

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year (C)**

Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> February – <b>Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	6:30pm	Seamus & Frances Nolan (R.I.P)
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> February – <b>Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9:00am	Florence, Daniel & Elizabeth Lynch (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Billy Hudson (R.I.P)
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February – <b>St Scholastica</b>	9:00am	Joseph Vechurettu (R.I.P)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February – <b>Our Lady of Lourdes</b>	9:00am	Fr David Barnes (R.I.P)
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February – Feria	9:00am	Barbara Cole (R.I.P)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February – Feria	9:00am	Liam Hoey
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February – <b>St Cyril &amp; St Methodius</b>	9:00am	David Eyres
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> February – Feria	9:00am	Patricia Magson (Int)

**Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year (C)**

Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> February – <b>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	6:30pm	Nioka D'Souza (thanksgiving)
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> February – <b>Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9:00am	Charles Stimpson & Robin Brown (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Martin Carty (R.I.P)

**Thought for the week:**

We don't serve the poor with disrespect, helping him or her as if reaching down from above to someone below. This is not what God wants, but rather he wants us to do this as one brother or sister to another. This is my brother or sister, this is Christ; and, with Christ, I am not reaching down from above to someone below, rather I am reaching up from below, to serve him above.  
**– St Oscar Romero**



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



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**Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year C)**  
**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Dear friends,  
 Never before have so many self-development and assertiveness course existed. However, lack of confidence and feelings of unworthiness are not just a modern problem. Indeed, Isaiah, Paul and Peter in today's three readings could be said to suffer from inferiority complexes.

Isaiah states he is a man of unclean lips, Paul that he is the least of all the apostles, Peter that he is a sinful man. Each start by admitting their unworthiness and inadequacy. Unfortunately, we too often confuse repentance with remorse. Remorse is literally the devil's contrition; it cuts the soul of hope and possibilities offered by the Lord of the future. Repentance however is the sister of true humility and springs from trust. Remorse looks back, repentance looks forward and trusts that in God all will work to good.

But it's hard to keep going. It is difficult to keep asking for something that you do not get. It is hard to keep working at relationships that seem to lead to hurt or rejection.

Peter may have worried about what the other fisherman would say if they did not catch any fish after Jesus' instruction to lower the nets one more time. Did he just go on faith, just move forward in obedience to this friend that he had come to believe in? Did he just feel in his heart that, sink or swim, fish or no fish, he would be secure in the love and the promises of Jesus?

Let's pray to have such a faith; to have the courage to move when called; to set out into deeper waters; to try again even when it feels futile. In a world that demands perfection as a prerequisite for credibility, remember that it is not the world, but the Lord, Creator and Saviour who has confidence in you.

**Every sinner has a past – Every saint has a future. (Cardinal Hume)**

*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 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:**

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

### **Loose**

£536.31

### **Envelopes**

£305.85

### **Right to Life:**

On Tuesday, we commemorate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Let us especially pray for all those who are nearing the end of their lives, that they may experience God's comfort and peace. We pray too for medical professionals who work in hospice care, that they might continue to safeguard the dignity and wellbeing of all patients, made in the image and likeness of God.

### **Holy Communion Programme:**

The next session will take place this Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> of March.

### **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](http://wordonfire.org/the-bible-event)

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

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.

### **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. *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 20<sup>th</sup> of February at 12pm. May he rest in peace.

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

Please note school finishes this Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of February for Mid-term break.

### **Dates for your Diary:**

- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of March – Ash Wednesday
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of March – Visit to Oscott Seminary Birmingham
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of March – Lenten Talks for 3 weeks at 7:30pm
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of May – May Procession at 3pm
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.whatgoodnews.org). A recording of the talk, and the q and a session, will be available subsequently on the same website.