

MASS INTENTIONS
Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Saturday 25th April – Fourth Sunday of Easter	6:30pm	James Nolan
Sunday 26th April – Fourth Sunday of Easter	9:00am	Edward Di Marscio (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Paul Donald Norton (R.I.P)
Monday 27th April – Monday of the Fourth Week of Easter	9:00am	Nigel D'Souza (Int)
Tuesday 28th April – Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Easter	9:00am	Anthony Raj (R.I.P)
Wednesday 29th April – St Catherine of Siena	9:00am	Anthony Joseph (Int)
Thursday 30th April – Thursday of the Fourth Week of Easter	9:00am	Josephine Alfred (R.I.P)
Friday 1st May – Friday of the Fourth Week of Easter	9:00am	Victor Correa (R.I.P 3 rd Anni)
Saturday 2nd May – St Athanasius	9:00am	Ron Mulvaney (R.I.P)

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Saturday 2nd May – Fifth Sunday of Easter	6:30pm	Charles McLaughlin (R.I.P)
Sunday 3rd May – Fifth Sunday of Easter	9:00am	Maria De Lima & Lindibergue Silva (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Gift Agwuncha (R.I.P)

Thought for the Week:

Intimacy in prayer comes when we find that we can remain in communion with God without any particular desire to move on to some business with him. We are content just to stay with God, conscious that he loves us, trying to respond with our own love. We dwell with God, and he with us. It is difficult to put into words what happens when prayer simplifies like this. One reason for this is that there is a progression towards wordless silence in prayer, and silence is not easy to speak about. Progress in intimacy becomes progress towards silence. This happens in all human friendship, and the divine friendship of prayer follows a similar pattern. – **John Dalrymple**



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



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Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A)
25th & 26th April 2026

Dear Friends,

Voices are very important. We can all recognise and remember distinctive voices – like sports commentators, news reporters and radio hosts. Some voices become household names. In today's era of digital television, the Internet and social media, there are so many voices out there vying for our attention. Which voices do we listen to, and which are truly good for us and our children? There are so many voices it can be overpowering. But Jesus tells us that there is one voice that truly fulfils, that is His own voice, the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, when we think of Our Lord as a shepherd leading us. He says, 'my sheep hear my voice.' How do we hear the voice of God? Or is there so much background noise that we don't hear the voice of God? It is not enough to hear passively – by 'hearing', Jesus means listening to and accepting.

The call of the Good Shepherd is a personal call; He calls us by name. There are many ways He speaks to us – through the Scriptures, and we can hear Him speak to us when we prayerfully reflect on them. He speaks through the teaching and Sacraments of the Church, to which He gave the authority to teach in His name, and to feed His sheep. He speaks through our conscience, which guides us to make correct decisions. Sometimes, if we have done wrong, our conscience will convict us and we will feel guilty. This is no bad thing, because it leads us to repentance and allows the good shepherd to lead us back to safety.

Like sheep, we can sometimes get caught in a hedge or stuck somewhere and cannot free ourselves. Turning back to God, He will free us and lead us again along the right path. As today's Psalm says, 'He guides us along the right path, and He is true to His name.'

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:

18th & 19th April 2026

Loose

£617.02

Envelopes

£427.20

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place next Saturday the 9th of May 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 be the rehearsals for Children receiving their First Holy Communion on:

10th of May – Rehearsal on 7th of May at 6pm.

17th of May – Rehearsal on 14th of May at 6pm.

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 next Saturday the 9th of May at 4pm.

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. This Monday evening will be the last session for this year, and we start again in September.

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 7th May** at Brentwood Cathedral 7:30pm.

Post Confirmation Group:

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

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.

St John Bosco Children's Camp, summer 2026:

Applications are now open for children currently in school year 5 – 7 (i.e. aged 9-12 in August 2026) to spend a week at camp. 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August. Activities include archery, fishing, Aquapark visit, football, kayaking and much more. The camp is especially for children who may not otherwise have a summer holiday. Suggested donation £200, but full bursaries are available. All application details are at <https://boscocamp.co.uk>. Places are likely to go quickly – early applications are encouraged.

Dates For Your Diary:

- **Day of First Holy Communion** – Sunday 10th & 17th of May at 11am
- **Day of Confirmation** – Sunday 24th of May at 3pm
- **Procession in Honour of Our Lady** – Sunday 31st of May at 3pm

Rest In Peace:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Charles Kephalas who died recently. His Requiem Mass will take place on Friday the 22nd of May at 11:15am. May he Rest in Peace.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:

Join Bishop Alan and pilgrims from across our diocese in Lourdes this summer: Friday 17th - Friday 24th July 2026. Bookings are open at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood>. There are some hard copies of the application available at the back of the Church for anyone interested.

Vocations Group:

We have started a vocations group. This will be for young people, year 10 and upwards. The next meeting will take place on Friday the 26th of June from 6:30pm – 8pm.

Job Vacancy:

St Helen's Catholic Infant and Nursery School Vacancy Required for September 2026:

Class Teacher (ECT or MPS). We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and well-motivated person to join our staff in September 2026. Please contact the school office for further information and an application pack: office@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk.

Deadline: Thursday 14th May 2026

Interviews: WC 18th May 2026

Walsingham Pilgrimage from St Mary's Church Hornchurch:

There are still 10 places available on the coach for the pilgrimage to Walsingham on 23rd May. The cost is £25, and the coach will depart from St Mary's Hornchurch at 6:45am. Please contact the parish office if you would like to book a place. Tel: 01708 447761 Email: hornchurchstmmg@brcdt.org

Second Collection:

There will be a second collection taken today for the support of students for the priesthood for our diocese.