

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

Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February – <b>Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	6:30pm	Ryan, Olivia & Family Blessing
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February – <b>Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9:00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Gillian Carleton (R.I.P)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February – Feria	9:00am	Ann Dunn (R.I.P)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February – Feria	9:00am	Pam Zammit
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February – Feria	9:00am	Vincent Brady (R.I.P)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February – Feria	9:00am	Jake & Jeremy (Thanksgiving)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February – Feria	9:00am	Darren Maguire
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> March – <b>St David</b>	9:00am	Francisca Lucas Perera (R.I.P)  Edna Saad (Int)

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

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> March – <b>Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	6:30pm	Sheryl Gowan (R.I.P)
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March – <b>Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9:00am	John Barry (R.I.P)
	11:00am	GracyKutty Joseph (R.I.P)

**Thought for the Week: Forgiveness works the miracle of change**

When Abraham Lincoln was asked why he did not destroy his enemies, he replied, 'If I make my enemies my friends, do I not thereby destroy them?'. The art of forgiveness consists in having a humble spirit. When you forgive you change yourself and other people as well. You free yourself from the burden of bitterness, and you loose others from the chain of guilt. Forgiveness works two ways: you must forgive in order to be forgiven. Those who cannot forgive break down the bridge over which they themselves must pass, for everybody needs to be forgiven. Forgiveness should start now. Putting it off only deepens the wound. Clinging to bitterness postpones happiness. Life is short, time is fleeting. Today is the day to forgive.



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



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**Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year C)**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025**

Dear friends,

We both plumb the depths and soar to the heights of human behaviour today. Our first reading presents us with an old King turned nasty who came off second best in a song comparing David and himself. He hunts David down, but his anger is recoiled on himself, when David lets King Saul off when he had caught him off guard. David is merciful. What would we have done? Do I sow seeds of Jealousy? Do I make unhelpful comments and comparisons between people? Do I take advantage of people in a callous and uncaring way?

The demands made by Jesus in the Gospel may seem impossible. 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly'. If we can listen to those demands without being made feel uncomfortable, then we have not really listened.

The Good News is that there is no limit to what we can do with God's help. A single parent gets through the rearing of her family against the odds, the sick achieves an almost impossible level of serenity.

The Gospel is made flesh and fresh in the lives of so many people today, neighbours, friends, family and YOU. Jesus calls for a high standard of behaviour. He also calls for a great compassion. We should never separate the two.

**Prayer:** With confidence we now approach the all-giving Father whose mercy towards us is limitless and without bounds. Almighty and compassionate Father, we thank you for the forgiveness you have offered through your Son. Help us to show your forgiveness to others. We make our prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*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:**

15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### **Loose**

£496.39

### **Envelopes**

£387.00

### **Right to Life:**

We pray for all women going through unexpected pregnancies, that they would experience peace and support in this circumstance, and recognise the many blessings that motherhood brings

### **Holy Communion Programme:**

The next session will take place this Thursday the 27<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 will be next Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March at 10.10am to 10.45am just before 11am Mass.

### **Baptism Course:**

The next session for the Baptism course will take place next Saturday the 8<sup>th</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 this Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.

### **Journey in Faith Programme:**

The Rite of Election takes place next Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March at 3pm in the Cathedral. Bishop Alan will welcome all those preparing for reception in Easter this year in our Parish we have 4 people receiving instruction in the Faith. Please keep them all in your prayer in this important journey.

### **Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life:**

The Mass will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> 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".

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

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

- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of March – Ash Wednesday
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> of March – Lenten Talks for 3 weeks at 7:30pm (*More details below*)
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of March – Visit to Oscott Seminary Birmingham
- 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 next 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 this Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February from 6pm – 9pm.*

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> March**