

MASS INTENTIONS
First Sunday of Lent (Year A)

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| Saturday 21st February – First Sunday of Lent | 6.30pm | William Dwyer (R.I.P) |
| Sunday 22nd February – First Sunday of Lent | 9:00am | Nioka D'Souza (Int) |
| | 11:00am | Jane Garner (R.I.P) |
| Monday 23rd February – Monday of the First Sunday of Lent | 9:00am | Mark Finnegan (R.I.P) |
| Tuesday 24th February – Tuesday of the First Sunday of Lent | 9:00am | Margaret Keating (R.I.P) |
| Wednesday 25th February – Wednesday of the First Sunday of Lent | 9:00am | Kathleen Officer (R.I.P) |
| Thursday 26th February – Thursday of the First Sunday of Lent | 9:00am | Oluwole Akinyemi (R.I.P) |
| Friday 27th February – Friday of the First Sunday of Lent | 9:00am | Sheryl Gowan (R.I.P) |
| Saturday 28th February – Saturday of the First Sunday of Lent | 9:00am | Anthony Raj (R.I.P) |

Second Sunday of Lent (Year A)

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| Saturday 28th February – Second Sunday of Lent | 6:30pm | Patricia Church (R.I.P) |
| Sunday 1st March – Second Sunday of Lent | 9:00am | James Akinyemi (R.I.P) |
| | 11:00am | Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P) |

Thought for the First Week of Lent: Temptation

Oscar Wilde said rather glibly: 'I can resist everything except temptation.' There us nothing trivial about temptation and about obeying God's commands. The Letter to the Hebrews gives us an insight into Jesus' life-long striving to do the will of his Father. 'In the days of his flesh Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to him who was able to save him, and he was heard because of is reverence.' We suffer temptations. God's grace is the water that extinguishes the flames of the fire of temptation. St Paul recognised within himself the desire to do good but an equal and opposite law pulling him away. Today, pray as St Paul prayed: *"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 7:24-25). – **Walk with Me**



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



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First Sunday of Lent (Year A)
21st & 22nd February 2026

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel is a strong message of hope for us as we struggle through life. We fail again and again. Despite our best efforts we do not live up to what is expected of us. When we think we have overcome our sinful inclinations once and for all, our unredeemed human nature asserts itself again and again and we find ourselves back to where we were.

But the Gospel message today assures us that Christ, who was tempted himself, can understand our failures. Christ was tempted in his 'spirit' – to pride to vanity, to devise a way of life for himself at variance with his Father's plan. Our greatest triumph in life is to find our happiness in accepting the mysterious dispositions of God's Providence – 'in his will is our peace'.

During Lent we seek the grace and the help that we need in order to follow God's purpose for us. We support one another in this as we look forward to Easter with the absolute assurance that with the power of the Risen Christ we shall overcome. On Easter Sunday we renew our Baptismal promises, we declare allegiance to God with joy in our heart strengthen by the Holy Spirit, refreshed in body and renewed in Spirit.

God Bless
Canon Maurice

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Nell Addison, Domingos De Albuquerque, Christophe Amblard, Sheeba Antony, Eva Au, Michael Balfour, Mary Bowdler, 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 Harty, Bernadette Heddle, Peter Hemsley, Ellen Hurley, Mathew John, Julia Joseph, Kathleen Kavanagh, Ann Keaney, 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:

14th & 15th February 2026

Loose

£449.45

Envelopes

£320.30

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place on Saturday the 14th of March 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 26th 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 for confirmation programme will be on Saturday the 7th of March.

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. Bookings are open at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood>

Holy Hour:

Please note Holy Hour continues every Sunday 6 -7pm.

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.

Monthly Youth Mass

The next Youth Mass is on **Thursday 5th March** at Brentwood Cathedral 7.30pm.

Post Confirmation Group:

The next meeting will be next Friday the 6th of March at 6:30pm – 8pm.

Rest In Peace:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Christmas Boina who died recently. His funeral will take place this Thursday the 26th of February at 11am. May he Rest in Peace.

Dates For Your Dairy:

- **Easter Tridium** – 2nd – 5th of April

Stop assisted suicide - further action needed!

Please take 30 seconds to stop assisted suicide from being forced into law. Right To Life UK has made an Easy Action tool to email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords.

Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026 to ask your MP to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law.

St John Bosco Children's Camp:

If you are in school year 12 or students age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at www.boscocamp.co.uk. The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during camp. The camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. **Volunteer for 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August.** The camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

CAFOD Family Fast Day

The family fast envelopes will be given out this weekend at all Masses. Family Fast Day will take place next Friday 27th of February. Please bring all envelopes back at the Masses at the weekend 28th of February and 1st of March.

Stations of the Cross:

There will be Stations of the Cross this Friday the 27th of February at St Nicholas Church, Elm Park.

Rite of Election:

The Rite of Election takes place Today Sunday 22nd of February at 3pm at the Cathedral of Brentwood for those who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. We the Parish community pray for our own candidates and Catechumens – Charlotte Bird, Mary Jones, Petar Kikel and Selina Bacor.

SERIES OF FOUR LENTEN LECTURES 2026:

Will take place at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall commencing Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.30pm. The theme this year is: "What does it truly mean to be Catholic?" This invitation is to the whole Diocese of Brentwood. All Welcome!

- **Talk 1: Wednesday 25th February at 7:30pm.** Abbot Hugh Allan, O Praem. "I Believe..." Living and Proclaiming the Catholic Faith.
- **Talk 2: Wednesday 4th March at 7:30pm.** Rev Msgr Kevin W Hale, VG. Being Catholic and the call to holiness as seen in the lives of some recently canonised saints.
- **Talk 3: Wednesday 11th March at 7:30pm.** Mr Mauro Iannicelli. Prayer as the Foundation of our Catholic Life.
- **Talk 4: Wednesday 18th March at 7:30pm.** Rev Msgr John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society.