

MASS INTENTIONS
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Saturday 3 rd February – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Clement Janganant & Liam McDonald (R.I.P)
Sunday 4 th February – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am 11.00am	Michael Palmer (R.I.P) Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)
Monday 5 th February – St Agatha	9.00am	Patricia Dias Ferrira (R.I.P)
Tuesday 6 th February – St Paul Miki and Comps	9.00am	Deacon Anthony Clark (R.I.P)
Wednesday 7 th February – Feria	9.00am	Lar Fennessy (Int)
Thursday 8 th February – Feria	9:00am	Larry Watson (R.I.P)
Friday 9 th February – Feria	9.00am	Bill Hudson (R.I.P)
Saturday 10 th February – St Scholastica	9.00am	Peter Watson (R.I.P)

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Saturday 10 th February – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Martin & Margaret Loftus
Sunday 11 th February – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am 11.00am	Gillian Christine (R.I.P) Angela & John Quinlan (R.I.P)

Thought for the Week:

The same Christ who prayed in lonely places said: “when you pray, go into your room, and pray to your Father in secret”. We should not imagine then that the lonely place is necessarily a place far away, or that by room he means four walls that separate us physically from others. The room is the room within ourselves. It is the room of our innermost heart, where our plans are hatched, where our hopes reside, where our true self is to be found. This room is with us at all times. We carry it around wherever we go. We should make it a place where we can retreat, a home where we find rest and spiritual recovery when ‘the world is too much with us’. Then we will make an exciting discovery that the inner room is not empty after all but is occupied by the God of love who dwells in us all. – **Fr Flor Mc Carthy SDB**



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



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The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
3rd & 4th February 2024

Dear Friends,

In today's Gospel Jesus goes off to a deserted place to pray. After a hectic day he felt the need for quiet to ground himself once more. In the busyness of life how do you keep in touch with what is going on inside yourself? How do you keep in touch with God? Where do you find your 'deserted place'? What difference does it make for you when you do succeed in taking time out? Jesus shows himself as a person seeking to break new ground. The disciples want him to continue ministry where he is. He wants to move on. What has been your experience of breaking new ground, moving beyond your comfort zone or trying something you had not tried before? When has this had a life-giving effect for you? Like Jesus some of our days can be mental and hectic. They can leave us worn out. As Jesus showed, the best remedy is prayer, meditation and reflection.

Regardless of how dark it may seem Jesus never leaves us. He may withdraw but that does not mean he is absent. His withdrawing is in reality an invitation for us to move to a new place, to the deserted place. He calls us out of the comfort of the house into the vulnerability of the wilderness. It is a deserted and desolate place; a place where there is only prayer.

Prayer:

Almighty Father, watch over your family, protect us and keep us in your care for all our hope is in you. 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 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, 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:

27th & 28th January

Loose

£578.73

Envelopes

£361.80

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 this 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 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 8th February 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.

Dates for your Diary:

- 14th February 2024: Ash Wednesday
- 18th February 2024: Rite of Election at Brentwood Cathedral
- 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:

- Headteacher – St Patrick's Primary School, Collier Row
Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Monday 12th February 2024.
- Deputy Headteacher - St Aidan's Primary School, Ilford
Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Friday 16th February 2024.

RIP:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Toufica (Philomena) Griffin who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will take place next Thursday the 15th of February at 11am. Please also pray for Lily Cordina who died last week. Her funeral arrangements will be made later. May they Rest in Peace.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Micheal Butler and Fr John McKeon 2 priests of our Diocese who died recently. Fr Micheal's Requiem Mass will take place on 9th of February at Holy Cross Church, Tracyses Road, Harlow CM18 6JJ at 11:30am. Fr John's Requiem Mass will take place on 13th of February at the Holy Family Church, Dagenham at 11:30am. May Fr Micheal and Fr John Rest in the Eternal Peace of Christ.

Right to Life:

We pray for all women going through unexpected pregnancies, that they would experience peace and support in their situations, and experience the many blessings that motherhood brings.

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 \(tangney-tours.com\)](https://www.brentwoodlourdes.com/) If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please e-mail Kathryn Young: kathrynyoung@mail.com

A second collection is taken up today for the Diocesan Lourdes Fund. This Fund allows us to fund pilgrims who otherwise would not be able to join the pilgrimage.

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

Next Tuesday evening at 7pm there will be a meeting at the Presbytery to organise our variety concert which will take place on the 16th of March at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. This is to Fund our 5 young people who will be going to Lourdes this year on the annual pilgrimage organised by the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. Tickets will be available later for this event.

Justice and Peace Group:

Justice and peace group has been setup recently in our Parish. The first initiative is a Lenten Calander which will be handed out next weekend. This weekend a representative from the group will speak at all Masses.

Winners 200 Club are - J Rodwell, B Coyle and M Galley:

Please pick up your cheque from Father or the Office. If anyone would like to join the 200 Club, it is a good way to help the Parish and also the chance to win the monthly draw.