

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)**

Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> April – <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April – <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	9.00am	Saoire Ruane (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Cataline Bautista (R.I.P)
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April – <b>St Catherine of Siena</b>	9.00am	Vincent Okolo (R.I.P)
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April – <b>Tuesday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	9.00am	Fr Neville McClement (R.I.P)
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May – <b>Wednesday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	9.00am	John Barry (R.I.P)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May – <b>St Athanasius</b>	9.00am	Holy Souls
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May – <b>SS Philip and James</b>	9.00am	Frances Nolan (R.I.P)
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May – <b>The English Martyrs</b>	9.00am	Bill Shorey (R.I.P)

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)**

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May – <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	6.30pm	Jim & Nora Gertrude McDarby (R.I.P)
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May – <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	9.00am	John Barry (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)

**Thought for the Week:**

In the Joy of the Gospel Pope Francis wrote “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ.” He goes on to suggest that when individuals, or groups, focus on Jesus there is an increase of energy and vitality. Have you seen this happen?

Today’s parable also reminds us that we are not the source of our own life. It is a gift from God, from our parents, and from all who have nourished us. Give thanks for those who have been a source of life for you. – **John Byrne (OSA)**



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



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**The Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)**  
**27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Dear Friends,

“Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more”. (John 15:2)

Robert realised that having a garden meant being a busy person. There was always something that needed doing: sweeping the leaves planting bulbs, mowing the lawn, weeding or pruning the fruit bushes and roses. When it came to pruning Robert was tempted to just take off the first few inches, but he knew that if he was to have a decent plant in summer, he had to take drastic action. Pruning is a harsh thing to do and sometimes seems very severe. Yet cutting back results in the plant producing more flowers or fruit.

In today’s Gospel Jesus tells us of the pruning which we must experience as we are moulded and shaped into his likeness. As painful as this may be, it enables us to produce the fruit of love and gentleness to a greater degree than if the pruning had not happened.

What kind of fruit do you think God wants you to bear this week?  
What is there within you that God needs to prune?

We are the branches of the Vine that is Christ. At every Mass when we receive the Holy Communion, we are united with him in a unique way. Let our Communion today be a sign of our determination to remain in Christ not just for a few moments but always by allowing his teaching to influence our lives to produce the fruit which he expects from us.

**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 Forder, 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, Iivan 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:**

20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April

**Loose**

£569.05

**Envelopes**

£280.86

**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 11<sup>th</sup> May 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 be next Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 4.00pm.

**First Holy Communion Programme 23-2024:**

The rehearsal for the First Holy Communion children will take place on either this Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> May or next Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> May at 6.00pm, depending on when the children are making their First Holy Communion.

**Dates for your Diary:**

- **05<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024:** Holy Communion Day at 11am Mass
- **19<sup>th</sup> May 2024:** Confirmation at 3pm
- **26<sup>th</sup> May 2024:** May Procession at 3pm
- **09<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024:** Parish Mission Week (*More details later*)

**Catholic Women's League – Upminster:**

Welcome you to their weekly lunch every Wednesday at 12 noon. £6 simple meal and fellowship. Details available from Father Joseph.

**Justice and Peace Group:**

The Justice and Peace group would like to thank all who donated items for the baby bank. Items have been delivered and were very much appreciated. Thank you!

**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](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org) or visit the website [www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/](http://www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/)

**R.I.P:**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Alan Stokes, his Requiem Mass will take place this Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. His remains will be brought into the Church on Sunday evening at 4pm. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Mary Cogan. Her funeral will take place in St Albans Church on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May at 11am. May they rest in peace.

**Youth 2000 London Retreat Day: Come and See.**

Youth 2000 are running a retreat day for young adults (16-35) on 11<sup>th</sup> May at Sacred Heart Parish in Wimbledon. It is jam-packed one day event, where people come together as a community of young adults in prayer and friendship. The retreat is an invitation to come as you are, and to come and see who Jesus is and what He can do in your life. The cost £25 and more information can be found at: <https://www.youth2000.org/events/london2024>

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

**Right to Life**

Yesterday was the 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act coming into effect. As we hope and pray for an end to abortion, we pray especially for our Government. That their ability to support pregnant women would increase and that they would anchor themselves on the desire to protect all human life.

**Prayers for the Parish Mission this Sunday**

This Sunday we will have the Exposition again of the Blessed Sacrament From 6pm -7pm to pray for the intentions of our Parish Mission which will take place on the 9-14<sup>th</sup> of June 2024. Everybody is encouraged to come along and pray that this mission will bring many blessings to our parish community and that many people will be drawn back to the Church.

**Deputy Headteacher Vacancy at St Joseph's, Upminster.**

St Joseph's is looking to appoint a Deputy Headteacher, starting from 1st September 2024. The Governors and Headteacher invite applications from experienced, enthusiastic and suitably- qualified practising Catholic leaders. Full details can be found on the school website: <https://st-josephs-upminster.net/vacancies/> Applications must be submitted by 9am on Wednesday 8th May 2024.

**Confirmation Group (Message from Gabriella Skinner from BCYS):**

It was wonderful to see over 500 of our Diocesan Confirmation Candidates come together, and please pass on a particular thanks and well done to anyone who volunteered to read or receive the candles.

We hope you will light these candles again at Pentecost when these young people are confirmed, to remind them of our celebration together. Our 10 youth people from St Albans did us proud!