

MASS INTENTIONS
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)
Monday 12 th February – Feria	9.00am	Liz Seymour
Tuesday 13 th February – Feria	9.00am	Mariyamma
Wednesday 14 th February – Ash Wednesday	9.00am 7.30pm	Ousepli Thomas James Stimpson (RIP)
Thursday 15 th February – Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9:00am	Elizabeth Maclean (Int)
Friday 16 th February – Friday after Ash Wednesday	9.00am	Robin Brown (R.I.P)
Saturday 17 th February – Saturday after Ash Wednesday	9.00am	Thanksgiving Nioka D'Souza

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

Thought for the Week:

166 years ago, today the touch of God was expressed by an apparition of his Holy Mother. On 11th of February 1858, the 14-year-old Bernadette first saw our Lady in the grotto at Lourdes. She smiled at Bernadette and invited her by gesture to pray. Only in the sixteenth apparition did the young lady respond to Bernadette's repeated request for her name: *I am the Immaculate Conception*. And from that day to this the crowds have flocked to Lourdes. Many healings of the sick, unexplained by medical science, have taken place there. But also: many sick people go to Lourdes who are not cured. Still, they go because Lourdes is a Holy place. People are converted there; they find prayer flows easily; they experience the blessing of God and of Mary there somehow more directly. Lourdes points people firmly in the direction of heaven, and they come away consoled and refreshed. "If you will, said the leper, you can make me clean." God does will. Lord, touch and cleanse my whole life: that I may be ever more open to receive your love, and to give it back, now and forever.



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



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The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
10th & 11th February 2024

Dear Friends,

Today is the last green Sunday for a while. Next Sunday we go to purple for Lent. In fact, we go purple on Wednesday. It's Ash Wednesday – the first day of Lent. For forty days we Christians try to get ready for Easter. On Easter Day we should be ready to greet the Risen Lord at the Empty Tomb.

In early times of the Church, Easter was the only time you could be baptised. People who wanted to be baptised spent forty days preparing for it: like you might do before first Holy Communion or Confirmation. Other people would join in with the preparation to help the candidates or just to remind themselves of the Faith they were already baptised into. So, Lent became a preparation not just for those to be baptised but for everyone as a preparation for Easter. You should try to join in with the Church's preparation. You have today and two more days before Lent begins. Think about it. Get ready for the Risen Jesus on Easter morning!

How? You might take something extra on – a kindness, a prayer, a bit of Bible reading.

You might drop something off – a sweet or snack that you really enjoy, a Favourite TV show, music or time off social media in order to give more time to prayer.

What you do doesn't really matter; it's *WHY* you do it and *WHO YOU DO IT FOR* that's the important thing. Think about it. **USE YOUR IMAGINATION!**

Ash Wednesday: As already mentioned, this coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence. There will be Mass with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at 09:00am and 07:30pm in the Church.

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, Vincent Okolo, 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:

3rd & 4th February

Loose

£732.32

Envelopes

£944.50

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 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):

Next 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 Six Catechumens: Martin Deme, Harry Betts, Veronika Urszin, Antonia Moafi-Jozani, Precious Edobor and Alan Driver. We are asked to encourage and support them with our love and example.

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:

- [Deputy Headteacher - St Aidan's Primary School, Ilford](#)
Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Friday 16th February 2024.
- [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

RIP:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Toufica (Philomena) Griffin who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will take place this Thursday the 15th of February at 11am. Please also pray for Lily Cordina who died recently. Her funeral will take place on the 1st of March at 12pm. May they 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

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.

A Fire in My Heart

On Saturday 3rd February, to celebrate 50 years of priesthood, Fr Adrian Graffy held a Conversation with some friends who are biblical scholars about their common love of the Bible. These included Carlos Castillo, archbishop of Lima, Peru, and Nuria Calduch-Benages, secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, on which Fr Adrian also serves. The edited programme of the Conversation is now available free of charge by going to the home page of www.whatgoodnews.org

Stations of the Cross:

To help us in our Lenten journey we have our Stations of the Cross beginning this 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 as we did last year.