

The CARDIFF
ORATORY

ORATORY CHURCH of
SAINT ALBAN-*on-the-MOORS*



Yr ORATORI
CAERDYDD

EGLWYS ORATORI
SANT ALBAN-*ar-y-RHOSTIROEDD*

A Parish of the Archdiocese of Cardiff: Registered Charity N° 1177272

Oratory House: 029 2046 3219 | In an Emergency: 07595 372695 | www.cardifforatory.co.uk | frsebastian@cardifforatory.co.uk



CHRIST IS BORN: O, COME LET US ADORE HIM!

~ • ~

The Fathers and Brothers of the Cardiff Oratory
thank you most sincerely for your Christmas cards, presents, and
generous offering. They wish you and your loved ones every grace and
blessing for Christmas and the New Year, A.D. 2025.

Christmas 2024



St Alban's Catholic Primary School Christmas Nativity 18th December, 2024.

THE ORATORY HOUSE

20 DECEMBER 2024

Dear Parishioner,

This will be the sixth Christmas the Oratory has celebrated at St Alban's Parish. During these years we have grown in our understanding and love of this Parish and tried to respond to the ever-changing complexities and expectations of Parish life.

The various developments that have occurred here are a grace and in all things we thank Almighty God. The year 2024 will always have a special significance for us as the year the Oratory purchased and incorporated St Alban's Church, Oratory House and the Parish Hall into the Cardiff Oratory Charitable Trust. The circumstances that enabled this to take place were for us the clearest expression that it was God's Holy Will that the Oratory set down permanent roots here in Splott living our vocation as sons of St Philip Neri. This same Providence will be evident when His Grace the Archbishop visits the Parish on 27th December 2024 to Ordain Bro. Illyd M. a deacon. This day will mark another important moment in the history of this Oratory, the Parish and of course Brother himself. I hope that you will support him by your presence on that day.

I ask you to keep all the Brothers in your prayers as each one's spiritual and academic formation for the Sacred Priesthood are in preparation to dedicate their lives to serve as priests here in St Alban's Parish. Looking back over our years here, we have shared much laughter and contentment and shed tears of grief. In all these moments we have had the rock of our Catholic Faith and the love of each other. We are the privileged ones: "If God is for us, who can be against us!"

I assure each one of you of our prayerful and heartfelt gratitude for the many, many kindnesses shown to us throughout 2024; for your dedication to this Oratory Parish; for your concern for the fabric of parish buildings and especially for your enthusiasm in expressing your loving concern for those less well off.

I thank you all and assure you of my continual prayers and blessing.

Fr Sebastian M. PP.

<p>SUNDAY 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent <i>O Rex Gentium</i> 17:00 Mass (<i>Vigil</i>): <i>Pro Populo</i> 08:00 Mass: Holy Souls/Ewa Glowacka, B'day 10:00 Mass: Angelika Spiteri, RIP 11:15 Mass: T. & E. Ianni & Marco Principe, RIP 16:00 Second Vespers & Benediction</p>	<p>THURSDAY 26th December 2024 <i>St. Stephen</i> 08:00 Mass: Holy Souls/Robert Szczech, Int. 10:00 Mass: Pauline Hawkins, RIP <i>N.B. ~ Church closes at noon today</i></p>
<p>MONDAY 23rd December <i>O Emmanuel</i> 07:30 Mass: Holy Souls/Theresa Jonker, Int. 08:30 Oratory Morning Spiritual Exercises 09:00 Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions 09:30 Mass: Cyril & Bridget George, RIP 17:30 Rosary & Oratory Evening Spiritual Exercises</p>	<p>FRIDAY 27th December 2024 <i>St. John</i> 08:00 Mass: Holy Souls/Cassie Fury, RIP * * 12:00 Ordination Mass: Bro Illyd M, Int.</p>
<p>TUESDAY 24th December 2024 Christmas Eve 07:30 Mass: Holy Souls/Ewa Glowacka, B'day 16:30 Carols 17:00 Mass: Maggie & Christy Keane, RIP/Fury Family 00:00 Midnight Mass: <i>Pro Populo / Leslie Jones, RIP</i></p>	<p>SATURDAY 28th December 2024 <i>The Holy Innocents</i> 08:00 Mass: Holy Souls/Stephen Robinson, Int. 16:30 First Vespers 17:00 Mass (<i>Vigil</i>): Terry & Hazel O'Brien, RIP</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 25th December 2024 Christmas Day 08:00 Mass: Holy Souls/Jakob & Sebastian, Int. 10:00 Mass: John, Irene, Constance, & Veronica Matthews, RIP 11:15 Mass: Dom Sebastian Wolff OSB, RIP 16:30 Second Vespers & Benediction</p>	<p>SUNDAY 29th December 2024 Feast of the Holy Family 08:00 Mass: <i>Pro Populo</i> 10:00 Mass: Mr. & Mrs. F. Guarno & Aldo Guarno, RIP 11:15 Mass: Prof. & Mrs. John Pathy, RIP 16:00 Second Vespers & Benediction</p>

