

MASS INTENTIONS

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

Saturday 24 th January – Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Liam McDonald & Clement Janganant (R.I.P)
Sunday 25 th January – Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	9:00am	Susan Williams (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)
Monday 26 th January – St Timothy & Titus	9:00am	Teresa Caden (Int)
Tuesday 27 th January – Feria	9:00am	Mr Shah (Thanksgiving)
Wednesday 28 th January – St Thomas Aquinas	9:00am	Vidal DaCosta
Thursday 29 th January – Feria	9:00am	James Akinyemi (R.I.P) Requiem Mass
Friday 30 th January – Feria	9:00am	May Shanahan (Int)
Saturday 31 st January – St John Bosco	9:00am	James Koshy

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

Saturday 31 st January – Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	6:30pm	Eddie O'Dwyer (R.I.P)
Sunday 1 st February – Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9:00am	James Stimpson (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Bishop Thomas McMahon (R.I.P)

Thought for the Week:

'Repent', in other words, 'Change your life'. Today Jesus speaks those same words to you: 'Take heart, I am here with you, allow me to enter, and your life will change'. Jesus knocks at the door. That is why the Lord gives you his word, so that you can receive it like a love letter he has written to you, to help you realise that he is at your side. His word console and encourages us. At the same time, it challenges us, frees us from the bondage of our selfishness and summons us to conversion. Because his word has the power to change our lives and to lead us out of darkness into the light. – Pope Francis



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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Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

24th & 25th January 2026

Dear Friends,

The passage grave at Newgrange in Co. Meath is one of the great pre-historic sites in Europe. Inside, a long stone passage leads to a dark and eerie central chamber. Each year at winter solstice, on the longest dark night of the year, a small group of people squeeze into the dark chamber and wait for the dawn. When the sun rises it shines fantastically through a chink in the stone and lights up the central chamber.

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light, on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned. The sun shines through the darkness at Newgrange and a few days later, while still in the darkness of mid-winter, we Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. The Gospel reading today from Mathew Chapter 4, goes to great pains to tell us that Jesus 'Settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali' - so that we would realise that Isaiah's prophecy was being fulfilled in Jesus. And so, we can pray in faith. The Lord is my light and my help (Ps 26).

'There's a stretch to the evenings', we say as we desperately search for signs of light and hope in these dark January days. The days are dark and the times seem dark. Tennyson's verse from In Memoriam seems apt for our times: "Our little systems have their day, they have their day and cease to be they are but broken lights of thee, and thou O Lord, art more than they".

Sometimes we need to experience the darkness before we appreciate the light. Our attention and focus must be Jesus., the Light of the world and not broken human lights – because, as the poet says: "They are but broken lights of thee and thou O Lord, art more than they".

*God Bless
Canon Maurice*

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Nell Addison, Domingos De Albuquesque, 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, Mary Gallet, Anna Gawlik, Ian Gilling, Maisie Glennon, Maureen Gorham, Kevin Hart, 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:
17th & 18th January 2026

Loose
£529.47

Envelopes
£357.00

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 on Thursday the 5th of February 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 this Sunday the 25th there will be no Holy Hour as we meet for our Christian Unity Service at 6:30pm. All are welcome.

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:

Please pray for Margaret Keating her Requiem Mass will take place this Wednesday 28th of January at 10:45am. Her remains will be brought into the Church on Tuesday 27th of January at 5pm. Please also pray for James Akinyemi his Requiem Mass will take place this Thursday at 9am. Please pray for Fr David Manson who also died recently. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St Mary and St Helen, Brentwood at 11am this Wednesday 28th January. Also pray for Catherine Friel whose Requiem Mass will take place on the 11th of February at 12:45pm. Her remains will be brought into the Church on Tuesday 10th February evening at 5pm. May they Rest in Peace.

Dates For Your Diary:

- **Ash Wednesday** – 18th of February
- **Variety Show** – 21st of March
- **Easter Triduum** – 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

Christian Unity Week:

We have come to the end of the *Octave of Prayer for Unity* this evening as we join with our brothers and sisters from our local Christian Churches to celebrate our Christian friendship and fellowship together. There will be some refreshments in the Church meeting room after the service. Please make every effort to come and share with our brothers and sisters.