

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	6.30pm	James Sanguine (R.I.P)
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	9:00am	Cordelia Onodu
	11:00am	Catherine Friel (R.I.P)
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Monday of the Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	9:00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Tuesday of the Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	9:00am	Ann O'Connor (R.I.P)
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – The Annunciation Of the Lord</b>	9:00am	Evette Onodu (Int)
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Thursday of the Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	9:00am	Michael Blessington (R.I.P)
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Friday of the Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	9:00am	Good Health
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Saturday of the Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	9:00am	Anthony Raj (R.I.P)

**Palm Sunday (Year A)**

<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>	6:30pm	Lar Fennessy (2 <sup>nd</sup> Anni R.I.P)
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>	8:45am	Kathy & James Driver & Anne Keyes (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Alan Stokes (R.I.P)

**Thought for the Week:**

The best fertiliser stinks. But it is out of that very real stink that something amazing grows. So, it is with us: it is the dead and decaying parts of our lives, the rotting resentments, blistering wounds of old hurts, and the festering fears that are the points where we are most likely to be able to experience something new. The only way that happens is to bring them into the light of day, unbind them, and set them free – just as Lazarus was unbound and set free. Doing that takes faith, a faith that Martha confessed, doubted and then lived out – a faith in resurrection and life.



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



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**Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)**  
**21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

Dear Friends,

In today's Gospel we see a scene which is all too common in our own world, people weeping over the death of a loved one. Jesus is at the heart of this sad scene, for it is his good friend Lazarus who is dead.

“Jesus wept”. These two words tell a wonderful story. The story of a God who sheds tears of grief. Jesus is no stranger, aloof from human feelings. He knows well the wrench of death which causes the heart to bleed with tears. He is close to the broken hearted. We cry because we love. The two are inseparable. In life injured love calls forth tears, often shed in silence and unknown. In death love explodes in tears. That is the most natural thing in the world – for men as well as women. In a way tears help to wash and soothe the emotional wound of grief.

The human heart needs space and time to weep – to weep not in self-pity – but out of love for another. When we shed tears, our heart is rested, we see more clearly, and the light of life is re-kindled.

In the midst of darkness Jesus sheds the light of hope. He tells Lazarus' sisters that those who believe in him never really die. He says the same to us. During this time of Lent as we look forward to celebrating the Risen Christ, we ponder on this great mystery which is central to our lives.

**Prayer:**

Merciful God, you showed your glory to our fallen race by sending your Son to confound the powers of death. Call us forth from sin's dark tomb. Break the bonds which hold us, that we may believe and proclaim Christ, the cause of our freedom and the source of life, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. 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, 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:**

14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Loose**

£592.57

**Envelopes**

£369.11

**Baptism Course:**

The next session for the Baptism course will take place on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Bookings are open at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood>

**Holy Hour:**

Please note there is no Holy Hour this week.

**Mother & Toddler Group:**

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

**Monthly Youth Mass**

The next Youth Mass is on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May** at Brentwood Cathedral 7:30pm.

**Post Confirmation Group:**

The next meeting will be on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of April at 6:30pm – 8pm.

**Palm Sunday:**

Blessings of the Palm at 8:45am on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of March. Please join at the Parish Hall as we join our Brothers and Sisters from St Nicholas Church to begin Holy Week.

**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 6-7pm** (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](http://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 25<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August or 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August.** The camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

**Dates For Your Diary:**

- **Easter Tridium** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> of April
- **Holy Communion Families Visit to Aylesford** – 18<sup>th</sup> April

**Stations of the Cross:**

There will be Stations of the Cross this Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of March at St Nicholas Church at 7:30pm.

**Holy Week and Easter 2026 Training for Altar Servers:**

There will be training for all altar servers on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April from 10am – 11:30am. Please make every effort to attend this training.

**Rest in Peace:**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of James Seymour (Bernie Moody's Father) who died recently. His Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of April at 11am. His remains will be brought into the Church on Tuesday evening 16<sup>th</sup> of April at 7pm. May he Rest in Peace.

**Walsingham House Team 26/27:**

Applications are now open for the Walsingham House Team 26/27. Being on the team is a wonderful opportunity to work with young people from across the diocese, live in community and share and deepen our faith. Applications are open to those aged 18-23 (currently yr13 and above). For more information including the application form please see the website: [Be On Team - Brentwood Catholic Youth Service](#) or email: [michaelkearns@brcdt.org](mailto:michaelkearns@brcdt.org).