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT ST ALBAN'S PARISH

CHRISTMAS EVE. Tuesday 24th December

4:30pm Carols
5:00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas
12:00 Midnight Mass for Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY. Wednesday 25th December

8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass
11:15am Mass
4:30pm Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

ST STEPHEN'S DAY (Boxing Day). Thursday 26th December

8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass

St. JOHN'S DAY. Friday 27th December

8:00am Mass
* 12:00 noon Ordination of Bro Illyd M.

CARDIFF ORATORY CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CONFESSION TIMES

Sundays: before & during all Masses | Weekdays: 30 minutes

Since the time of St. Philip Neri, the Fathers of the Oratory have made themselves available for Confessions during daily Masses as well as during Sunday Masses. Outside of these set times, there is a CONFSSIONAL BELL positioned in between the two Confessional Boxes in the Church. Ring to alert a Father. If available he will respond.

<p>MONDAY 30th December 2024 08:00 Mass: Holy Souls/Mariangela & Raffaele Zurlo, RIP 10:00 Mass: Tony & Sheila Donovan, RIP</p> <p><i>N.B. ~ Church closes at noon today</i></p>	<p>FRIDAY 3rd January <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i> 08:00 Mass: Holy Souls/Anicka Stepanova, Int. 10:00 Mass: Ian McCabe, RIP <i>N.B. ~ Church closes at noon today</i></p>
<p>TUESDAY 31st December 2024 08:00 Mass: Holy Souls/Dc'd Paclawski family, RIP</p> <p>10:00 Mass: Celia Vidler, Int.</p> <p><i>N.B. ~ Church closes at noon today</i></p>	<p>SATURDAY 4th January <i>Our Lady's Saturday</i> 08:00 Mass: Holy Souls/Fell or Served in defence of Poland, RIP</p> <p>16:30 First Vespers 17:00 Mass (<i>Vigil</i>): Maggie & Christy Keane, RIP</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 1st January, Anno Domini 2025 Mary, Mother of God 08:00 Mass: Holy Souls/Anne Marie Bell, B'day 10:00 Mass: Kevin & Monica O'Sullivan, RIP</p> <p><i>N.B. ~ Church closes at noon today</i></p>	<p>SUNDAY 5th January The Epiphany of the Lord 08:00 Mass: <i>Pro Populo</i> 10:00 Mass: Ben & Sheila Mulkerrins, RIP 11:15 Mass: Judge Patrick Curran QC, RIP 16:00 Second Vespers & Benediction</p>
<p>THURSDAY 2nd January <i>Sts. Basil & Gregory</i> 08:00 Mass: Holy Souls/Jane Pickering, Int.</p> <p>10:00 Mass: Caroline Hutchinson, RIP <i>N.B. ~ Church closes at noon today</i></p>	<p>MONDAY 6th January 07:30 Mass: Holy Souls/Hilary Clarke, RIP 08:30 Oratory Morning Spiritual Exercises 09:00 Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions 9:30 Mass: Dc'd Members of the Guarno family, RIP <i>N.B. ~ Church closes at noon today</i></p>

PRAYERS REQUESTED for the SICK

The Fathers and Brothers remember the sick and those who have care for them in their prayers and at Mass:

