

MASS INTENTIONS
First Sunday of Advent (C)

Saturday 30 th November - First Sunday of Advent (C)	6.30pm	People of the Parish Bernie Clancy (R.I.P)
Sunday 1 st December – First Sunday of Advent (C)	9.00am	Teresa Jarrold (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)
Monday 2 nd December – Monday of the First Week of Advent	9.00am	Thanksgiving
Tuesday 3 rd December – St Francis Xavier	9.00am	Gracykuty Joseph (R.I.P)
Wednesday 4 th December – Wednesday of The First Week of Advent	9.00am	Christine & Norman (R.I.P)
Thursday 5 th December – Thursday of The First Week of Advent	9:00am	Josie Keane (R.I.P)
Friday 6 th December – Friday of The First Week of Advent	9.00am	Arun Kizhakkuden Jose (R.I.P)
Saturday 7 th December – St Ambrose	9.00am	Thomas Gorham (R.I.P)

Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Saturday 7 th December – Second Sunday of Advent (C)	6.30pm	Sick Family Members
Sunday 8 th December – Second Sunday of Advent (C)	9.00am	Ann Larkin (R.I.P)
	11.00am	Deceased Members of Borg & Abela Families

Thought for the week: The Jubilee Year ‘Pilgrims of Hope’

The Jubilee Year of Hope will begin on the 24th of December and will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026. This Holy year has as its theme ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. The two themes are intimately connected across the centuries, for there can be no hope unless there is forgiveness, for everyone of us has need of the mercy of God as we make our pilgrim way. Indeed, the naming of 2025 as a Year of Jubilee carries the same message, for a Jubilee Year is a time for resetting our relationship with God, with one another and with the world around us. May our prayer in this Jubilee Year be robust and heartfelt. *(Cardinal Vincent Nichols) The Jubilee companion booklets are on sale at the back of the Church for your guidance during this Jubilee Year.*



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PARISH PRIEST: Canon Maurice Gordon



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First Sunday of Advent (Year C)
30th November & 1st December 2024

Dear friends,

Jesus said to his Disciples: ‘Watch yourselves, lest your hearts be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the cares of this life’ (Luke 21:25, 34-36.)

There is an old story about two monks called Poemen and Prior who lived in the desert centuries ago. One day, Prior felt depressed because he felt that he had not made the spiritual progress he had hoped for. He went to Poemen and asked what he should do. Poemen’s advice was: ‘Make every single day a fresh beginning.’

This is what we are doing in Advent. Of course, Jesus was born among us ages ago. But every time we look out of our windows, we see a world in which the ‘new age’ that the infant Jesus came to introduce is far from realised. The worries of life often make us forget about Him, and we are not as aware of His presence as we should be.

Like Prior, we all need a fresh start. Advent is a time of new beginnings, as well as an end to the past year.

PRAYER: Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace.

God Bless
Canon Maurice

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Nell Addison, Christophe Amblard, Paul & Eva Au, Michael Balfour, Doreen Banister, William Bradbury, Vincent Brady, Rose Cahill, Marlene Camay, John Carty, Macmillan Chitoma Bras-Goncalves, Anne Dunn, Sarah Content, Maureen Daly, John Detheridge, Katherine Day, Gerry Margaret Dumbrell, Eddie and Martha Dwyer, Fiona Forder, James Francis, Mary Gallet, Anna Gawlik, Ian Gilling, Maisie Glennon, Maureen Gorham, Kevin Harty, Bernadette Heddle, Peter Hemsley, Ellen Hurley, Mathew John, Julia Joseph, Kathleen Kavanagh, Rev Tom Keighley, Baby Stephen Kelly, Vicky Loik, Mary Lynes, Amaogechi Mbanu, Siobhan McKeon, Norah McLoughlin, Gladys McQuaid, 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, Louis Russo, Dorothy Ryan, Fr Francis Coveney, Mary Sayers, Marina Scarff, Elizabeth Smith, Julia Stokes, Teresa Shorey, John Sinclair, The Salter Family (Bert, Charlie and Bert's Daughter-in-law), Joanne Gardener, Charles Stimpson, Julia Thomas, Melon Vigo, 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:

23rd & 24th November 2024

Loose

£562.64

Envelopes

£299.56

Right to Life:

As we ponder the hope found in the second coming of our saviour, we pray for all those in need of hope. We pray especially for those contemplating having an abortion, that they would be reminded of the hope God brings and His fundamental desire for our good. We pray also that as a society we would become channels of God's hope, providing support to all pregnant women.

