

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
The Epiphany of the Lord (C)

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	6:30pm	Shanahan Departed Loved ones
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	9:00am	Alma & Tom O'Sullivan (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Lapsed Family Members (Int)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Weekday of Christmas Time</b>	9:00am	Holy Souls
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Weekday of Christmas Time</b>	9:00am	Peace
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Weekday of Christmas Time</b>	10:00am	Mrs May Shanahan Intentions
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Weekday of Christmas Time</b>	9:00am	Mrs T Caden Intentions
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Weekday of Christmas Time</b>	9:00am	Bill & Edward Shorey (R.I.P)
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>Weekday of Christmas Time</b>	9:00am	All Souls Ancestors especially Jaimi

**The Baptism of the Lord (C)**

Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	6:30pm	Thanksgiving
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January – <b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	9:00am	Liam Carty (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Paddy Byrnes (R.I.P)

**Thought for the week: Pilgrims of Hope**

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.



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



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**The Epiphany of the Lord (Year C)**  
**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Dear friends,

In the Gospel today we hear of the journey of the wise men to Bethlehem. On their way, they temporarily lose sight of the star they are following and proceed to King Herod's palace to enquire as to where the Child is to be born. Herod is deeply disturbed by their mention of a newborn 'King of the Jews.' Herod himself was not a Jew but had been appointed King of Judea by the Romans, and was dangerously paranoid about threats to his power. He is eager to eliminate this new threat and after learning that the scriptures point to Bethlehem as the place of the Child's birth, he sends the wise men on, telling them to return with information.

The wise men listen to Herod but are not taken in by him. They persevered and continued to patiently seek for the child, not allowing their own expectations, or the illusions, deceptions and snares of Herod to trap them. The wise men display a certain holy cunning. They have a spiritual shrewdness, which enables them to recognise danger and avoid it, once they do find the child, they listen to the angel in their dream and do not go back to Herod. The wise men teach us how to discern good and evil voices, and to make good and wise decisions. We should aim to be simple, but also need to be astute, as Jesus told his disciples, 'Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.'

We pray that, like the wise men, we will always be open to the directions and promptings of the Holy Spirit, to navigate the obstacles of our life's journey, and reach safely the joy of eternity.

*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:**

28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024

#### **Loose**

£479.26

#### **Envelopes**

£306.70

#### **Right to Life:**

As we celebrate this Christmas season, we pray especially for all expectant parents who are worried about the practical means of supporting their child, that they would find hope and consolation in the story of the Holy Family and, by the power of God, be able to overcome all obstacles.

#### **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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 next Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 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 this Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2025.**

#### **Mother & Toddler Group:**

The Baby & Toddler Group re-open next Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January. Maria and all the team wish all of the families and children that attend a blessed 2025 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](mailto:stalbanstoddler@yahoo.com) or 07774 719 806 for more information.

#### **St Albans Primary School Break:**

School will return back this Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2025. We wish all our families, children, teachers and all staff a very happy New Year.

#### **Lourdes Pilgrimage 2025:**

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will be from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Ann Dunn who died recently her funeral will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 time to be announced later. Also pray for the repose of the soul of Maria of the Toddlers group mother-in-law who died recently, her funeral is on the 17<sup>th</sup> January at Essex Crematorium at 10.20am. Please also pray for Margaret Ollington (previously Miss Mackintosh) who died recently. She taught Art for 40 years at Upminster Convent and also designed the St Alban's School badge as seen on the front of our Newsletter. Funeral on Thursday 9th Jan 11.00 a.m. at Upminster Cemetery Chapel. 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 9<sup>th</sup> January.**