

MASS INTENTIONS
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
Monday 16 th December – Monday of the Third Week of Advent	9.00am	Daniel & Family Birthday Blessings
Tuesday 17 th December – Weekday of Advent	9.00am	Bridget Kennelly (R.I.P)
Wednesday 18 th December – Weekday of Advent	9.00am	Lily & Anthony Dass
Thursday 19 th December – Weekday of Advent	9:00am	Roy North (R.I.P)
Friday 20 th December – Weekday of Advent	9.00am	Departed souls in purgatory
Saturday 21 st December – Weekday of Advent	9.00am	Robin Brown (R.I.P)

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)

Thought for the week:

Today we light the third advent candle which is the Rose colour one. An Advent wreath consists of a frame holding four candles placed inside a circle of evergreens. The greenery in the wreath symbolises the promised new life in Jesus. The four candles denote the four Sundays of Advent. There are three purple candles and one rose. Purple is a sign of penance and rose is the colour denoting the anticipation of joy. As we light the rose candle today, we pray, “O come, O come Emmanuel.” The light of the candles represents the light coming into the world as we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth.



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



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Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)
14th & 15th December 2024

Dear friends,

The antiphon of today's Mass sound the note of joy 'Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice'.

The word 'joy' or its derivative occurs no less than 28 times in the texts of Advent Sunday Masses. We are reminded of the Church description of Advent as a season of joyful and spiritual expectation.

Advent is a time to recover our joy and to pray for joy, that joy which is the gift of the Spirit. It is the joy of knowing that there is an answer to the needs, the hunger, the searchings of humankind. There is an answer, an only answer. That answer is Emmanuel – God with us.

The whole purpose of Advent is to open our hearts to an awareness of God's presence and to a longing for his presence in the life of God in every one of us. That longing finds its most beautiful expression in our ancient and beautiful Advent prayer, Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus.

PRAYER - Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus:

Come Lord into my helplessness and into my brokenness, come into my failure, come into my grieving. Come into my aloneness, Come into my weakness, Come into my doubting, Come into my searching, Come into my living, Come into my dying, Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus, Come!

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:

7th & 8th December 2024

Loose

£557.48

Envelopes

£329.25

Right to Life:

On Thursday, we commemorated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We ask for the intercession of this patroness of the unborn, saying: 'Let us implore the gift of children for families without children, respect for conceived life and the openness of hearts to Gospel values.'

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.

Brentwood Cathedral:

Nine Lessons & Carols taking place on Sunday 22nd of December 2024. Everyone is welcomed to attend this Advent service.

Our Christmas Maranatha:

Will take place at The Sion Community Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX, is on Thursday 18th December. The evening begins with Mass at 7pm followed by Prayer and Praise and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Our Celebrant is Fr. Paschal Uche, and everyone is very welcome.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

There will be no exposition this Sunday, because of 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. **Next session will be after Christmas on the 6th of January 2025.**

Mother & Toddler Group:

The Baby & Toddler Group is open until Friday 20 December and will be closed for 2 weeks over Christmas. They re-open on Monday 6 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 Nativity Service:

Parish Christmas Nativity Service will take place this evening at 5:30pm in the Church.

R.I.P:

Please pray for Patrick Patterson who died recently. His funeral will take place this Tuesday the 17th of December at 11am. May he rest in peace.

New Lectionaries:

We now have the new Parish books available from this weekend.

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'.

Altar Servers Training:

There will be an altar servers training for the Christmas Masses this Saturday the 21st of December at 10am at the Church. **All altar servers are expected to attend.**

Christmas Services:

This Sunday the Christmas service cards will be given out to every family after all the masses. Please take one and also distribute them to neighbours, family members and friends.

St Albans Primary School Break:

School will finish for the Christmas break this 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.