

MASS INTENTIONS
Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Saturday 6th December – First Sunday of Advent	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 7th December – First Sunday of Advent	9:00am	Feast of St Ambrose (Birthday Int)
	11:00am	Thomas Gorham (R.I.P)
Monday 8th December – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9:00am	Arun (R.I.P)
Tuesday 9th December – Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent	9:00am	Aleena Thanksgiving
Wednesday 10th December – Wednesday Of the Second Week of Advent	9:00am	Mireya De Rosales (R.I.P)
Thursday 11th December – Thursday of the Second Week of Advent	9:00am	Hafiza Wallace (R.I.P)
Friday 12th December – Friday of the Second Week of Advent	9:00am	Brigid Barulis (R.I.P anni)
Saturday 13th December – St Lucy	9:00am	Cora Brockwell (Int)

Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Saturday 13th December – Third Sunday of Advent	6:30pm	Chloe (Int)
Sunday 14th December – Third Sunday of Advent	9:00am	Lydia & Raphael Akinwumi (Wedding anni)
	11:00am	Michael Kelly (R.I.P)

Reflection for the Week:

Advent helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an “advent”, a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognise him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively towards him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously. – **St John Paul II**



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



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Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)
6th & 7th December 2025

Dear friends,

The Gospel today features John the Baptist preaching in the desert. We know that deserts are hot, dry, barren and empty open spaces. Notice that John does not preach in the city centre; he goes out into the wilderness. The desert environment provides silence and solitude, and those conditions allow the soul to connect to God and to hear him. In the midst of noise and distraction, it is much harder to keep God in mind. So, John goes out, stripping himself of all unnecessary attachments. He is in the wilderness, dressed simply and with very basic food. He is living the message he preaches, of repentance, turning away from sin and distraction, to become free and open to God.

John is considered the last of the Old Testament prophets; the immediate forerunner to Christ, and he prepares the people for the coming of Christ. This makes him a good model for us to reflect on during these weeks of Advent. Even though John is in the desert, many people leave the city to seek him and to hear him. His message is that the Lord is near, and you must prepare yourselves for him by repentance, to repent means to be honest with oneself, identify our failings and seek earnestly to change. John's message of repentance is aimed at us too.

As we get nearer to Christmas, there will be many demands and pressures on us. Let us try not to be sucked in by these, but to give space for the Lord to work in us. Let us try to follow John the Baptist and recreate the desert environment by facing ourselves honestly in prayer, with a repentant heart. In doing so, may we become ready to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

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 Dumbrill, 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:

29th & 30th November 2025

Loose

£518.28

Envelopes

£390.00

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place on Saturday the 10th of January 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 take place on Thursday the 8th of January 2026 at 7pm. Children will meet in the Parish Hall and Parents in the Church.

We also continue the sessions next Sunday for the children and parents not attending Catholic Schools every Sunday at 10.10am to 10.45am just before 11am Mass.

Confirmation Programme:

The next session for the Confirmation programme will be on Saturday the 10th of January 2026 at 4pm.

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:

Please note there is no Holy Hour for the next 2 weeks because of the Advent celebrations.

R.I.P:

It is with great sadness we announce the death of Bishop McMahon who died recently. He was our bishop of Brentwood from 1980 to 2014, 34 years of devoted service. His funeral will take place next Tuesday the 16th of December in the Brentwood Cathedral at 11:30am. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Teresa Morris who died last week. Her funeral will take place on Thursday the 18th of December at 10:45am. Also pray for Edward O'Dwyer who died recently, his funeral will take place on the 22nd of December at 1pm. 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. Applications close on Friday 16th 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, or phone 01708 448430.

Dates for the Dairy:

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

Catechists & Readers Day:

There will be a meeting for all Catechists & readers next Saturday 13th 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.

Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes:

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

Mother & Toddler Group:

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

Church Carol Service:

The Church Carol Service will take place next Sunday the 14th of December at 5:30pm and this will be led by the St Albans Primary School and the Sunday School, along with the Parish Choirs. This will be a reflection on the Christmas Story. Everyone is invited to attend.

New Directory:

The Brentwood Diocesan Directroy is now available at the back of the church for purchase, it will be £3.20 for each.

Parish Bazaar:

The Parish-School Bazaar was a tremendous success socially and financially. A very big 'thank you' to all who gave generously both in gifts and in support. We thank especially those who helped in the organisation of this event, all who manned the stalls and helped to prepare the hall and clear up afterwards. The whole afternoon was a team effort by all concerned. Your help and support are greatly appreciated. The amount raised was £2895.90. of which half will go to the school and the other half to the Parish.