

MASS INTENTIONS
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)
Monday 4th May – The English Martyrs	9:00am	Pauline Fennessy (R.I.P)
Tuesday 5th May – Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter	9:00am	Celine Conndlly (R.I.P)
Wednesday 6th May – St John Payne	9:00am	Vera Okane (R.I.P)
Thursday 7th May – Thursday of the Fifth Week of Easter	9:00am	Mary Kerringan (R.I.P)
Friday 8th May – Friday of the Fifth Week of Easter	9:00am	Grainne Carbarry (R.I.P)
Saturday 9th May – Saturday of the Fifth Week of Easter	9:00am	Josie Brady

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Saturday 9th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter	6:30pm	Charles McLaughlin (R.I.P)
Sunday 10th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter	9:00am	Steven Hughes (Int)
	11:00am	Pears Gene (R.I.P)

Thought for the Week:

One of the purposes of prayer is to remind us of the gracious generosity of God and to awaken in us a sense of appreciation for the goodness that is already ours. Prayer moves us deeply into the mystery of grace and opens us to the abundance of God. Here our emptiness becomes a gift rather than a disappointment, as God fills us with love. The more empty we are, the more we know our need for God. And in humility we begin to recognise the gifts and graces bestowed on us over our lifetime. Gratitude is not just a feeling. It is not enough to feel grateful we must think grateful, imagine grateful and act grateful. We cannot simply say “Thank you”, and then continue in a demanding, controlling or competitive way. Gratitude is a whole and holy attitude. – **Sister Stanislaus Kennedy**



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



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Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A)
2nd & 3rd May 2026

Dear Friends,

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see that as the early Church grew, the Apostles began to designate functions. The first deacons are appointed to serve the poor with food, allowing the Apostles to focus on their mission of preaching and teaching. The other members of the Church spread the message in their own circles, so the number of followers 'greatly increased'. The task of evangelisation, or telling other people about Christ, is not just for the ordained, but is part of the mission of every baptised person. No Christian is an individual – the way we carry out our own tasks affects others.

We are called to live in communion or fellowship with God – to participate in the life and love between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Just as stones make up a building, St Peter says we are called to be 'living stones', with Christ as the foundation, upon whom we rest. With Christ as our Head, we are the cells making up His body. You and I share in Christ's work – He has chosen us to participate in the work of redemption.

Practically speaking, when the priest offers the bread and wine at Mass, all present should offer themselves, their joys and sorrows, and those they wish to pray for, through Christ to the Father. Offering our sacrifices in union with Christ unites us to the Father. As Jesus says in today's Gospel, 'to have seen Me is to have seen the Father. I and the Father are one.'

Not only the ordained priest, but also every baptised person has the duty and privilege of proclaiming Christ and drawing others into the Catholic Christian community. The Church is like an orchestra; we have different gifts, but sound best when each member plays in harmony with the others. We are not isolated individuals, but interconnected members.

What is my role? What task has Christ given to me?

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 Dumbrell, Martha Dwyer, Zain Falzon, 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, Mary Williams, 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:

25th & 26th April 2026

Loose

£614.36

Envelopes

£375.50

Right to Life:

As we enter into this month dedicated to our Blessed Mother, we bring to mind all mothers. That, like Mary, they would be able to love and cherish their children from the point of conception. We pray also that these women would find support in their spouses, family and friends as they journey through the joys and trials of parenthood.

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place this 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 this Saturday the 9th of May at 4pm.

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

Post Confirmation Group:

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

Walshingham 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](http://BeOnTeam-BrentwoodCatholicYouthService) 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 Mass
- **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 Kephelas who died recently. His Requiem Mass will take place on Friday the 22nd of May at 11:15am. May he Rest in Peace.

First Holy Communion:

Next Sunday we will have 18 Children receiving our Lord for the First time in Holy Communion at the 11am Mass. We pray for the Children and their families.

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.

Westminster assisted suicide Bill has fallen:

The assisted suicide Bill has failed to pass all stages in the House of Lords. This means that Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill has fallen and will not become law! This is a major milestone, but the battle is not over. Assisted suicide campaigners have said they are going to try to bring the Bill back in the next parliamentary session and use the Parliament Acts to bypass the Lords. To find out more about this significant milestone and what comes next, visit: <https://righttolife.org.uk/LeadbeaterBillFalls>

Congratulations:

We congratulate St Edwards Church Romford on the occasion of the 170th Anniversary of the Consecration of their Parish. There will be a Mass at St Edwards Church this Wednesday the 6th of May at 7pm.

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.