

MASS INTENTIONS

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

Saturday 14 th February – Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	6.30pm	Willie Dwyer (R.I.P)
Sunday 15 th February – Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9:00am	Charles Stimpson (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Mr Pat Ruane (Int)
Monday 16 th February – Feria	9:00am	Robin Brown (R.I.P)
Tuesday 17 th February – Feria	9:00am	Family Prosper (R.I.P) & Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday 18 th February – Ash Wednesday	9:00am	Francois & Peter (R.I.P)
	7:00pm	People of the Parish
Thursday 19 th February – Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9:00am	Michelle, Daniel & Family (Int)
Friday 20 th February – Friday after Ash Wednesday	9:00am	Joe Hodges (R.I.P)
Saturday 21 st February – Saturday after Ash Wednesday	9:00am	Katy O'Dea (Int)

First Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Saturday 21 st February – First Sunday of Lent	6:30pm	William Dwyer (R.I.P)
Sunday 22 nd February – First Sunday of Lent	9:00am	Nioka D'Souza (Int)

Thought for the Week: Ash Wednesday

Lent is a time of renewal, a springtime of new beginnings and new life. Spring as we know is a gradual process which reveals itself through the softening and warming of the soil and the light growing stronger each day while the buds begin to ripen. In many ways it parallels the Lenten journey. Our acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving should soften our hearts and encourage us to embrace the growing light and life which Christ offers us as we prepare to rejoice at Easter.



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, Tel: 01708459709

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A) 14th & 15th February 2026

Dear Friends,

We are called this Sunday in our readings to grow in holiness. The commandment sets out the law in black and white; "Do not kill; Do not commit adultery...". They set a minimum requirement for Christian living. But Jesus challenges us and forces us to look beyond our actions to our attitudes that form what we do.

In the Gospel reading Jesus proposes a virtue which goes deeper than that of the Scribes and Pharisees, a virtue in depth from the heart. If our depths are sound, the heart is good; then the choice that comes from the heart will be good.

The converse is also true. If we harbour bitterness in our heart towards someone, we will inevitably make choices which damage and hurt them.

Beyond our behaviour lie our choices and beyond them lies the heart, the heart in which our choices are rooted. Only the Spirit who reaches the depth of God can really reach our own depths. It is the Spirit who renews and transforms our heart. "God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who he has given to us" (Romans 5:5)

Reflection:

The heart is like a well-spring.

All our thoughts, words and deeds flow from there like water from a hidden spring.

If a spring is polluted,

then the water that flows from it will also be polluted.

But if the spring is pure and clear, then the water that flows from it will be clean and wholesome.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, they shall see God.' Christ said.

*God Bless
Canon Maurice*

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Nell Addison, Domingos De Albuquesque, Christophe Amblard, Sheeba Antony, 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 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:
7th & 8th February 2026

<u>Loose</u>	<u>Envelopes</u>
£691.31	£409.50

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 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 will open shortly 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 on 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 on Thursday the 26th of February at 11am. May he Rest in Peace.

Dates For Your Diary:

- **Ash Wednesday** – 18th of February
- **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 this **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).

Ash Wednesday:

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday the beginning of Lent and a day of fasting and Abstinence. Masses are at 9am and 7pm.

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.

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.