

MASS INTENTIONS
Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Saturday 19th September – Twenty Fifth Sunday of Ordinary time	6:30pm	Neil Nagle
Sunday 20th September – Twenty Fifth Sunday of Ordinary time	9:00am	Anne Keys (R.I.P), Kathy & James Driver (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Andrew Turner (Birthday Int)
Monday 21st September – St Matthew	9:00am	Deceased members of Harries Family (R.I.P)
Tuesday 22nd September – Feria	9:00am	John Christmas (R.I.P)
Wednesday 23rd September – St Pius of Pietrelcina	9:00am	Mark Finnegan (R.I.P)
Thursday 24th September – Our Lady of Walsingham	9:00am	Frances Wynne (Int)
Friday 25th September – Feria	9:00am	Siobhan McKeon (Int)
Saturday 26th September – Feria	9:00am	Teresa Shorey (Int)

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Saturday 26th September – Twenty Sixth Sunday of Ordinary time	6:30pm	David Evans (R.I.P)
Sunday 27th September – Twenty Sixth Sunday of Ordinary time	9:00am	Betty Stimpson (R.I.P)
	11:00am	Rachel Miranda (Int)

Thought for the Week: Pope Leo XIV

If life ceases to be recognised as a fundamental value, what future can our societies have? Can a community that casts into the shadows the unborn child, the elderly, the sick, those who suffer in silence, or those who depend entirely on the care of others be called fully just? The defence of human life is neither a partisan issue nor a confessional interest: it is a goal of civilisation. Every human life must be recognised and safeguarded from conception to its natural end, in every circumstance of its existence. For this reason, the moral greatness of a nation is manifested, above all, in its capacity to accompany, protect and love those lives that are most fragile.



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



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Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)
19th & 20th September 2026

Dear Friends,

Those words from today's Gospel challenge us to examine ourselves, to detect and uncover any envy that could be smouldering in our hearts or even festering and poisoning our relationships.

St Thomas Aquinas defines envy as sorrow at another person's good – being miserable when seeing other people's blessings. It is easy to fall into this trap as the labourers in the Gospel did. Those who had worked all day were envious that the latecomers were paid the same amount. They were all paid the fair amount that the landowner had agreed but it was his generosity to the latecomers who had been idle most of the day, which they begrudged.

The antidote to envy is gratitude. In other words, to count our own blessings! The people who had worked all day were unsympathetic to the frustrations of those who could not find work and were thus forced to remain idle; telling the landowner they were in the marketplace because 'nobody has hired us.' The people who were there from dawn did not consider the goodness of the Master in providing work for them for the full day. At the end of each day it is a good practice for us to count the day's blessings and say thank you Lord for the goodness we have known. From our perspective, the generosity of God may seem outlandish and baffling. Yet, as the first reading says, '(His) thoughts are above (our) thoughts; (His) ways are above (our) ways.' We pray that our hearts will open to God's goodness working in our lives and in the lives of those around us – Amen

God Bless

Canon Maurice



Online Version

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Nell Addison, Domingos De Albuquerque, Christophe Amblard, Sheeba Antony, Eva Au, Julian Avasiloaia, Michael Balfour, Ralph Batrum, Mary Bowdler, 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, Lorraine Herring, Ellen Hurley, Mathew John, Julia Joseph, Ann Keaney, Baby Stephen Kelly, Mary Williams, David Lynch, Mary Lynes, Amaogechi Mbanu, Siobhan McKeon, Norah McLoughlin, Gladys McQuaid, Kathleen McGuire, John Morrison, Ann Mount, 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, Graham 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:

12th & 13th September 2026

Loose

£446.43

Envelopes

£473.85

Monthly Youth Mass:

The next Youth Mass is on **Thursday 1st October** at Brentwood Cathedral 7:30pm.

Post Confirmation Group:

The next meeting will be on **Friday 2nd October** at 6:00pm – 7:30pm.

Baptism Course:

The next session for the Baptism course will take place on Saturday the 10th of October at 9am in the Parish Hall. To attend please register with Mr & Mrs Law on 07454 962277.

Holy Hour:

Please note Holy Hour continues **every Sunday 6-7pm**.

Bank Details:

Parishioners have been asking for the Bank details for their donations. Please make sure if you want to pay directly to the Bank you go to the office to fill out a gift aid form. If you do not pay tax please still see the office as we need details for the records.

BANK: HSBC

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account Number: 31019848

Holy Communion Programme 2026/27:

The next session will be on Thursday 15th October at 7pm. Parents will meet in the Church and the children will meet in the Parish Hall.

Retrouvaille:

MARRIAGE IN A RUT? Or need help with deeper issues? Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage. Next dates: **2nd-4th October**. www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info Tel: 0788 7296983

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 sessions which commence on Monday 28th September at 7:30pm – 8:30pm in the Presbytery. Any Parishioner who wishes. To support this group, is also invited to come along.

Retreat for Ministers of Communion:

There will be an afternoon retreat for all Ministers of Holy Communion on Sunday 20th September from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, beginning in the Parish Hall. All ministers are expected to attend. Please speak to Deacon Ken if you have any questions.

Confirmation Expression of Interest:

If you will be in Year 10 or above in September 2026 and wish to join confirmation, could you please let us know by e-mailing the parish using 'Confirmation' as the subject and send your name, and contact information. We will be in touch after the summer with an update. There is also a hard copy of the form at the back of the Church. These needs to be submitted by **this Sunday 20th of September 2026**.

Gift Aid:

If you are a taxpayer and are putting into the Church collection if you fill out a form and give it into the office the Church can reclaim from the taxman 20p in every pound you donate.

Secondary school forms:

Canon Maurice will be available to sign the secondary school forms on Sunday 4th October from 5-7pm and on Monday 5th October from 6-7pm. These dates will be the only times that Father will be available to sign them.

Rest in Peace:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rosina Cahill who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will take place on 30th September at 11am. May she rest in peace.

Christmas Bazaar:

There will be a meeting on Monday 21st September at 5pm in the Parish Hall, to organise this year's Parish Bazaar, all are welcome if you would like to help!

Catholic Teaching in the World of AI:

Pope Leo has recently published *Magnifica Humanitas*, an encyclical letter on 'safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence'. The Holy Father writes: 'In the era of artificial intelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanisation, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human.' Fr Hugh MacKenzie, chaplain at Westminster Cathedral, is an expert on AI. He will be giving a presentation on the topic on Saturday 26th September 2026 at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park, beginning at 11 am. The event is in-person but is also available live-stream from www.whatgoodnews.org. The talk will be of particular interest to our young people, with their IT competence.

Homelessness & the Cost of Living:

There will be a talk on this topic by Monsignor John Armitage on Catholic Social Teaching on Saturday the 17th of October at 9:45am – 12:30pm in our Parish Hall. All are welcome!

Vocations Group:

Our next meeting for the vocations group is on Friday the 25th of September at 6:30pm.