

MASS INTENTIONS
Second Sunday of Lent (C)

Saturday 15 th March – Second Sunday of Lent	6:30pm	Tom & Bernadette Glennon (Int)
Sunday 16 th March – Second Sunday of Lent	9:00am	Agnes LO (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Thomas Megoran (R.I.P)
Monday 17 th March – St Partick	9:00am	Paddy & Michael Dear (R.I.P)
Tuesday 18 th March – Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent	9:00am	Patrick Connelly (R.I.P)
Wednesday 19 th March – St Joseph	9:00am	Declan Dockery (R.I.P)
Thursday 20 th March – Thursday of the Second Week of Lent	9:00am	Ann Larkin (R.I.P)
Friday 21 st March – Friday of the Second Week of Lent	9:00am	Teresa Shorey (Int)
Saturday 22 nd March – Saturday of the Second Week of Lent	9:00am	Cordelia Onodu

Third Sunday of Lent (C)

Saturday 22 nd March – Third Sunday of Lent	6:30pm	Lar Fennessy (R.I.P)
Sunday 23 rd March – Third Sunday of Lent	9:00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Ann O'Connor (R.I.P)

Thought for the Week: Transformed by Prayer

Prayer creates the space, the opportunity for us to see things differently as Peter, James and John did high on the mountain. Jesus' face shone like the sun, and his clothes were dazzling white as he conversed with Moses and Elijah. In prayer we learn to see the same beauty on the faces of the people who walk beside us, family, friends and work colleagues. In prayer we behold the face of Christ and behold the smiles, wrinkles, tears and scars on the faces of our brothers and sisters. In prayer we glimpse God's beauty and the beauty on the face of our neighbour, enabling us to love and forgive with greater earnestness and willingness. – **Walk with Me**



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



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Second Sunday of Lent (Year C)
15th & 16th March 2025

Dear friends,

For one reason or another we may feel a bit low; a night without sleep; a recent bereavement; a family tension, or a lingering burden. Just as we need the hope of brighter, longer days ahead to bring us through the winter, we need times to feel the closeness of Christ. True for the three apostles at Tabor – true for us. It's a real help to feel and know the companionship of Christ who has himself, journeyed the heights and hollows: acclamations to make him King; attempts to banish and stone him; palms spread before him by a fickle crowd; a cross laid upon him and him upon it.

Just as Christ came down from the mountain, we know that life cannot be spent on a mountain top, beautiful but remote and distant. There was another height for Him to climb – Calvary this time, not Tabor. Calvary of the darkened sky, his face covered with sweat and blood, no clothes to dazzle – they had been taken away, thieves for companions, no heavenly voice, only the din of scoffers. But Tabor and Calvary have one thing in common – Jesus prays on both summits.

But for some today, God is missing but not missed. It is not God who needs our prayer – we do. It's not enough to be in Jesus' company – we must 'Listen to Him' – in other words, to do as he says. By scripture, by his teaching, the informed conscience advice of Christian friends. For best results this Lent, follow the makers instructions.

PRAYER – Lord, give us a glimpse of the reality in which we are now living, enfolded in your goodness, and give us hope in the glory you have promised us. We ask 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, 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:

8th & 9th March 2025

Loose

£649.00

Envelopes

£373.55

Right to Life:

As we celebrate the Solemnity of St Joseph on Wednesday, let us pray for all fathers, that, through their example, they may demonstrate the loving provision and compassion of Almighty God to their children

Holy Communion Programme:

The next session will take place on Thursday the 27th 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 23rd of March 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.

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. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Kellie Moulding whose funeral will take place on the 27th of March at 1:30pm at Upminster Crematorium Chapel. Burial will take place afterwards. May they rest in peace.

Dates for your Diary:

- **Wednesday 19th of March – Lenten Talks for 3 weeks at 7:30pm (*More details below*)**
- Sunday 25th of May – May Procession at 3pm
- Wednesday 4th of June – Bishop's visit

Lenten Talks:

Our Second Lenten talk will be on Wednesday 19th 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 Martyrdom: The Catholic Church in England in penal times*". The talk will be given by Deacon Ken Carleton.

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

Petition against Assisted Suicide:

The Justice and Peace group will be collecting signature after all Masses this weekend. Please sign the Care Not Killing petition which calls on MPs to vote against legalising assisted suicide in England and Wales. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill would make vulnerable people - including the elderly and disabled - feel a burden on family or carers resulting in pressure to end their lives. Please see the A4 posters at the back of the Church for more information.