

MASS INTENTIONS
Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)

Saturday 29 th March – Fourth Sunday of Lent	6:30pm	Kathy & James Driver (R.I.P)
Sunday 30 th March – Fourth Sunday of Lent	9:00am	Lydia Akinwumi (Birthday Int)
	11:00am	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)
Monday 31 st March – Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent	9:00am	Arun (R.I.P)
Tuesday 1 st April – Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent	9:00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 2 nd April – Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent	9:00am	Gracykutty Joseph (R.I.P), Alferdo (R.I.P), Willis (R.I.P)
Thursday 3 rd April – Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent	9:00am	Barry McManus (R.I.P)
Friday 4 th April – Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent	9:00am	Special Intention
Saturday 5 th April – Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent	9:00am	Manual Jesus Rosales (R.I.P)

Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

Saturday 5 th April – Fifth Sunday of Lent	6:30pm	Frances Nolan (R.I.P)
Sunday 6 th April – Fifth Sunday of Lent	9:00am	Rosamma Francis (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Neve Moroney (R.I.P)

Thought for the Week:

Mercy gave the prodigal son a second chance, grace gave him a feast! God's mercy is lavish, generous beyond compare. How God longs to see us come home! How God longs to embrace and forgive us and restore us to a place of honour, to celebrate our return! How God longs to see those who are dead restored back to life and health so that they might dwell with him! God's mercy is open wide to receive us when we repent and return. How beautifully St John expressed this: 'How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God'. How wonderfully St Paul put it: 'But where sin increased, grace increased all the more'. – **Walk with Me**



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



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Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)
29th & 30th March 2025

Dear friends,
Few fans gather outside the dressing room of a defeated team. Once beaten, the team are 'out' of the competition and the fans can be unmerciful.
Students who succeed in exams are 'in' favour; those who fail are 'out' of favour.
Those of us who succeed in keeping our sins secret are 'in' – in public favour, those whose wrong-doing becomes known find themselves 'outside' the fold.
Such are the 'ins' and the 'outs' of everyday life. Yet, this pattern does not accord with the ways of a fabulous father who had two sons. Without glorifying failure, he brought 'in' the one who had strayed. (Sadly, the son who did well locked himself 'out' from Love).

God welcomes the prodigal, you, and me, not because of our virtue, merits, or achievements, but simply because we are his. God is represented as waiting for the child, as though he had no other interest, recognising him even when still a long way off, rushing out to meet him, apparently not hearing his confession of guilt. In prayer, meet and feel this welcome to you. What response do you want to make?

The elder brother represents the Pharisee in us, the God-the-judge part of us, which resents God's generosity to any who do not reach our standards of respectability and correctness. The Pharisee relishes his moral superiority. It is this attitude which has turned so many people away from the Church; single parents, divorced people, alcoholics, AIDs sufferers – the very people whom God, the shepherd, pursues, who rejoices in them when they are found.

Prayer: Lord, lover of all your creation, cleanse our minds and hearts of all false images of you. Show us your love of us, so that we may mirror your welcome to everyone we encounter. We ask you this through Jesus 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, 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, Livan 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 March 2025

Loose

£622.73

Envelopes

£344.80

Right to Life:

Let us pray for all those affected by the debate on assisted suicide, that they may be guided by compassion, wisdom, and respect for the dignity of every human life. May our leaders, medical professionals, and lawmakers seek to protect the vulnerable and uphold the sanctity of life in all decisions.

Holy Communion Programme:

The next session will take place this Thursday the 3rd of April 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 this Sunday the 6th of April 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 12th of April 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. It is hoped that the confirmation candidates will attend the upcoming Youth Mass at Brentwood Cathedral on Thursday 3rd of April. Coach will leave outside St Albans Church at 5:15pm and return at 9:30pm.

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 this 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.

Mother's Day:

Our prayers and best wishes go out to all Mums, past and present. Thank you all for being you. May Mary, our Heavenly mother be with you all.

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 4th – 6th of April at the Sion Community, Essex; for further details please contact Mary: 07730 884315, or email

BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com.

Lenten Holy Hour:

You are invited to spend time in prayer, face to face with Jesus in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: each Sunday evening 6pm – 7pm. You can pray with scriptures, rosary or simply in your own words as you enjoy his presence. It was suggested during our Mission last year that we pray for the following intentions:

- For the Young People of our Parish
- For those caught up in addictions of one kind or another
- For the spiritual and temporal wellbeing of married couples and the families of our Parish
- For those struggling with emotional and psychological wounds
- For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

Job Vacancy:

Headteacher of St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford. Salary L19-L25.

Closing date: Tuesday 22 April 2025 by 12 noon

Start Date September 1st 2025, or January 1st 2025.

For further details please see:

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

Chrism Mass:

The Chrism Mass will take place on 16th of April at 11am at the Brentwood Cathedral. There will be a coach leaving from St Albans to the Cathedral at 9am. Please put your name on the list at the back of the Church if you are intending to go. *There will be no 9am Mass at St Albans on the 16th of April.*

St Albans Catholic School:

School closes for the Easter Holidays this Friday the 4th of April and will reopen on Tuesday the 22nd of April. We wish all our Teachers, Staffs and Pupils a good rest and hopefully all will be involved in the Holy week services and the Easter Triduum coming up as we celebrate the great mystery of our faith.

Holy Week & Easter Card:

Holy week and Easter card with Mass and Service timings will be given out to our School and to our Parish next week.