult and £3 for children (Under 16).

Congratulations

Congratulations to Francesca Joyce & Thomas Carter who were married on the Thursday 22nd February at Our Lady Immaculate, Chelmsford. We wish them both all of God's blessings for their future happiness and wellbeing.

RIP:

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

Right to Life:

We pray for all considering abortion. We pray that the love and kindness of those around them would support pregnant women everywhere to continue with their pregnancy and find peace and joy in what the future holds.

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 \(tangney-tours.com\)](#) 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 next Friday at St Nicholas Church, RM12 4PY, at 07:30pm. We join with our sisters and brothers in the Spirit of Ecumenism on alternative Fridays.

Pro-Life Amendment:

Last week you received 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.

Justice and Peace Group:

Recently we set up a Justice and Peace group. The first initiative of this group was the Lenten Calander which was handed out 2 weeks ago before Ash Wednesday. The Calander invites each of us to collect items for the Rainham food bank then, in the weekend before Holy Week, the items should be put in the porch of the church to be collected. Next meeting will take place on 20th of March at 7pm in the Church's meeting room. Everybody is welcome!

CAFOD:

The envelopes for the family fast day did not come last week, but next Sunday they will be given out at the end of all Masses.