

MASS INTENTIONS
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)
Monday 27 th January – Feria	9:00am	Darren McGuire (R.I.P)
Tuesday 28 th January – St Thomas Aquinas	9:00am	Kathleen McGarvey & Family (Int)
Wednesday 29 th January – Feria	9:00am	Thomas James Jackson (R.I.P)
Thursday 30 th January – Feria	9:00am	Nathan Frowley (R.I.P)
Friday 31 st January – St John Bosco	9:00am	June Corrigan (R.I.P)
Saturday 1 st February – Feria	9:00am	Donald & Family (Int)

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)

Thought for the week: Jubilee Year

On the eve of the Jubilee of Hope last December the sight of the great cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris rising from the ashes just five years after its desolation by fire was an inspirational and awesome reminder that all things are possible when people come together and with God's help make vision a reality. The resulting miracle of rebuilding and restoration has lifted the hearts of the watching world and proved once again the human capacity when united for making a good thing out of a bad thing. The world may be in a precarious state as 2025 begins but the resurrected cathedral of Notre Dame now stands once more as a testament to faith in God as well as hope fulfilled for a united humanity and a reminder that in this Jubilee Year whatever the obstacles before us **Hope** remains our anchor.
– Fr Paul Clayton-Lea



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



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Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year C)
25th & 26th January 2025

Dear friends,

In our first reading today, Ezra announces the Law of the Lord to the people, and they are moved to tears. He orders a feast to follow the solemn proclamation of the Law, and the people are instructed to rejoice. Jesus announces that the prophecies of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah are fulfilled even as he speaks.

Today we can rejoice in the proclamation of Jesus in Nazareth; in so doing, we give our assent to some basic beliefs; that Jesus is the promised Messiah; that Jesus brings good news to the poor; that Jesus proclaims liberty and healing, and that he is the messenger of the Father. In this living tradition, we find our strength and our joy. The words of the prophet Nehemiah are spoken to us, "Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your strength".

The rejoicing of the people in Jerusalem came only after many trials and great suffering, and the story of the life of Jesus shows us that his path to glory led him through suffering and death. So, our rejoicing is often sunshine after rain, light after darkness, life after death.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I rejoice and praise your holy name. You are the one who proclaims the good news, the one who brings freedom for the captives, you are the one who releases the oppressed and restores sight to the blind. Make this year of Jubilee a year of favour, grace and rich blessing for us all. Amen.

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, 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:

18th & 19th January 2025

Loose

£719.23

Envelopes

£380.66

Right to Life:

We pray for all who work in maternity units with expectant mothers, that they may recognise that God is truly with us in each unborn child.

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.

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.

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. Details, including how to book, will follow. We hope you will join us.

R.I.P:

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

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

Next date: 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
- Saturday 22nd of March – St Patrick's Celebration
- 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.

This is just a reminder that applications for the BCYS Summer Lourdes pilgrimage close in 10 days' time on the 31st January:

The pilgrimage is open to anyone in year 10 and above, and all information can be found on our website at www.bcys.net/events/sl25.

Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrimage to Italy

The jubilee year 2025 is inviting us to visit a holy place and obtain plenary indulgence by entering through the holy door. The parish of OUR LADY AND ALL SAINTS is arranging a pilgrimage to Italy visiting the holy places along with some tourist attractions. We will visit THE VATICAN, ROME, ASSISI, PADUA, VENICE & PISA. DATE: 30TH AUGUST–4TH SEPTEMBER 2025 (6 DAYS). Superior 4* Hotel Accommodation. Adults and children over 9 years: £775; Children (2-9 years): £730. Single room supplement £220. For more details and to book your place, email: frsabupariyadan@brcdt.org.