Gemma, Julian, William, John O'Donoghue, Elizabeth Williams, Veronica Williams, Gary Britton, Clare Schwartz, Martin Flynn, Darren, Summer Hutchinson, Johnnie Doherty, Patricia Yarwood, Teresa Jonker, Elizabeth Conway, Summer Arnesen, Dianne, Laura, Jane, Lucy Iacobucci, Brooke, Mike, Hayden, Dave, Patrick Mongan, Dorotka Sookanadenchetty, Jason Benedito, Gareth Bowen, Ann Henry, Sarah, Claire Hawkey, Danielle Camilleri, Jane Morris, Jonathan Bowen, Anne Marie Bell, Karen, Jenny, Kingsley, Gareth Vaughan, Hannah Bird, Bernadette Horan, Mark, Joseph Heron, Yvonne Murray, Patrick M., McGinley Family, Anna Maria & Carmella Tannorella, Rose Christina, Mark, Martin, Geoff, Billy Page, Alison, Kit Lewis, Phoebe, Paul, Ruth Pinder, Christian Babu, Olive Bowen, Paul Burns, Julie Cale, John Cowhey, Elle Fine, Sally Hiles, Jim & Doris Painter, Sharon Bradley, Nell Horan, James Hogg, Jennifer King, Shirley & Michael Kingston, E. Connors, Shelagh O'Donoghue, J. Pratt, J. Price, Beatrice Rajanayagam, Nia P-Jones, Elizabeth Sitole, Pamela, Daniel, Ellen Smith, Joseph Smith, Benjamin & Abigail Smith, Gareth & Ethan Woodberry, Shirley O'Leary, Jim Price, Bernard Mahoney, Margaret Tyler, Margaret O'Brien, Brenda Brooks. (If you wish to include someone, please email or drop a note.)

<p>TUESDAY 7th January <i>St. Raymond of Penyafort</i> 7:30 Mass: Holy Souls/Fell or served in defence of Poland, RIP 08:30 Oratory Morning Spiritual Exercises 09:00 Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions 9:30 Mass: Gareth Vidler, RIP</p>	<p>THURSDAY 9th January 07:30 Mass: Holy Souls 08:30 Oratory Morning Spiritual Exercises 09:00 Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions</p> <p>9:30 Mass: Gerald & Faye Simpson, RIP</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 8th January 7:30 Mass: Holy Souls/Fr. Jim McKnight, RIP 08:30 Oratory Morning Spiritual Exercises 09:00 Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions 9:30 Mass: Monica O'Sullivan, RIP</p>	<p>FRIDAY 10th January 7:30 Mass: Holy Souls/Camilla Way, B'day 08:30 Oratory Morning Spiritual Exercises 09:00 Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions 9:30 Mass: Michael Negri, RIP</p>
<p>SATURDAY 11th January <i>Our Lady's Saturday</i> 08:00 Mass: Holy Souls/Dc'd Friends, Benefactors, & Priests 16:30 First Vespers 17:00 Mass (<i>Vigil</i>): Terry & Hazel O'Brien, RIP</p>	<p>SUNDAY 12th January The Baptism of the Lord 08:00 Mass: <i>Pro Populo</i> 10:00 Mass: Janet Forkan, RIP 11:15 Mass: Peter Barrow, RIP</p>

VIGIL LAMPS



The ancient Catholic tradition of lighting vigil lamps in our churches and chapels is deeply significant and retains its importance for us today.

If you would like to have one of the lamps burn for a loved one's anniversary or for some special intention or in thanksgiving please write the name on an envelope and drop it in the plate or the sacristy.

4th Sunday of Advent

- Blessed Sacrament: Chris Jones, RIP
- Sacred Heart: Patrick & Eveleen Eccles, RIP
- Divine Mercy: Glowacki & Szczech families
 - Lady Chapel: Ann McConkey, RIP
- Chantry: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, RIP
 - Pieta: Angelika Spiteri, RIP
 - Walsingham: Dr David Woolf
- St. Joseph: Francis, Pamela, Jean, Roy, John, & Tudor

Week of Holy Family:

- Blessed Sacrament: Tony & Sheila Donovan, RIP
 - Sacred Heart: Eileen Christine, RIP
- Divine Mercy: Glowacki & Szczech families
 - Lady Chapel: Gee Family Int.
- Chantry: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, RIP
 - Pieta: Chris Jones, RIP
 - Walsingham: Dr David Woolf
- St. Joseph: Most Rev. Archbishop O'Toole, Int.

