

MASS INTENTIONS
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
Monday 9 th December – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00am	Fr Joseph Farrell (Int)
Tuesday 10 th December – Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent	9.00am	All departed souls
Wednesday 11 th December – Wednesday Of The Second Week of Advent	9.00am	Hafiza Wallace (R.I.P) (2 nd anniversary)
Thursday 12 th December – Thursday of The Second Week of Advent	9:00am	Brigid Barulis (R.I.P) (anniversary)
Friday 13 th December – St Lucy	9.00am	Rev Mgr Canon H Turner (Int)
Saturday 14 th December – St John of the Cross	9.00am	Michael Kelly (R.I.P)

Third Sunday of Advent (C)

Saturday 14 th December – Third Sunday of Advent (C)	6.30pm	All Lapsed Catholics
Sunday 15 th December – Third Sunday of Advent (C)	9.00am	Raphael & Lydia Akinwemi (Wedding anniversary)
	11.00am	People of the Parish

Thought for the week:

In the season of peace on earth to people of good-will, it is important that I harness my good-will, and act on it. Filling valleys, levelling mountains, straightening the crooked road, preparing a pathway for the Lord this is our preparation for Christmas. Of course it involves decisions, and these decisions come out of the context of the realities of my life. God is always calling on me to respond to him. Responding to him is to become responsible. I have responsibility for my actions and become willing to face up to the truth. There is a tendency to look for a softer, easier way. Part of the human condition is an inability to understand the human condition. Lucy said to Charlie Browne, 'Charlie Browne, do you know what's wrong with you?' 'No,' replied Charlie, 'tell me.' 'What's wrong with you, Charlie Browne, is that you don't want to know what's wrong with you.'



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



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Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)
7th & 8th December 2024

Dear friends,
The opening prayer of today's Mass asks God to open our hearts in welcome. To welcome a person means that person's coming is a pleasure both for the one arriving, and those receiving the guest. We are all welcome at Mass today and we are pleased and proud to be so intimately present to God.

In the second part of that prayer, we are asked to remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy. What these things are, only I know about me, and you know about you. One thing we all know is if they get in the way they have to be got rid of, As a rule, they concern our relationship with ourselves, with our families, with our friends and parishioners. Often it means you and I being big enough to say 'sorry' That little word can get rid of so many things that may hinder us from receiving Christ with joy.

During this time of Advent, we are urged to prepare a way for the Lord through repentance. Repentance has to do with coming to the full truth. It is not just about my sin and all in me that is narrow and limited, but it is about coming back to my original self, the self that is made by none other than the good God himself – and in his own image. I am therefore inestimably good; beautiful. We are God's work of art. We are the Fathers creation and child. We are not just made for time but for eternity. The Christ child is the Fathers gift to us. We cannot but come to him and be reconciled.

PRAYER:

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Make our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection, the good you have begun in us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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 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, 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:

30th November & 1st December

Loose

£346.28

Envelopes

£465.54

Right to Life:

Tomorrow, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Like the Blessed Virgin Mary, God has lovingly and especially prepared a mission for each of us. Let us pray that all unborn children would be welcomed and cherished so that they, too, may set out to fulfil the mission the Lord has planned for them.

Brentwood Diocese Directory 2025:

The new directories is 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.

Also, for those children who do not go to St Albans we continue our sessions on Sundays. **The next session will be this Sunday 8th of December at 10am.**

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place this 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 22nd of December 2024. Everyone is welcomed to attend this Advent service.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

There will be no exposition for the next 2 Sundays, because of the Christmas concert today (8/12/24) at 5:45pm and next Sunday we have the Christmas Nativity Service at 5:30pm.

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.

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 Christmas Nativity Service will be next 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 this 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 this Tuesday 10th of December at 3pm. Please also pray for Fernando Marques who also died recently. His funeral will take place this Wednesday 11th of December at 11am. Please also pray for Hugh Galligan who also died recently. His funeral will take place this Friday 13th of December at 12:15pm. Please also pray for Patrick Patterson who also died recently. His funeral will take place next 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 came into use in England and Wales Last Sunday the first Sunday of Advent 2024. We are now 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 from next week.

Readings for the Season of Advent:

Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared reflections on all the Mass readings for the Season of Advent. To access these, go to www.whatgoodnews.org and click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Advent Readings'.

Divine Mercy Retreat:

There will be a Divine Mercy Retreat led by the Marian Fathers at All Saints RC Church, Kenton and we would be pleased if you would kindly put the following item in your newsletter for the next couple of weeks. The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat at All Saints Church 531 Kenton Road Kenton London, HA3 0UL on Saturday 14 December 2024 from 1 pm to 4:30 pm. For more info call Millie on 07957594646. No need to register for retreat.