

MASS INTENTIONS
Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

Saturday 21 st December - Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)	6:30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 22 nd December – Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)	9:00am	All our dearly departed
	11:00am	Rose Hunter (R.I.P)
Monday 23 rd December – Weekday of Advent	9:00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
Tuesday 24 th December – Weekday of Advent	9:00am	Mary Rose Scott
	6:30pm	Frances Nolan (R.I.P)
	12:00am	Dora Corry (R.I.P)
Wednesday 25 th December – Christmas Day	9:00am	Paul Tolhurst (R.I.P)
	11:00am	James & Kathy Driver (R.I.P)
Thursday 26 th December – St Stephen	10:00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
Friday 27 th December – St John	9:00am	World Peace & The Suffering People
Saturday 28 th December – Holy Innocents	9:00am	Jeevan (Int)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (C)

Saturday 28 th December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	6:30pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 29 th December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	9:00am	John Barry (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Peck Geok Quah (R.I.P)

Thought for the week: St Stephen's (Feast Day 26th December)

The love then that brought Christ down from heaven to earth lifted Stephen from earth to heaven. The love that showed itself first in the Jesus, shone forth next in Stephen. And Stephen, so as to deserve to win the crown – which is what his name means – had love as his weapon and by it was everywhere victorious. *Through love* of God, he prayed for those who were stoning him. *Through love* he accused those who were in the wrong that they might be corrected. *Through love* he prayed for those stoning him to save them from punishment.



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



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Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)
21st & 22nd December 2024

Dear friends,

We have now come to the Fourth Sunday of Advent. In today's scripture readings, we are encouraged to spend time in waiting with Mary. She will help us in a real way to prepare for the feast of Christmas. Let us turn to her. Christ came more readily to those who had most need of Him and that is to the unfortunate, the sinful, the destitute – those who were empty. Let us come to Him in our sinfulness and emptiness and allow him to fill us with His love. This leads us into Christmas Day.

Christmas Day:

We gather together today to celebrate the birth of the Saviour. Jesus was born into a world very much like our own – a world torn by war and rumours of wars, a world of suffering and of want. He came on the side of the poor and the lowly rather than on that of the rich and powerful. On this Christmas Day let us open our hearts to welcome Him and to share that joy and love with one another.

Prayer:

Give us Lord Jesus, the eyes of children, to see your birth with Christmas wonder. Help us to share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the Wise Men. Close the doors on hate, and open the doors of love, all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and blessings with every greeting. Deliver us from evil, by the blessings Christ brings, and teach us to be Merry with clean hearts.

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 Dumbrill, Eddie and Martha Dwyer, Fiona Forder, James Francis, Mary Gallet, Anna Gawlik, Ian Gilling, Maisie Glennon, Maureen Gorham, Kevin Harty, Bernadette Hedde, 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, Iivan 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:

14th & 15th December 2024

Loose

£606.13

Envelopes

£446.01

Right to Life:

Let us pray for all parents expecting a new child, that they might be blessed with a safe and healthy pregnancy for mother and baby.

Brentwood Diocese Directory 2025:

The new directories are now on sale at the repository Ring-bound books are for £4.40 and normal books are for £3.20.

Holy Communion Programme:

The next session will take place on Thursday the 16th of January 2025 at 7pm. Children will meet in the Parish hall and Parents in the Church.

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place this Saturday the 11th of January 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.

The Jubilee Year:

The Jubilee Year of Hope will begin this Tuesday 24th of December and will end on the Christmastide 2025 on the Feast of the Epiphany. The celebration has been regarded by God's holy and faithful people as a unique grace. It is marked by the forgiveness of sins, notably through indulgence, which is a full expression of the mercy of God. Pope Francis has decided that the Jubilee of 2025 will have the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. It will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. *(Cardinal Vincent Nichols) The Jubilee companion booklets are on sale at the back of the Church for your guidance during this Jubilee Year. Please take one.*

Reconciliation:

All are invited to join us for our Christmas Masses, and we pray that this will be a time of renewal and refreshment for all of us. Let us place all our trust in the Lord confident of His care for us. In the days preceding Christmas Canon Maurice and Fr Joseph will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) after all Masses this weekend and during the week.

Confirmation Programme 24/2025:

The next session for confirmation programme will be on Saturday 4th of January 2025 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. **Next session will be after Christmas on the 6th of January 2025.**

Mother & Toddler Group:

The Baby & Toddler Group re-open on Monday 6th January. Maria and all the team wish all of the families and children that attend a blessed Christmas and look forward to you all joining us again in the New Year!

If you would like to join us in 2025, please contact Maria at stalbanstoddler@yahoo.com or 07774 719 806 for more information.

Christmas Services:

Christmas cards are still available at the back of the church. If anyone wants to know the times of the services during the Christmastide please feel free to take one.

St Albans Primary School Break:

School finished for the Christmas break last Friday the 20th of December and will return back on Monday the 6th of January 2025. We wish all our families, children, teachers and all staff a very happy and holy Christmas.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2025:

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will be from Friday 18th July – Friday 25th July 2025. The flights will be Southend to Lourdes. Details, including how to book, will follow. We hope you will join us.

Job Vacancies

- *Headteacher Vacancy for September 2025* -St Peter's Catholic Primary School Romford. Headteacher - St Peter's Primary School, Romford. Deadline for applications: **12:00 (noon), Friday 31st January 2025**

St Stephen's Day:

All Altar Servers are invited to celebrate the Mass on St Stephen's Day at 10am and congratulations to those who will be presented with the medal of the Guild of St Stephen. We thank them all for their ongoing commitment in serving the Lord in the Sanctuary. We pray for them that they will persevere in this important service to all of us. St Stephen pray for them.