Week of the Epiphany:

- Blessed Sacrament: Leslie J. Jones, RIP
 - Sacred Heart: John Utting, RIP
- Divine Mercy: Glowacki & Szczech families
 - Lady Chapel: Rev. Bro. Iltyd M. Int.
- Chantry: Judge Patrick Curran, QC, RIP
 - Pieta: Holy Souls
 - Walsingham: Dr David Woolf
- St. Joseph: Archconfraternity fratri, Int.

There are spaces in the diary for Candle Intentions. Reserving a vigil lamp is a beautiful way to remember your loved ones, living or deceased. For a donation of £4.50, to pay for the candle, your intention will be remembered by the whole Parish for one week.

PATER NOSTER, qui es in caelis, sanctificetur nomen tuum. Adveniat regnum tuum. Fiat voluntas tua, sicut in caelo et in terra. Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie, et dimitte nobis debita nostra sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris. Et ne nos inducas in tentationem, sed libera nos a malo.

THANK YOU! CHRISTMAS FOOD PARCELS APPEAL



Four young men of the Parish brought their contributions for hampers on Tuesday afternoon (see above). It was a remarkable gesture of thoughtfulness.

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed throughout Advent to this latest food hamper appeal. Your generosity was remarkable. I wish to also thank those who made donations to purchase fresh vegetables. Thank you to the Fratri of the Archconfraternity for their generous donations to purchase meat, poultry and dairy products for all the hampers. Thank you to the St Alban's Parish SVP for its support of families this Christmas in the form of a meat voucher, for helping to sort out the donations for distribution and contributing a tin of chocolates to each hamper. Thank you to St David's Sixth Form College for their support and our own dear Primary School for its part too.

Latest School News

New St Alban's Minibus Blessed & Presented

On Thursday 19th December 2024 Fr Sebastian M. blessed the new minibus for the Parish School. The purchase was possible through the 50/50 purchase by the Oratory community and the School Governors.



St Alban's pupils joined in the blessing of the minibus before going off in the new minibus to Techniquet, Cardiff



Fr Sebastian M. hands over the keys to Mrs Rachel Woodward, Headmistress.

ST ALBAN'S PARISH GENEROSITY SUPRASSES PREVIOUS YEARS: 60 HAMPERS WERE PREPARED



Thank you to all those who helped at each stage of this undertaking of preparing the Christmas Hampers. As you can imagine the amount of food donated to pack 60 hampers requires some organisation and I am most deeply grateful to Fr Alexander and the Brothers and especially Adam Foster for his continued support as a member of the Companiate of the Archconfraternitiy. I wish also to tank Tina who gave her Saturday morning to pack hampers and the

volunteers on Monday to deliver the hampers to the families.



The Archbishop's Prayer for the Jubilee Year

Ave Maria, With joy, you received the greeting and message of the Angel. You ran quickly as a pilgrim of hope to your cousin to share with her the Good News of Salvation.

We ask you now, to be close to us. Teach us to be like you, to love Jesus wholeheartedly, and to welcome Him more deeply into our lives.

Help us to accept and surrender to the joyful and sorrowful mysteries of our life, knowing that your maternal love is with us and that you show us how to follow your Son.

Give us the courage to be Pilgrims of Hope for our world today, always announcing the Good News of your Son. With you, may we raise up the lowly, feed the starving, welcome the stranger, comfort the dying, be merciful to all, so that one day we will join with you and with all your sons and daughters in an eternal loving gaze upon the face of your Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen



Books **W**oof I **H**ave **R**ead

by Pippo

'Since the duel between Rome and Carthage, there had been no such World War. It involved all the civilized peoples. It extended to every part of the accessible globe. There was

a peril that the supremacy of one race and culture would be imposed by military force upon all others. In no world conflict have the issues been more real and vital. In none has the duty to defend a righteous cause been more compulsive upon the British nation.'

When reading those words, most would assume (and not unreasonably) that the writer was referring to the Second World War. Indeed, if one adds to that the fact that the words were written by none other than Winston Churchill, such a conclusion seems inescapable. Yet, Churchill was not referring to the Second World War at all. Indeed, he wrote those words before Hitler and the Nazis came to power in January 1933. Rather, the words quoted above are taken from *'Marlborough: His Life & Times'*, which I finished reading this week.

Marlborough is a masterpiece which I have wanted to read for quite some time. First conceived in 1929, it spans four volumes (the first of which was finally published in October 1933) and comprises over a million words. Yet, for all that, the magnificent, Churchillian prose is so wonderfully readable that one hardly notices the sheer size of the work.

