

MASS INTENTIONS

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Year C)

Saturday 13th September – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	6.30pm	Annamma Francis (R.I.P)
Sunday 14th September – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	9:00am	Thomas Mulvaney (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Andrew Turner (Birthday Int)
Monday 15th September – Our Lady of Sorrows	9:00am	Goger Prosper & Family
Tuesday 16th September – Ss Cornelius, P And Cyprian	9:00am	Marie Anne & Family
Wednesday 17th September – Feria	9:00am	Redmond & Mary Keogh (R.I.P)
Thursday 18th September – Feria	9:00am	Lauren Bramman (R.I.P)
Friday 19th September – Feria	9:00am	Thanksgiving
Saturday 20th September – St Andrew Kim Tae-gon and his companions	9:00am	Mrs Eileen Newman (R.I.P)

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Saturday 20th September – Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	6:30pm	Brigid Barulis (R.I.P)
Sunday 21st September – Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00am	Catherine Mair (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Eileen Newman (R.I.P)

Thought for the week:

Do not seek a cross – the right one will find you. But when it comes, take it up bravely, without counting the cost. St Padre Pio encourages trust in God's providence, accepting the trials God permits for our sanctification.

The weight of the cross may press heavily on your shoulders, but it is the very thing that will keep you close to the heart of Christ. – this highlights the fact that our struggles whatever they may be rather than driving us away from God may draw us closer to Him.



ST ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Langdale Gardens RM12 5LA

PARISH PRIEST: Canon Maurice Gordon



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The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Year C)

13th & 14th September 2025

Dear friends,

Today we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Through the eyes of the resurrection, we can see the cross of Jesus as the Triumph of love over hatred of Jesus' love over the hatred of his enemies, of God's love over the hateful rejection of his Son. This is how John in his Gospel understood the cross of Jesus. It was the Glorious revelation of God's love for the world.

We venerate the cross because it is a powerful manifestation of a love that is greater than any human love. We are all embraced by the love of God that shines through Christ Crucified. St Maximilian Kolbe said, "The Cross is the school of love". He teaches that suffering, when united with Christ transforms us, deepening our capacity for love and self-giving.

Today, let us gaze upon the Cross, not with sorrow but with gratitude. For in its shadow lies the promise of hope, the assurance of love, and the path to eternal life. In a world often marred by hatred and division, may the exalted Cross remind us of the lengths Love will go to embrace and heal us all.

PRAYER:

God of all grace and blessing, your ways are not our ways or your thoughts our thoughts. Grant that our prayers find favour with you so that we might have in ourselves the same mind which was in Christ Jesus who humbled himself even unto death on the cross and who now lives and reigns forever. **Amen**

God Bless
Canon Maurice

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Nell Addison, Domingos De Albuquerque, 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, Baby Stephen Kelly, Vicky Loik, David Lynch, 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, Julia Stokes, Teresa Shorey, John Sinclair, The Salter Family (Bert, Charlie and Bert's Daughter-in-law), Charles Stimpson, Julia Thomas, Melon Vigo, Heather Wood, 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:

6th & 7th September 2025

Loose

£815.18

Envelopes

£452.50

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place on Saturday the 11th of October at 9am in the Parish Hall. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

Holy Communion Programme 2025/26:

The parents meeting will be held next Sunday 21st September at 4:30pm in the parish hall.

Youth Mass, First Thursday of the Month, Brentwood Cathedral, from 6pm

Join the BCYS to celebrate Youth Mass each month with other young Catholics from all around the Diocese. There will be pizza in the Parish Hall from 6pm, with a different input each month - speakers, workshops, prayer and worship, Reconciliation or more! Youth Mass is then celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. **Next date: Thursday 2nd October.**

Confirmation Program

Application forms are now available for year 2025/2026 for year 10 upwards. Please take a form from the back of the Church and return it by the 28th September for the interview with Canon Maurice on that date at 5pm

Statue of Mary

If you wish to take the Statue of Mary home for the week, **PLEASE** make sure you book it in the diary provided in the office.

Retrouvaille – Marriage Support:

Holidays periods can be very stressful for marriages and couples often suffer in silence. Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? Next programme starts 17th October www.retrouvaille.org.uk or Tel: 07887 296983.

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.

Volunteers Needed to Serve the Parish Community from September onwards

- **We need six volunteers to count the weekly offertory; this will allow a rota system to be established which would minimise the commitment. Please contact the Office, Deacon Ken or Canon Maurice.**

Journey in Faith Programme (RCIA)

Anyone who wishes to know more about the basics of the Faith or is interested in joining the Church is invited to the weekly session which recommences this year on the Monday 29th September 2025 at 7:30pm in the Presbytery. Any Parishioner who wishes to support this group is also invited to come along.

Secondary school forms:

Canon Maurice will be available to sign the secondary school forms on Sunday the 12th of October from 5-7pm and on Monday the 13th of October from 6-7pm. These dates will be the only times that Father will be available to sign them.

CELEBRATING VATICAN II

As the sixtieth anniversary of the conclusion of Vatican II approaches Fr Adrian Graffy will lead a study day entitled 'Vatican II and its Popes'.

The event will take place at the Catholic parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) on Saturday 20th September from 10.30. Entrance is free, and a recording of the talk will be available subsequently on

www.whatgoodnews.org

Mother & Toddler Group:

If you would like to join us, please contact Maria at stalbanstoddler@yahoo.com or 07774 719 806 for more information.

All Saints Catholic School Open Evening

All Saints Catholic School Open Evening will be held at the school on Wednesday 1st October for September 2026 admissions. Visitors will receive a tour of our outstanding school (Ofsted 2024) and will have an opportunity to meet staff and pupils. Parents are invited to follow this QR code to book and choose a 4:30pm or 6pm time slot.

See our school website for more details (allsaintsschool.co.uk). Please note booking is essential due to high demand and limited spaces.



ARCHBISHOP SAINT ÓSCAR ROMERO:

Archbishop John Wilson (Archbishop of Southwark) will be giving a Talk and power-point Presentation on Saint Óscar Romero, in the Cathedral Parish Hall on Wednesday 8th October at 7.30pm. Archbishop John has made a special study of St Oscar Romero, and it is a great honour and privilege to invite him to our Cathedral Parish and Diocese for this talk.