

MASS INTENTIONS
Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

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| Saturday 17th January – Second Sunday of Ordinary Time | 6.30pm | Maureen & Noreen Walsh (R.I.P) |
| Sunday 18th January – Second Sunday of Ordinary Time | 9:00am | James O'Brien (R.I.P) |
| | 11:00am | Deceased Members of the Abela & Borg Families |
| Monday 19th January – Feria | 9:00am | Ron McKertich (Int) |
| Tuesday 20th January – Feria | 9:00am | Teresa Morris (R.I.P) |
| Wednesday 21st January – St Agnes | 9:00am | Joe Mahony (R.I.P) |
| Thursday 22nd January – Feria | 9:00am | Thanksgiving |
| Friday 23rd January – Feria | 9:00am | Mark Finnegan (R.I.P) |
| Saturday 24th January – St Frances de Sales | 9:00am | Vincent Brady (R.I.P) |
| Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A) | | |
| Saturday 24th January – Third Sunday of Ordinary Time | 6:30pm | Liam McDonald & Clement Janganant (R.I.P) |
| Sunday 25th January – Third Sunday of Ordinary Time | 9:00am | Susan Williams (R.I.P) |
| | 11:00am | Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P) |

Thought for the Week:

John 'Saw Jesus coming towards him.' – Jesus is always coming towards us, too. Why? Because he loves us. He never imposes himself. He doesn't burst through the door and force us to accept him or even acknowledge him. But he does remain close, hoping we will catch a glimpse of his love and, in that instant, recognise that he is everything our hearts long for. What will happen if we open the door of our life, of our heart, to Christ? He will call us to abandon the tight confines of our egotism, greed, lust, envy, and selfishness. He will open new dimension to our poor, fleeting days on this earth.



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



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Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)
17th & 18th January 2026

Dear Friends,

In this Octave of prayer for Christian Unity, we are called upon to deepen our appreciation of the riches of other religious traditions. When we pray for Church Unity, we do not pray that Presbyterians, Methodists, Anglicans, Catholics will forget their own separate history, traditions and identity to form one big, vague Christian merger. Just as in marriage, unity does not mean uniformity or sameness. The day when Christians can worship as one and the same people, in one and the same place, is still a long way off. But let us begin. We pray that the different religious families will become stronger and closer.

The Universal Catechism of the Catholic Church points out that Christians must pray and work to maintain, reinforce and perfect the unity that Christ wills. To respond adequately to that call, it holds that certain qualities are needed, a permanent renewal of the Church in her own vocation.

Cardinal Mercier in his Testament says simply 'In order to be united we must love one another, to love one another we must know one another, to know one another we must meet one another'

The Octave of prayer for Christian Unity falls between 18th – 25th January. Next Sunday 25th of January we gather with our brothers and sisters from our local Churches at St Albans Church at 6:30pm to meet and to celebrate together in prayer and song our Christian witness, everyone is welcome.

God Bless
Canon Maurice

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Nell Addison, Domingos De Albuquerque, Christophe Amblard, Eva Au, Michael Balfour, William Bradbury, Rose Cahill, Marlene Camay, John Carty, Macmillan Chitoma Bras-Goncalves, Maureen Daly, Katherine Day, Gerry Margaret Dumbrill, Martha Dwyer, Fiona Forder, James Francis, Catherine Friel, 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, Robin Stinson, 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:

10th & 11th January 2026

Loose

£741.51

Envelopes

£540.11

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place on Saturday the 14th of February 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 this Thursday the 22nd of January 2026 at 7pm. Children will meet in the Parish Hall and Parents in the Church. We also continue the sessions every Sunday for the children and parents not attending Catholic Schools at 10.10am to 10.45am,

Confirmation Programme:

The next session will be on Thursday 5th of February at Brentwood Cathedral. The coach will leave the Church at 5:30pm. It is expected that all our confirmation candidates will 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 every Monday at 7:30pm in the Presbytery.

Diocesan 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.

Holy Hour:

Please note Holy Hour continues every Sunday 6 -7pm. But next Sunday the 25th there will be no Holy Hour as we meet for our Christian Unity Service at 6:30pm.

Mother & Toddler Group:

If you would like to join us in 2026, please contact Maria at stalbanstoddler@yahoo.com or 07774 719 806 for more information.

BCYS Summer Lourdes:

Applications are now open for the pilgrimage next July, for those in Year 10 and above. Sign up by January: <https://bcys.net/events/sl26/>.

Monthly Youth Mass

The next Youth Mass is on 5th February at Brentwood Cathedral 7.30pm

Post Confirmation Group:

We are hoping to start a post confirmation group meeting every month starting from Friday the 6th of February at 6:30pm. There is a felt need for young people to be supported, and this project could enhance the Spiritual development of our young people. The strength of our young people is in working together as a group.

R.I.P:

We pray for the repose of the souls of Rosalinda Mesina who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will take place this Monday 19th of January at 1pm. Please also pray for Margeret Keating her Requiem Mass will take place on 28th of January at 10:45am. Please also pray for James Akinyemi who died suddenly in Nigeria, funeral arrangements later. May they Rest in Peace.

Holy Father's Intention for January:

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope for your communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Elm Park Horticultural Society

It is with regret that we announce the sad death of Bernie Williams the chair of the horticultural society. His funeral will be this Friday 23rd January at South Essex Crematorium 2.30pm.

Dates For Your Dairy:

- **Ash Wednesday** – 18th of February
- **Variety Show** – 21st of March
- **Easter Tridium** – 2nd – 5th of April

BCCS Afternoon Tea

The Brentwood Catholic Children Society is delighted to kick off the year with an invitation to Afternoon Tea. Hosted in the opulent surroundings of the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on **Tuesday 17th February 2026 (13:30-15:30)**.

Set in the elegant ballroom of this prestigious venue, this fundraising event promises an experience of true luxury.

Tickets are £35 per person - for more information or to book your place search www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/ or contact Julie (jabbott@bccs.org.uk or 07912277413).

Social Committee:

We would like to organise a social committee with people that will be available to help at any parish events like the Bazaar, variety show and tea making for other events. The meeting will be on the 4th of February at 7pm, anyone interested is welcome to join us. Thank you