

MASS INTENTIONS
Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

Saturday 18 th January – Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	6:30pm	Liam Clement (R.I.P)
Sunday 19 th January – Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	9:00am	Martin Kelly (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Departed Souls in Purgatory.
Monday 20 th January – Feria	9:00am	Kathleen Officer (R.I.P)
Tuesday 21 st January – St Agnes	9:00am	Henry Cassidy and Pat Fennessey
Wednesday 22 nd January – Feria	9:00am	Patricia Braithwaite (R.I.P)
Thursday 23 rd January – Feria	9:00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
Friday 24 th January – St Frances de Sales	9:00am	Special Intentions
Saturday 25 th January – The Conversion of St Paul	9:00am	Liam Hoey (R.I.P)

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

Saturday 25 th January – Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	6:30pm	Noreen & Maureen Walsh (R.I.P)
Sunday 26 th January – Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	9:00am	Michael McGarvey (R.I.P)
	11:00am	David and Jenny Jones (R.I.P)

Thought for the week: The Octave of prayer for Christian Unity is observed from the 18th – 25th of January

The full and visible Christian unity that we long for demands that we let ourselves be transformed and that we conform ever more perfectly to the image of Christ. The unity we pray for requires an inner conversion that is both common and personal. It is not merely a matter of cordiality or cooperation, it is necessary above all to strength our faith in God, in the God of Jesus Christ, who spoke to us and made himself one of us. It is necessary to enter into new life in Christ, who is our true and definitive victory; it is necessary to open ourselves to one another, understanding all the elements of unity that God keeps for us and gives us ever anew; it is necessary to be aware of the urgent need to bear witness among the people of our time to the living God, who made himself known in Christ. – **Pope Benedict XVI**



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



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St Alban's Primary School
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Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year C)
18th & 19th January 2025

Dear friends,

In Today's gospel we see how Mary averted a minor disaster. Mary goes to the headwaiter and says 'Do whatever he tells you', and it happens! Six large stone jars of water become wine through the power of Jesus. Through the promptings of his mother, Christ begins his ministry. We recall again Mary's last recorded words in Scripture, 'Do whatever he tells you' and we see the result. An extravagant and lavish gift from God.

A famous philosopher once wrote over two thousand years ago "The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world! he was of course referring to the power of women and in particular the power of mothers, to influence the events of our lives and the direction of our Society.

In recent years the whole position of women in most countries has changed. Many are in full time occupations outside the home, some women feel that they are confronted with a choice – motherhood versus a career – while others combine both roles with ease. And still, many prefer the traditional role of remaining at home.

Today, women are seen in a much clearer light to play a big part in defining society and determining the future. And yet women have always, down through the ages, had a profound effect on the lives of those around them.

We can learn from the quite wife and mother, in the person of Mary, whose gentle promptings brought about a complete change in the destiny of so many. St Paul reminds us that in the Church there are a variety of gifts, some obvious, some hidden. The power of gentle persuasion is such a gift; and perhaps one that many of us can exercise.

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, Bernard Carantinos, Macmillan Chitoma Bras-Goncalves, 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, 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:

11th & 12th January 2025

Loose

£537.28

Envelopes

£365.49

Right to Life:

As we just enter a week of prayer for Christian unity, let us pray that all Christians might express our shared love of Christ in charity towards the most vulnerable, including the sick, the poor, and the unborn.

Holy Communion Programme:

The next session will take place this Thursday the 30th of January 2025 at 7pm. Children will meet in the Parish hall and Parents in the Church.

We also continue the sessions for the children and parents not attending Catholic Schools every Sunday at 10.10am to 10.45am just before 11am Mass.

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place on Saturday the 8th of February at 9am in the Parish Hall. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

The Jubilee Year:

The unlocking of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve by Pope Francis — the event that kicked off the 2025 Jubilee — heralded the start of a historic event taking place every 25 years and that will end on the Christmastide 2025 on the Feast of the Epiphany. *The Jubilee companion booklets are on sale at the back of the Church for your guidance during this Jubilee Year. Please take one. We will be saying the Jubilee prayer at every Mass this Year.*

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 on Monday 20th of January 2025.**

Mother & Toddler Group:

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

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.

Christian Unity:

During the week of prayer of Christian unity 18th – 25th 2025 there will be a service hosted at St Nicholas Church this evening (Sunday the 19th) at 6:30pm. All are welcome!

R.I.P:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ann Dunn who died recently her funeral will take place on 28th January 2025 at 11.30am. May she rest in peace

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 6th February.**

Justice and Peace Group:

We would ask if anyone has any unwanted toys/gifts in good condition to put them in the porch and we will make sure they are delivered to those in need.

We would like to thank everyone for their generosity re Christmas donations to the foodbank. They were very much appreciated.

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 this new year of the Jubilee.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS)

Is delighted to host a **Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea** at the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 4th March 2025. Guests are kindly invited to arrive for 1pm to be greeted and seated in good time for tea between 1.30 and 3.30pm. This event is open to all and promises to be a lovely afternoon celebration. Tickets are £35 per person and are available to purchase via the BCCS webpage <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> If you have any dietary requirements, please contact Julie once you have purchased your tickets, at jabbott@bccs.org.uk so that we can note these. Guests will be seated at tables of 12 so if you are coming in a group, do please email Julie to let us know your preferred seating arrangements.