

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

Saturday 16 th March – Fifth Sunday of Lent	6.30pm	Margaret Mellor (R.I.P)
Sunday 17 th March – Fifth Sunday of Lent St Patrick's Day	9.00am 11.00am	Mary Rose Scott (R.I.P) Paddy & Michael Dear (R.I.P)
Monday 18 th March – Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent	9.00am	Kian Brady
Tuesday 19 th March – Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent	9.00am	Departed souls in Purgatory
Wednesday 20 th March – Wednesday of the Fifth Week Of Lent	9.00am	Lar Fennessey (Int)
Thursday 21 st March – Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent	9.00am	Mary McManus
Friday 22 nd March – Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent	9.00am	Cordelia Onodu (Int)
Saturday 23 rd March – Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent	9.00am	Rose Young (Int)

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B)

Saturday 24 th March – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	6.30pm	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
Sunday 25 th March – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	9.00am 11.00am	Pamela Zammit Denis Doherty (R.I.P)

Thought for the Fifth Week of Lent:

Some of us become overwhelmed by life's contradictions. The pain and injustice that they see on every side causes them to lose all faith in God and in life. That could have happened to Jesus. If ever there was a person who had the right to doubt God, and to despair of the human race, and to become cynical about life, that person was Jesus. But through all of His injustice and all of the pain, His faith did not fail. He kept on believing in God, unlike many of us, He kept on believing in people, he kept believing in life. At Calvary, faith won.



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



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**Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)
16th & 17th March 2024**

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of Lent, this season of Renewal and Reform seemed to stretch ahead of us endlessly. But already it is the Fifth Sunday and Palm Sunday is only a week away. In the first reading from Jeremiah, we hear the prophecy that one day the people will no longer need to be taught about God because they will know God in their hearts. To know God in our hearts is to make his thoughts and ways our own. Jesus did that when he freely took sufferings on himself for our sake. He compares himself to the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies and so yields a rich harvest. He gives his life to offer us the gift of peace.

Holy Week and Easter Services:

Holy week and Easter services card will be available after all the Masses this weekend. Please take one or a few with you to pass on to your family, friends and neighbours.

Chrism Mass:

The coach for the Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral will be leaving St Albans at 9.30am for 11:00am Mass on the 27th March 2024. If you would like a place on the coach, please put your name down on the list at the back of the church. ***There will be no 9am Mass on that day.***

**God Bless you,
Canon Maurice**

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Nell Addison, Paul & Eva Au, Michael Balfour, Doreen Banister, 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 Forde, James Francis, Mary Gallet, Anna Gawlik, Ian Gilling, 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:

9th & 10th March

Loose

£657.40

Envelopes

£641.60

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 13th April 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 this Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 4:00pm.

First Holy Communion Programme 23-2024:

The next meeting for parents and Children will take place this Thursday the 21st March 2024 at 7pm.

R.I.P

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Barry who died recently. His Requiem Mass will take place next Monday 25th March at 11am. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Father John Taylor, a Priest of our Diocese who also died recently. His Requiem Mass will take place this Wednesday 20th March at 12 noon at the Church of our Lady of Light and St Osyth, Clacton-on-Sea. May they rest in peace.

Dates for your Diary:

- 27th of March 2024: Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral at 11am. Coach leaves St Albans at 09:30am.
- 09th – 14th June 2024: Parish Mission Week (*More details later*)

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

Stations of the Cross:

To help us in our Lenten journey we have our Stations of the Cross this Friday at St Albans at 7:30pm.

Congratulations:

We congratulate Matúš Meleg who was ordained a Priest for our dioceses on Saturday the 16th of March at Our Lady of Grace and St Teresa of Avila, Chingford. He did a Pastoral placement with us back in 2021. We wish him every blessing in his Priestly ministry.

Pro-Life Amendment:

Support an amendment to reduce our abortion time from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. Postcards are at the back of the church, please collect one and post it to your MP asking them to support this amendment.

Justice and Peace Group:

The Justice and Peace group of St Albans will be gathering in the parish meeting room this **Wednesday 20th March at 7pm** in anticipation of Holy Week. In this meeting we will discuss the logistics of collecting and distributing the items that you parishioners have been kind enough to donate in the spirit of Lent. We would like to encourage you all to be generous and to donate whatever you can before Holy Week begins! We would also like to extend an open invitation to anybody in the parish who wishes to join. We have people of all ages and backgrounds in this group and everybody is welcome to come along and help in any way they can. In our meeting we'll be discussing other initiatives and ideas for how we can help the local community so please do come along.

TALK ON THE READINGS AT THE EASTER VIGIL

This Wednesday 20th March at 7 pm, in preparation for Holy Week, Fr Adrian Graffy will give a talk entitled 'The Readings at the Easter Vigil - the four nights of salvation'. The talk will take place in the parish hall at Gidea Park (410 Brentwood Road, RM2 6DH) and will last about 40 minutes. Refreshments will be available from 6.30 pm. No booking necessary. The church is 5 minutes' walk from the station (Elizabeth Line). Ample free parking is also available at the church. All are welcome, especially Readers, Special Ministers of the Eucharist and Catechists.

Volunteer at the St John Bosco Children's Camp

From 27th July – 3rd August help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. To help at the Bosco Camp is a wonderful experience, but there are limited places. Applications open until the end of March. Details: <https://boscocamp.co.uk/volunteer-applications>

Apprenticeships at Walsingham House

Walsingham House are offering a two-year apprenticeship course in Youth Ministry & Chaplaincy, ideal for those finishing Year 13 in July or for anyone up to age 21. Participants will live and work at Walsingham House, running retreats for young people across the diocese whilst studying with St Marys University, Twickenham. For more info, email clairebailey@brcdt.org or visit the website www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/

Altar Servers meeting next Saturday 23rd of March at 02:00pm. All altar servers please make every effort to attend to prepare for the Easter Triduum. Thank you!