

MASS INTENTIONS

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Saturday 6th September – Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Margaret Crumlish (R.I.P)
Sunday 7th September – Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:00am	Raphael & Temi Akinwumi Birthday Int
	11:00am	Patricia Kathleen North (R.I.P)
Monday 8th September – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9:00am	Fr Brian McWilliams (R.I.P)
Tuesday 9th September – Feria	9:00am	Dr Matthew Onodu (Birthday Int)
Wednesday 10th September – Feria	9:00am	Lauren Bramman (R.I.P)
Thursday 11th September – Feria	9:00am	Rachael Miranda (Int)
Friday 12th September – Feria	9:00am	John & MGT Conway (R.I.P)
Saturday 13th September – St John Chrysostom	9:00am	Michelle & Family (Birthday Int)

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)

Thought for the week: Cardinal Newman, Doctor of the Church

Pope Leo XIV has announced his intention to declare St John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Universal Church. This title of doctor of the Church is rarely bestowed and recognises the exceptional contribution that St John Henry made to theological research and reflection. It puts him into the company of the greatest teachers of the Church, such as St Augustine, St Thomas Aquinas, St Teresa of Avila, St Therese of Lisieux and others, now totalling just 38 in all.

St John Henry has a very special connection with Dublin, having lived and worked from 181 – 1858 as the first Rector of the Catholic University of Ireland, the forerunner of today's University College Dublin. It was here in Dublin that he delivered the famous lectures on university education, later published as the Idea of a University. The beautiful University Church on St Stephen's Green was also built on his initiative. St John Henry Newman, pray that the people of Ireland will treasure the faith that has been passed on to them.



ST ALBAN'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Langdale Gardens RM12 5LA

PARISH PRIEST: Canon Maurice Gordon



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Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

6th & 7th September 2025

Dear friends,

The Gospel today calls us to check out how our discipleship is being lived. Is God centre-stage in my life? In my Parish?

The reading presents us with a series of sayings on what the demands of a life of discipleship involves in terms of suffering and self-sacrifice. The life to be lead and the conditions laid down are anything but easy: you give God everything and hold nothing back. Whole-hearted service is demanded and there is no room for compromise. The price to be paid is the heavy burden of the cross. 'To be a follower is to be discipline in the ways of Jesus.

It is an active decision to get to know Jesus better. This is not going to come cheap. It comes at a cost. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book 'The Cost of Discipleship' says that cheap grace is grace without the cross. Discipleship will make demands. It will demand our time, our possessions, our energy and our true selves. As our Gospel points out today, it could make demands on family life, friends, cause us discomfort or even pain. While suffering is not the goal of discipleship, it may be the price for being a follower of Jesus.

PRAYER:

Lord God, you call us to commit ourselves fully to your kingdom. Grant us the strength, courage and perseverance we need to answer your call. We make these and all our prayers through Christ our Lord. **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:

30th & 31st August 2025

Loose

£528.93

Envelopes

£376.55

Stop assisted suicide - action needed!

The Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill is expected to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Friday 12 September. Right To Life UK has launched an *EasyAction* tool to help you write to a few Peers with a tailored message to highlight key concerns with the Bill.

Please take action now and visit [//www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers) to ask Peers to oppose assisted suicide - it takes just 30 seconds!

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place on Saturday the 13th of September at 9am in the Parish Hall. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

Holy Communion Programme 2025/26:

Applications for this year's First Holy Communion programme will be available from the back of the church from Saturday 25th July until 14th September 2025. The parents meeting will be held on 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 is 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.

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.**
- **Anyone interested in welcoming people to St Albans Church. It makes a great difference for anyone coming to Mass to have that initial contact with someone at the door, it makes people feel included and there is always someone to ask if they are unsure. We are looking for any age group, we only ask you to be friendly, welcoming, respectful and be at Church early to greet people. If you are willing, please let the office know by email your name and the Mass you attend.**

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.

Health and Safety

We have been extremely lucky for a number of years and have had the constant care of the parish looked after by Frank Nice which we are considerably grateful, but Frank has decided he needs to step back from the role and hand over to someone else. This is a vital role in the parish and needs someone with some degree of knowledge, although there is training provided, and Frank has said he would still be around for guidance. If there is anyone in the parish able to cover this role, please let us know.

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.