Youth Mass, First Thursday of the Month, Brentwood Cathedral, from 6pm

Join the BCYS to celebrate Youth Mass each month with other young Catholics from all around the Diocese.

There will be pizza in the Parish Hall from 6pm, with a different input each month - speakers, workshops, prayer and worship, Reconciliation or more!

Youth Mass is then celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. **Next date: Thursday 5th December.**

Holy Communion Programme:

The sacrament of Reconciliation will take place this Saturday the 7th of December at 11am in the Church for the parents and children. Also, for those children who do not go to St Albans we continue our sessions on Sundays. **The next session will be on the 8th of December at 10am.**

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place on Saturday the 14th of December at 9am in the Parish Hall.

Are you Over 65, celebrating Christmas Alone?

You are welcome to join us at New Windmill Hall for heartwarming Christmas Celebration. This free event is on Christmas day between 12pm and 4pm. For more information please contact: newwindmill@hotmail.co.uk or 01708 220242.

Brentwood Cathedral:

Nine Lessons & Carols taking place on Sunday 21st of December 2024. Everyone is welcomed to attend this Advent service.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

This Sunday we continue with our Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 6 to 7pm, everybody's welcome for as long as you want to come, please feel free to pop in for a quiet prayer for family's intentions etc. as we begin a new week.

Confirmation Programme 24/2025:

The next session for confirmation programme will be this Saturday 7th of December at 4pm.

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 session which is at 7:30pm in the Presbytery every Monday.

Mother & Toddler Group:

The Mothers and Toddlers group meets every day (Mon – Fri) and this includes Zumba exercise class every Monday at 9:30am, which you can also bring your child to! The cost is £6 per person. To book please contact Diana on 07886 159 647.

This group offers a variety of fun and engaging classes and playgroup sessions for under 5's. Check out our website for more information - <https://stalbanscic.my.canva.site>

For any further information please contact Maria on 07751 236262

Dates for your Diary

- The Choir concert will be this Sunday 8th December at 5.45pm.
- The Christmas Nativity Service will be on the 15th December at 5.30pm.

R.I.P:

We pray for the repose of the soul of Simon Pierre who died recently. His funeral will take place next Tuesday 10th of December at 12 noon. Please also pray for John Hennelly who died recently. His funeral will take place in the South Essex Crematorium next Tuesday 10th of December at 3pm. Please also pray for Hugh Galligan who also died recently. His funeral will take place next Friday 13th of December at 12:15pm. Please also pray for Patrick Patterson who also died recently. His funeral will take place on Tuesday the 17th of December at 11am. May they rest in peace.

New Lectionaries:

A new edition of the lectionaries and the book of the Gospels comes into use in England and Wales on this first Sunday of Advent 2024. We will be using the English Standard Version-Catholic Edition of the Bible for the scripture readings and the Abbey Psalms and Canticles for the Responsorial Psalms. This also means that we will have new Parish Mass books in the near future. The Lectionaries and the book of the Gospel will be blessed before all the Masses this weekend.

Job Vacancies:

St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford: **Headteacher Required from September 2025. All the details are on the Diocesan website:**

https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-12-09_1200_St-Peters-Primary-School-Romford_Headteacher_Job-Advert.pdf. Visits are warmly encouraged, and the deadline for applications is 9th December.

Prayer and Fasting:

On Saturday 7th of December please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Your prayer and fasting are urgently needed. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting see; www.GoodCounselNetwork.com