

MASS INTENTIONS
The Presentation Of The Lord (C)

Saturday 1 st February – The Presentation Of The Lord	6:30pm	Betty Nugent (R.I.P)
Sunday 2 nd February – The Presentation Of The Lord	9:00am	Angela Wood (Int)
	11:00am	GracyKutty Joseph (R.I.P)
Monday 3 rd February – St Anne Line	9:00am	Michael O'Sullivan (Int)
Tuesday 4 th February – Feria	9:00am	All Souls & Olexph Thomas
Wednesday 5 th February – St Agatha	9:00am	Laura O'Dwyer (R.I.P)
Thursday 6 th February – SS Paul Miki and Comps	9:00am	Fr Sean Carroll (R.I.P)
Friday 7 th February – Feria	9:00am	Fred Onodu (R.I.P)
Saturday 8 th February – Feria	9:00am	Michael Palmer (R.I.P)

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year (C)

Saturday 8 th February – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6:30pm	Seamus & Frances Nolan (R.I.P)
Sunday 9 th February – The Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9:00am	Florence, Daniel & Elizabeth Lynch (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Billy Hudson (R.I.P)

Thought for the week:

As Catholics we believe that the Eucharist is central to the Christian Faith and to our own lives. The Catechism tells us that the Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life' it gives us healing and life. The life that the Eucharist gives each of us should motivate us to go out and bring Jesus to those who we meet. The graces that come from the Sacrament are abundant, and we much approach with reverence, believing that it is truly Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

The Eucharist is a source of growth in faith, hope, and Charity; and it is with these virtues that we are called and moved to serve. The Eucharist feeds us spiritually and prepares us to go out into our communities and serve.

Pope Francis, in his homily at the conclusion of the Synod in October 2023, stated that he wanted to 'propose two verbs, two movements of the heart, on which I would like to reflect: to adore and to serve. We love God through adoration and service'. Spending time in Adoration (of the Blessed Sacrament) can be the catalyst that moves us into service and action, going out with the graces we have received from Jesus to those in need. – **Pilgrims of Hope**



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



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The Presentation of the Lord (Year C)
1st & 2nd February 2025

Dear friends,

The symbolism of light in this feast invites us to reflect on the role of Jesus as the light of the world and the impact He has on our lives. Just as a candle illuminates a dark room, Jesus brings clarity and understanding to our lives, guiding us on the path of righteousness. His light dispels the darkness of sin offering hope and salvation to all who believe in Him.

We can learn from Simeon and Anna because they were persistent in prayer. They showed up faithfully each day. We can learn from them that God is always at work in a quiet way in our lives even when things seem impossible. So don't give up. God will show you things in your life if you stay close to Him with prayer, and you will recognise Him, just like Simeon and Anna recognised the infant, Jesus, the Light Of The World.

Prayer:

God of ages, King of glory, give us grace to live by your light and to serve you day and night until we are able to go in peace, trusting in the promises you have made to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God Bless

Canon Maurice

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Nell Addison, Christopher 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 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, 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:

25th & 26th January 2025

Loose

£483.20

Envelopes

£338.45

Right to Life:

As we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord, let us pray for all new parents and pregnant mothers. During this transitional time, amidst the challenges, may they too see the light their child brings and find the support they need in our community.

Holy Communion Programme:

The next session will take place next Thursday the 13th of February 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 this Saturday the 8th of February at 9am in the Parish Hall. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

Confirmation Programme 24/2025:

The next session for confirmation programme will be this Saturday 8th of February. We have the Confirmation retreat at Walsingham House. The coach will leave from the Church at 8:30am. ***It is expected that all the confirmation candidates attend this event.***

Word on Fire UK Bible Conference | February 2025:

If you want to gain a deeper appreciation of the Bible and the Catholic faith, come and join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK for the national conference *Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible*. Tickets are available for the Friday and Saturday or just a day pass for the Saturday.

Date: Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd February 2025

Location: Excel Centre, East London

Speakers Include: Bishop Robert Barron, N.T. Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland, Archbishop John Wilson and more.

For more information and to register, please visit: wordonfire.org/the-bible-event

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. *For further information, please phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes Pilgrimage - Tangney Tours](#).*

R.I.P:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Vincent Brady who died recently. His requiem Mass will take place on Thursday 20th of February at 12pm. May he rest in peace.

Youth Mass, First Thursday of the Month, Brentwood Cathedral, from 6pm

Next date: This Thursday 6th February.

Dates for your Diary:

- Wednesday 5th of March – Ash Wednesday
- Friday 14th of March – Visit to Oscott Seminary Birmingham
- Wednesday 19th of March – Lenten Talks for 3 weeks at 7:30pm
- Sunday 25th of May – May Procession at 3pm
- Wednesday 4th of June – Bishop's visit

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.

Legacy: On a Bet and a Prayer

This documentary aligns with core Christian values of social justice, community empowerment, and equality. Churches have long been central to promoting inclusive leadership and supporting the underrepresented. Mary Stretch's story demonstrates how faith and resilience can empower individuals to overcome obstacles and inspire others to do the same. *The show will be in St Edwards Church, 5 Park End Rd, Romford, RM1 4AT on Friday the 28th of February from 6pm – 9pm.*

Inter Faith Dialogue:

This year marks sixty years since *Nostra Aetate*, the document on relations with other Faiths of the Second Vatican Council. Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald worked for decades in this area, particularly in the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Cardinal Michael will be speaking on 'Inter Faith Dialogue' at 11 am on Saturday 22nd February at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. You are invited to attend free of charge. Refreshments will be available from 10.30. Please bring a packed lunch. The event is also available live stream free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org. A recording of the talk, and the q and a session, will be available subsequently on the same website.