

MASS INTENTIONS
The Baptism of the Lord (C)

Saturday 11 th January – The Baptism of the Lord	6:30pm	Thanksgiving
Sunday 12 th January – The Baptism of the Lord	9:00am 11:00am	Liam Carty (R.I.P) Paddy Byrnes (R.I.P)
Monday 13 th January – Feria	9:00am	Fr Chris Alar's Mother. And Maria Concepta Formosa (R.I.P)
Tuesday 14 th January – Feria	9:00am	Paddy Kerr (R.I.P)
Wednesday 15 th January – Feria	10:00am	James McKenna (R.I.P)
Thursday 16 th January – Feria	9:00am	Catherine Ward (R.I.P)
Friday 17 th January Feria	9:00am	Ray Sweeney (R.I.P)
Saturday 18 th January – St Anthony	9:00am	Pat Quinn (R.I.P)

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

Saturday 18 th January –	6:30pm	Liam Clement (R.I.P)
Sunday 19 th January –	9:00am 11:00am	Martin Kelly (R.I.P) Departed Souls in Purgatory.

Thought for the week:

God alone can give faith, but you can offer witness. God alone can give hope, but you can give confidence to others. God alone can give love, but you can pass it on to others. God alone can give peace, but you can sustain somebody who is feeling low. God alone is the light, but you can make it shine for others. God alone is life, but you can give others a taste for living. God alone can do the impossible, but through you it becomes possible. God alone is self-sufficient But amazingly, God prefers to count on you.



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



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The Baptism of the Lord (Year C)
11th & 12th January 2025

Dear friends,

Today we commemorate the Baptism of Jesus. It marks the beginning of Christ's public mission. He is proclaimed Son of God and the Spirit rests upon him. We are invited to make a new beginning, to recognise him more clearly and follow him more faithfully. This Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the official end of the Christmas season, the transition to Ordinary Time. The focus today is on Jesus revealed as the Promised One, the humble Servant foretold by the prophet Isaiah, the beloved Son with whom the Father is well pleased.

Our baptism is linked with that of Jesus. It is not something which happened a long time and which 'made' us Catholics. It is not just a ceremony lasting a few minutes which produces magical effects; it is the beginning of a lifelong journey. It is the beginning of a process of growing into the Body of Christ as its members.

Each one of us is called to be a living witness to the Gospel: to be the salt of the earth, a city on a hill, a lamp radiating light for all. Our baptism is a never-ending call to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. For us a sobering fact that without our co-operation, much of God's work will never get done.

Prayer

Let us pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian Hope.

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, 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:

4th & 5th January 2025

Loose

£495.48

Envelopes

£322.00

Right to Life:

"We pray for the families and friends of pregnant women, that they would recognise their responsibility to care for the mother and child, and shower them with love and support through the journey of pregnancy and beyond. Lord hear us"

Holy Communion Programme:

The next session will take place this Thursday the 16th 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.*

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 13th 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.

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**

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. Also pray for the repose of the soul Joan Colgan who died recently, her funeral will take place next Friday 17th January at Essex Crematorium at 10.20am. May they 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.**

ISLAM STUDY DAY

In 2025 we mark sixty years since the promulgation of Nostra Aetate, the inter-faith document of Vatican II. We are delighted to welcome Sidra Naeem, distinguished teacher and chair of Havering Interfaith, who will speak about Islam. The talk will take place on Saturday 18th January 2025 from 11.00 (11.00 GMT) in the hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, in Gidea Park. The talk will also be available by livestream free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org and will be available subsequently on the same website. The church is close to Gidea Park station (Elizabeth Line). Please bring a packed lunch. Coffee available from 10.30. Do join us.

WHY DO PEOPLE NO LONGER COME TO CHURCH?

The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre are hosting a talk by Rev Dr Liam Hayes at New Hall School. The talk, followed by discussion, starts at 7pm on Wed Jan 22nd. Refreshments will be served from 6.30pm. No cost to attend. All are welcome but need to register via the following link <https://canonesses.co.uk/event/why-do-people-no-longer-go-to-church-wed-22-jan-2025/>

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.

Justice and Peace group next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th January at 7pm. Thank you for all your donations for the Food Bank over the Christmas period.