

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**Third Sunday of Lent (C)**

Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March – <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	6:30pm	Lar Fennessy (R.I.P)
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March – <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	9:00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Ann O'Connor (R.I.P)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March – <b>Monday of the Third Week of Lent</b>	9:00am	Pam Zammit
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March – <b>The Annunciation of The Lord</b>	9:00am	Eulette (Onodu & Chism)
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March – <b>Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent</b>	9:00am	Jayesh John (Birthday Int)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March – <b>Thursday of the Third Week of Lent</b>	9:00am	Veronica Dowling (R.I.P)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March – <b>Friday of the Third Week of Lent</b>	9:00am	David Eyres
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> March – <b>Saturday of the Third Week of Lent</b>	9:00am	Mireya De Rosales (R.I.P)

**Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)**

Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> March – <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	6:30pm	Kathy & James Driver (R.I.P)
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> March – <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	9:00am	Lydia Akinwumi (Birthday Int)
	11:00am	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)

**Thought for the Week: The Feast of Annunciation**

Listening to God or each other is a lost art in our busy frenetic, 24/7, social media driven world. Information overload and too much screen time mean we risk missing out on the experience of the Psalmist, 'Be still and know that I am God'. Being distracted, preoccupied and consumed with ourselves hinders our ability to listen. The Holy Spirit shows us another way, the way of the Spirit. What seems impossible becomes possible when we pray, 'Lord, help me to listen more and talk less' or 'Lord, I am sorry for being self-consumed, set me free.' Mary is our model, the example, par excellence, of the listening heart. Her soul praised the Lord, her spirit rejoiced in God her Saviour – **Walk with Me**



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



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**Third Sunday of Lent (Year C)**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

Dear friends,  
The readings for today, the Third Sunday of Lent, present an urgent call to repentance, to recognise and acknowledge God's infinite power and glory, compared to our human weakness and sinfulness, and to seek His help and guidance in all the events of our lives.  
The fig tree in the Gospel is a metaphor for repentance. For three years the owner comes to it and finds no fruit and is inclined to cut it down. The gardener says he will leave it one more year, give it some help and manure it and if it does not produce fruit the next year, will have it cut down. The fig tree represents our souls, which should produce good fruits. For this to happen, we need the disposition to let ourselves be worked on, to be humble enough to turn to God, accepting that we are sinners in need of grace and forgiveness. Then we can be renewed and begin to show good fruits.

It is important to remember that God is not absent from our sufferings. He came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ to suffer in love for us, that we might unite our sufferings with His and in that way, receive His grace and strength.  
We are all in need of His grace and strength. It takes humility to admit that. St. Paul says in the second reading that even 'the man who thinks he is safe must be careful he does not fall.'  
The purpose of repentance is to receive the forgiveness of God and peace in our souls. As the psalm today says, 'It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave'. Let us seize the opportunity that Lent offers us to repent and turn back to God.

*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 Dumbrell, 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:**

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

### **Loose**

£515.08

### **Envelopes**

£395.80

### **Right to Life:**

On Tuesday, we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, the day we commemorate when the Lord Jesus took on human flesh. Let us pray that all expectant mothers and fathers will be given the grace of God and the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

### **Holy Communion Programme:**

The next session will take place this Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 this Sunday the 30<sup>th</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 on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> of April. It is hoped that the confirmation candidates will attend the upcoming Youth Mass at Brentwood Cathedral on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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".

### **Pilgrims Of Hope/ Ambassadors Of Hope:**

Fr Mark at Mary's in Hornchurch will give a talk on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](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 this Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of March at 12noon. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Kellie Moulding whose funeral will take place this Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of March at 1:30pm at Upminster Crematorium Chapel. Burial will take place afterwards. May they rest in peace.

### **Stations of the Cross:**

There will be Stations of the Cross this Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of March at St Albans Church.

### **Lenten Talks:**

Our Third Lenten talk will be this Wednesday 26<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 Need: Frederic Ozanam and the creation of the SVP*". The talk will be given by Br Christopher Dyczek OFM.

### **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<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> of April at the Sion Community, Essex; for further details please contact Mary: 07730 884315, or email [BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com](mailto: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:**

St Mary's Catholic Primary School: Headteacher required from 1st September 2025. L19-25 (Starting salary based on experience). NOR: 420 (2 form entry). Deadline for applications: **4:00 pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025**. We welcome and encourage applicants to visit our school. If required please liaise with the School Office Manager, Joanne Brooks. Information and application packs are available at [admin@stmcpes.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmcpes.co.uk) and completed applications should be sent to this address also. Further information is available from the school website: <https://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk/>