For Churchill himself, this was a labour of love. Marlborough was his great ancestor, and the great inspiration of his life. Moreover, the book goes some way towards rescuing from relative obscurity a man who is widely regarded (at least by informed opinion) as Britain's greatest general (even greater than Wellington), and the saviour of his country. Indeed, many historians marvel at how little most people know of this critical period in British history – sandwiched as it is between the high drama of the English Civil War and the marshal splendour of the Napoleonic Wars.

Yet, this book is deeply significant for other reasons. It is evident that, as he researched and wrote this book, Churchill was unwittingly preparing himself to lead Britain in yet another titanic struggle. Indeed, it has been argued (and quite compellingly, it must be said) that Churchill recognized the dangers of Hitler and the Nazis precisely because he saw in them the same risks and tendencies that he had observed in the France of Louis XIV. Would Churchill have been quite the same man in 1940 had he not written this book? We will never know, of course, but the question is a compelling one.

For all the grandeur of the tale, played out on the great, wide stage of history, *Marlborough* also tells the story of a man, and Churchill does an excellent job of traversing his subject's

life and loves. Of all the many blessings which Heaven bestowed on the Duke, a happy and loving marriage was perhaps the one he prized above all else. This feeling was entirely reciprocated by the Duchess, who, in her widowhood, famously rebuffed a marriage proposal from one of the nation's leading nobles with the immortal words, *'If I were young and handsome as I was, instead of old and faded as I am, and you could lay the empire of the world at my feet, you should never share the heart and hand that once belonged to John, Duke of Marlborough.'* Could any man hope for a greater tribute?

Footnote: For those of you who are interested in this subject, but who cannot spare the time to read the book, I can recommend Dr David Starkey's excellent three-part documentary called *'The Churchills'*, which is available on Youtube.

THANK YOU TO THE BENEDITO FAMILY
Once again our sincere thanks to the Benedito Family for preparing the wonderful crib



ENROLLMENT is NOW OPEN at

ST ALBAN'S
CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reserve a place for your child: stalbansprm@cardiff.gov.uk
| 02920 462915



THE CARDIFF ORATORY

ST ALBAN'S PARISH, CARDIFF

PARISH FINANCE MATTERS:

Our Parish Bank Details:

Name: The Oratory of St Philip Neri at Cardiff

Account: 20222572 **Sort Code:** 52-21-06

NatWest Bank, Cardiff

God bless your generosity. Fr Sebastian M.



JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

T. S. Elliot (1927)

"A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter."
And the camels galled, sore-footed, [refractory](#),
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and
women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.
Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the
darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the
lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.
All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a birth, certainly,

We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and
death,

But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.

We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.

I should be glad of another death.



ST ALBAN'S PARISH
MASS LINE: 029 2267 0924

St Alban's *Mass Line* is a dedicated telephone line connecting those without internet access to participate in Sunday and Holy Day Masses. The cost of local call.

AND FINALLY...

Dear Parishioner,

I wish to take this opportunity in the final Parish Newsletter of 2024 to thank you all most sincerely for all you have raised this year towards the restoration/renovation of St Alban's Parish as well as to the other appeals and of course in your support of the Archdiocesan Levy.

As you recall *your* Christmas Offerings at the Masses on Christmas day are *your* personal gift to the Fathers and Brothers of the Cardiff Oratory. Your money goes principally to the education of the Brothers in their studies and formation for the Sacred Priesthood to be exercised in this Oratorian Parish.

On Friday 27th December at 12 noon in St Alban's Church, you will see how your sacrifices and personal generosity has enabled Bro Illyd M to arrive at the stage of formation whereby His Grace the Archbishop can Ordain him a Deacon so that he can then be Ordained a Priest on 27th June 2025. This is the first Ordination in in this church in half a century. It is an enormously significant moment for the Cardiff Oratory. By God's grace this is possible and for that I ask you to pray for vocations for Oratorian priests and brothers to serve in this side of the City.

I know from all your enquiries of your interest in the Brothers latest progress and formation that you value them. Your enquiries and observations form part of that intensive scrutiny and examination that our students are to undergo. I thank God at the close of this year for my Brethren *and you* the Parishioners of this great Parish of St Alban's on the Moors, Splott.

God bless you! (SMJ)