

MASS INTENTIONS
Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year (C)

Saturday 1 st March – Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time	6:30pm	Sheryl Gowan (R.I.P)
Sunday 2 nd March – Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9:00am	John Barry (R.I.P)
	11:00am	GracyKutty Joseph (R.I.P)
Monday 3 rd March – St Anne Line	9:00am	Marie, Angie & Family
Tuesday 4 th March – Feria	9:00am	Gerard, James & Peter (R.I.P)
Wednesday 5 th March – Ash Wednesday	9:00am	Richard Mahony (R.I.P)
	7:30pm	Siobhan McKeon (Int)
Thursday 6 th March – Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9:00am	Bernie Fennessy (Int)
Friday 7 th March – Friday after Ash Wednesday	9:00am	Kathryn Turner (Birthday Int)
Saturday 8 th March – Saturday after Ash Wednesday	9:00am	Manuexy Rosales (R.I.P)

First Sunday of Lent (C)

Saturday 8 th March – First Sunday of Lent	6:30pm	Slyvester Regan (R.I.P)
Sunday 9 th March – First Sunday of Lent	9:00am	Salvatore & Serafina Spadafora
	11:00am	Garry Honeyball (R.I.P)

Thought for the Week: Fasts and Feasts for Lent

Fast from judging others. Feast on Christ living in them. Fast from darkness. Feast on the reality of light. Fast from anger. Feast on patience. Fast from bitterness. Feast on forgiveness. Fast from emphasis on difference. Feast on the unity of life. Fast from thoughts of sickness. Feast on the healing hand of God. Fast from worry. Feast on the providence of God. Fast from pessimism. Feast on optimism. Fast from negatives. Feast on the affirmation. Fast from complaining. Feast on appreciation.



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



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 Fr. Joseph Farrell (Retired) – 2B, Langdale Gardens, RM12 5LA
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St Alban's Primary School
 Heron Flight Avenue, RM12 5LN
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Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year C)
1st & 2nd March 2025

Dear friends,
 At the very centre of the Mass, we proclaim the mystery of our faith in which we publicly acknowledge our belief in the saving power of the Death, Resurrection and Second Coming of Christ. Today's reading from St Paul spells out the implication of the faith for our own passage through death to eternal life. In this spirit of faith and hope, let us joyfully celebrate today's Mass.

Ash Wednesday – 5th March – the beginning of Lent is a day of fasting and Abstinence.

We begin our preparation for Easter. We are encouraged to take stock of ourselves and to try to come closer to God. Our preparation is both private and public. During Lent, the Church arranges for some extra things that we can do, but even more important is the fact that the Church's door is always open beckoning us to come and spend a little time with our Lord. We are encouraged to walk with our Lord each Friday. Also, we have our 3 Lenten talks beginning on the 12th of March at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. The theme for the first talk is "Hope in Time of Discord". The Talk will be given by Br Christopher Dyczek OFM.

Journey In Faith – Next Sunday 9th of March at the Cathedral in Brentwood, we have what is known as the Rite of Election at 3pm for those who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. In this celebration, the Candidates and Catechumens from our Diocese will be presented to the Bishop. We the Parish community, pray for our own Candidates and Catechumens – Paul Wiltshire, Laura Sparkes, Gracie Gillard and Robin Stinson.

This Lenten season is an opportunity for all of us to be renewed in the virtue of Hope and this virtue is based on the grace of God, not in our capacity to solve problems.

God Bless
Canon Maurice

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Nell Addison, Christophe Amblard, Paul & Eva Au, Michael Balfour, William Bradbury, 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, 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:

22nd & 23rd February 2025

Loose

£439.46

Envelopes

£347.77

Right to Life:

As we approach Ash Wednesday and the season of prayer, penance and almsgiving, let us pray for those who need special Heavenly protection, like the unemployed, the aged and infirm, widows and orphans, and mothers expecting babies.

Holy Communion Programme:

The next session will take place next Thursday the 13th of March 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 will be next Sunday the 9th of March 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 March 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 on Saturday the 12th of April.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life:

The Mass will take place on 21st of June in Brentwood Cathedral. If you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year, please let Canon Maurice know. Bishop Bosco MacDonald, the lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life writes "The hope of marriage is that it becomes a source of stability and happiness showing us the endless love that God has for all of us".

Pilgrims Of Hope/ Ambassadors Of Hope:

Fr Mark at Mary's in Hornchurch will give a talk on Thursday 3rd April in the church at 7pm entitled '***Pilgrims of hope/ Ambassadors of Hope***' as he explores how we might understand and enter the Jubilee year more fully and become beacons of hope for others.

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 James Sangwine who died recently. His funeral will take place on Friday the 28th of March at 12noon. May he rest in peace.

Dates for your Diary:

- Wednesday 5th of March – Ash Wednesday
- Wednesday 12th of March – Lenten Talks for 3 weeks at 7:30pm (*More details below*)
- Friday 14th of March – Visit to Oscott Seminary Birmingham
- 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 this 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.

Lenten Talks:

As this is the Holy Year and the general theme is Pilgrims of Hope, we will be having our first Lenten talk on Wednesday 12th of March at 7:30pm at the Parish Hall. Tea and coffee available from 7pm. The theme of this talk is "*Hope in a Time of Discord: St Augustine and the struggle for faith*". The talk will be given by Br Christopher Dyczek OFM.

Job Vacancies:

Headteacher – St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford. – Headteacher to begin in September. Full details:

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>. Salary Group 3 L18-24a (depending on experience). **Closing date for applications: Monday 17th March**

Inter Faith Dialogue

An edited recording of the talk given by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald at Gidea Park parish is now available on the website www.whatgoodnews.org. The Cardinal explained how the Second Vatican Council encourages dialogue with people of other faiths and described especially the contribution of Pope Francis to this work.

Beginning Experience Weekend

Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. The weekend is led by trained volunteers, who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again. This next programme will be held on 4-6 April at the Sion Community, Essex; for further details please contact Mary: 07730 884315, or email BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com.