

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**First Sunday of Advent (Year A)**

<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November – First Sunday of Advent</b>	6.30pm	Patrick Waters (R.I.P)
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November – First Sunday of Advent</b>	9:00am	Teresa Jarrold (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Monday of the First Week of Advent</b>	9:00am	James Cronogue (R.I.P)
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Tuesday of the First Week of Advent</b>	9:00am	Ellen McDonald (R.I.P)
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – St Francis Xavier</b>	9:00am	Teresa Shorey (Int)
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Thursday of the First Week of Advent</b>	9:00am	Joan Bailey (R.I.P)
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Friday of the First Week of Advent</b>	9:00am	Catherine Friel (Int)
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Saturday of the First Week of Advent</b>	9:00am	Siobhan McKeon (Int)

**Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)**

<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent</b>	6:30pm	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent</b>	9:00am	Feast of St Ambrose (Thanksgiving)
	11:00am	Thomas Gorham (R.I.P)

**Reflection for the Week:**

As we light the first Advent candle, let its growing light symbolise our growing readiness for Jesus. In a culture that rushes Christmas, let's embrace Advent's quiet anticipation, trusting that Christ, our hope, is coming to make all things new. As we enter this season, let's stay awake, preparing our hearts for Christ. Through prayer, penance, and love, may we welcome him at Christmas and always. May this Eucharist strengthen us to live as his light in the world, ready for his return.



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



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**Fr. Joseph Farrell (Retired) – 2B, Langdale Gardens, RM12 5LA**

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**First Sunday of Advent (Year A)**  
**29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

Dear friends,

The new Church Year begins with Jesus' words urging his disciples to live their lives in the certain knowledge that he will come again. As we begin to focus on his first coming as a human being, we ask the Lord to open our hearts to welcome him and his message, to renew our hope, to work through us, to bring his peace, his love and his vision to our world. Vigilance is a key element in our expectation; however, it is a vigilance made visible in a truly Christian life of sacrifice and concern. May this advent keep us alert and open to His light in living out our Christian life.

The Advent Wreath

It was in the western Church that the tradition of the Advent wreath grew. It celebrates the coming of eternal Light into a world "sitting in the darkness and the shadow of death" (LK 1:78). This brightly round wreath expresses our conviction that Christ will always come into the world as its true light.

Symbolism of the Wreath

The circular shape symbolizes the coming of the Lord, in the past in flesh, in the present in grace, in the future in glory. The evergreens are a sign of our hope for salvation. Green is the Church's colour for hope. We are reminded of the everlasting life and love that comes to us from God through Jesus Christ. The candles (three purple and one rose coloured) are the Light, which "shines in the darkness", coming progressively as each week another candle is lit.

The purple candles (for the 1st, 2nd and 4th weeks) symbolize repentance and conversion, clearing away the mountains and filling in the valleys.

The rose coloured candle (3rd week, formerly it was Gaudete Sunday) is a sign of our joy that the Lord is always near.

*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, Teresa Morris, 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:**

22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

**Loose**

£397.27

**Envelopes**

£363.00

**Baptism Course:**

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

**Holy Communion Programme 2025/26:**

The next session will be the sacrament of reconciliation for the Children and for the parents as well, this Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of December at 11am. There will be a number of visiting Priest helping us. We also continue the sessions every Sunday for the children and parents not attending Catholic Schools at 10:10am to 10:45am just before 11am Mass.

**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 every Monday at 7:30pm in the Presbytery. Any Parishioner who wishes to support this group is also invited to come along.

**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.

**Mother & Toddler Group:**

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

**R.I.P:**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Teresa Morris who died last week. Her funeral will take place on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December at 11am. It is with great sadness we also announce the death of our former Bishop who died on Monday. He was our bishop of Brentwood from 1980 to 2014, 34 years of devoted service. His funeral will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December in the Cathedral at 11:30am. May they Rest in Peace.

**Job Vacancy:**

- **Walsingham House Team 26/27:** applications are now open for the Walsingham House Team 26/27. Being on the team is a wonderful opportunity to work with young people from across the diocese, live in community and to share and deepen our faith. Applications are open to those aged 18-23 (current Yr13 and above). For more information including the application form please see the website <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email [michaelkearns@brcdt.org](mailto:michaelkearns@brcdt.org). Applications close on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
- **Headteacher – St Peter's Primary School, Romford**  
*Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Tuesday 6th January 2026*
- **The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch,** are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher from April 2026. Closing date: *Friday 9th January 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 23rd January 2026.* Enquiries can be made by email to [admin@stmcpss.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmcpss.co.uk), or phone 01708 448430.

**Catechists & Readers Day:**

There will be a meeting for all Catechists & readers on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December beginning with Mass at 9am and finishing with lunch at 2pm. All people who are involved as Catechists in the sacramental life of the Parish are invited to attend for support and for training in this very important work for passing on the faith. Readers also have a great responsibility of proclaiming the word of God and support will be giving to you as well.

**Dates for the Dairy:**

- **Carol Concert** – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> of December 5:45pm
- **Day for Readers and Catechist** – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> of December 9am – 2pm (*Lunch*)
- **Church Carol Service** – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> of December 5:30pm

**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 4<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes:**

Join Bishop Alan and pilgrims from across our diocese in Lourdes next summer: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Booking details will be available in the new year.

**ADVENT TALK ON THE PROPHETS**

Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be giving a short talk at 7pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the Catholic parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, in Gidea Park. The topic is the Prophets. You may attend in person free of charge or watch livestream at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) The talk will be available subsequently on the same website.

**Carol Concert:**

Next Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December we have our Carol Concert at 5:45pm. This is always an annual get together of our Parish Community including many cultural and different communities of our Parish being involved. Do come along to enjoy an Advent celebration of our Parish. ***Please note that there is no Holy Hour on that evening.***