

MASS INTENTIONS
Second Sunday of Lent (Year A)

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)
Monday 2nd March – Monday of the Second Sunday of Lent	9:00am	John Barry (R.I.P)
Tuesday 3rd March – Tuesday of the Second Sunday of Lent	9:00am	Monica Waddington (R.I.P)
Wednesday 4th March – Wednesday of the Second Sunday of Lent	9:00am	Catherine Friel (R.I.P)
Thursday 5th March – Thursday of the Second Sunday of Lent	9:00am	Richard Mahony (R.I.P) Kellie Moulding (R.I.P 1 st anni)
Friday 6th March – Friday of the Second Sunday of Lent	9:00am	Theresa Morris (R.I.P)
Saturday 7th March – Saturday of the Second Sunday of Lent	9:00am	Ron Bowdler (R.I.P)

Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Saturday 7th March – Third Sunday of Lent	6:30pm	Mum, Chris & Ann (Int)
Sunday 8th March – Third Sunday of Lent	9:00am	Toni O'Halloran (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Garry Honeyball (R.I.P)

Thought for the First Week of Lent:

Lent is like a long “retreat” during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptation of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual “combat” which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism. – **Pope Benedict XVI**



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



Presbytery:
1 Ullswater Way, Elm Park, RM12 5JX
Tel: 01708451449
elpark@brcdt.org
Parish Deacon: Rev. Ken Carleton
kencarleton@brcdt.org
Mob: 07971 544921
Parish Website: <https://www.stalbansrcchurch.uk>
Fr. Joseph Farrell (Retired) – 2B, Langdale Gardens, RM12 5LA, Tel: 01708459709

St Alban's Primary School
Heron Flight Avenue, RM12 5LN
Tel: 01708 555644
Head Teacher: Ms Gail McBride
Angela – Gift Aid Organiser
Mobile: 07510 243188
Safeguarding Representatives
Mobile: 07896 639525
Mobile: 07904 144606
Mobile: 07774 719 806

Second Sunday of Lent (Year A)
28th February & 1st March 2026

Dear Friends,

Have you ever taken on a commitment without understanding fully what was in store for you, and found yourself really stretched? Sometimes loving a partner or a child can feel like that.

Our faith may also feel like that at times. It is not easy to understand what it means for our lives. In today's Gospel, the disciples don't really understand the meaning of what happens to Jesus in the moment when they see him transfigured. They are not ready for the mystery of Christ's death and raising to glory. They have yet to discover what it means for them.

During this Lent, there are many people making a special effort to find and understand Christian faith in groups as well as the RCIA and other ways. They deserve our support and prayers. They remind us that we all struggle to understand sometimes, or don't feel ready to respond to all that faith asks of us.

Prayer:

Let us pray for the courage to deepen our faith, especially when we don't understand or when the demands it makes seem too great. We pray too for all those who are enquirers or candidates for Sacraments during this Lent and ask that they may find and treasure the light of faith. Amen.

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, Jean Floreutin, 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:

21st & 22nd February 2026

Loose

£576.59

Envelopes

£460.00

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 on Thursday the 12th of March 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 this 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 this Friday the 6th of March at 6:30pm – 8pm.

Assisted Suicide:

In a Lenten statement, the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Reverend John Sherrington, clarifies the Church's principled objection to the Terminally Ill (Adults) End of Life Bill, and urges Catholics to pray for parliamentarians debating the Private Members' Bill in the House of Lords. In the Easter season, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales will hold a Holy Hour on **Sunday, 19 April at 4:30 pm** (UK time). This is an opportunity for the Catholics of our two nations to unite and pray for the promotion of a culture of life. We encourage parishes throughout England and Wales to hold Holy Hours around that time. The full letter is on display at the back of the Church.

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.

Stations of the Cross:

There will be Stations of the Cross this Friday the 6th of March at St Albans Church at 7:30pm.

Rite of Election:

Last Sunday at the Cathedral, four candidates and catechumens Charlotte Bird, Mary Jones, Petar Kikel and Selina Bacor met with the Bishop, together with 320 others from the Diocese at the Rite of Election. This marks an important stage for those wishing to become members of the Catholic Church. Our Parish community will be praying for all of those who will receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Please pray for the candidates and catechumens and their sponsors who have accompanied them along their journey of faith.

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 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.

THE BOOK OF GENESIS – LENTEN TALK:

On Thursday 12th March at 7 p.m. in the hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, 410 Brentwood Road, in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) Fr Adrian Graffy will be giving a talk on the Book of Genesis, a book which in different ways figures prominently during Lent. The talk will be preceded by light refreshments from 6.30 p.m. This free, in-person event is also available via live stream at www.whatgoodnews.org.