



FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

22nd November 2020

When the End Comes

The Church year ends today with a vision of the end of time. The scene in the Gospel is stark and resounds with Old Testament echoes. The Son of Man is enthroned over all nations and peoples of every language (see [Daniel 7:13-14](#)). The nations have been gathered to see His glory and receive His judgment. The King is the divine shepherd Ezekiel foresees in today's First Reading, judging as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. Each of us will be judged upon our performance of the simple works of mercy we hear in the Gospel today.

At "the end," He will come again to hand over His kingdom to His Father, as Paul says in today's Epistle. Let us strive to follow Him in right paths, that this kingdom might be our inheritance, that we might enter into the eternal rest promised for the people of God.

The Moment of Choice: Purgatory

The fact of Purgatory follows immediately from the fact of Judgement. The completely real alone can meet the Absolute. We have to give all to gain all. If we accept God's invitation to absolute truth, absolute love and absolute beauty, we are laying ourselves open to be riven by truth 'to the division of soul and spirit', to be consumed in the fire of a love which sweeps through all we have and are and to be seared by a beauty whose lightning flashes through us. All that exists in ourselves which is not loving, truthful and beautiful; all our egotism, our lies, our pretences, our self-sufficiency; everything in us that we have withheld from God and his love; all that lies in those dark recesses of our being where holiness has not penetrated; all that is not fully responsive to the absoluteness of God will be burned up 'at the brightness of his coming'.

Into this purifying fire of love we will gladly plunge if we have chosen God at the moment of Judgement, for we will be secure in the knowledge that only the good in us can meet the good of him and we will be longing to be made clean and whole so that we may be fit to be with him. This purgation will be a pain; but its pain will be one that we shall gladly bear, that we shall long to bear, for we shall see in the light of unveiled truth how unprepared we yet are to let it illuminate us through and through. Our happy agony will be a longing for purification and our willing suffering to attain it.

When we get outside the time-cycle to which we are accustomed, we use symbolic expressions to

explain truths in terms which we can understand. Most persons think of Purgatory in terms of duration, of a period of purgation until the work of love is finished; but we can, with equal validity, think of it in terms of intensity and conceive of it as instantaneous. Each way of thinking is complementary to the other. What is clear is that the more that requires purification in us the greater must be the intensity or duration of the purgation. God has given us his grace in sufficient abundance for us to complete this purification in this life so that we could go as we are when we die straight into the vision of his glory. Unfortunately, most of us have not used fully this grace and to a greater or less degree will need further purification before we can find ourselves able to dare to stand in God's presence.

Our suffering in this life is, then, a powerful alchemy through which we can turn the lead in us - inert, soft and dull - into gold 'refined by the fire'. Any suffering willingly accepted as God's providence for us is a purifying one and no moments in our lives need be wasted. Moreover, those joys and ecstasies in life which spring from what is right and loving and good are equally part of our purgation. Nature itself leads towards it and no human experience other than that which comes from selfishness and sin can lead us away from it.

Purgatory, then, begins before death and continues after it. In this present life it is hard for us to see things as clearly and absolutely as we would wish; at death 'we shall know as we are known'. We saw that full human love demands a kind of death in us, so, completely, does the acceptance of the Absolute. It is an agony, for we have to let go everything that is not ourselves, to open up all those hidden corners and sealed-off reserves in us to the blinding light of God; it is a joy, for the pain is as nothing to the glory which is being revealed in us', the love that is sweeping ecstatically through us and the beauty that is transforming us into itself. **Dom Aelred Watkin**

CHURCHES CLOSED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN

With the further lockdown in England, all churches will to be closed for public worship. Funeral services will still take place.

The Church will be open for private prayer on Sunday at 11am to 1pm: And Wednesday from 11am to 1pm

I appreciate that this is a difficult situation for all of us. I am offering mass daily for all parishioners.

Let us continue to look out for each other; and please do contact me also if you need any help. Office phone number is 01462 893127.

I will put the mass online on; you can find the details on the parish website it is on the parish Facebook page. Your mass intentions for the holy souls will be offered every day. Our world has changed dramatically over these past few months; but let us be calm and carry on, the Lord is with us, asking us to trust in him and his providence. We are not alone even though we may be socially isolated the Spirit of God is close at hand.

Fr. Denis

PARISH MASS ON-LINE

Fr. Denis is still celebrating mass online, every Saturday night 6.30pm vigil mass, Sunday morning 9.30am and Monday to Thursday morning mass at 10am, which is available through the parish Facebook page:

Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Canterbury.

For more information please go to the parish website page

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock>

Email address: Baldock@rcdow.org.uk

Sat 21 st	6.30pm Vigil Mass	<i>Streamed online</i> Anthony Lewicki's Holy Souls intention
Sun 22 nd	9.30am	<i>Streamed online</i> Barry Huber RIP
Mon 23 rd	10am	<i>Streamed online</i> Linda Huber Holy Souls intention
Tue 24 th	10am	<i>Streamed online</i> Andrew Dung-Lac, and Companions. Alastair & Helen Mc Callion's holy souls intention
Wed 25 th	10am	<i>Streamed online</i> Charles John Mc Comish RIP
Thu 26 th	9.30am	<i>Streamed online</i> P.O. Neil's holy souls intention
Fri 27 th	No Mass	Friday abstinence

Please note that mass intentions as set out above may not always be read out, but the intention is offered

RC HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Contact Tel: Mobile: 07876 526935 Lister 01438 285518,

St. JOHN'S SCHOOL is our Catholic Parish Primary School. contact the Head teacher, Thomas Timson on 01462 892478 to make an appointment. The school website is

<http://www.stjohns4.herts.sch.uk/index.html>

NEWSLETTER -If there is anything you would like to see included in the newsletter, please email the following address by Tuesday evening of the week you would like to see it in print: baldock.rcc@ntlworld.com.

The Wednesday Word is now available on this link page:

<http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

REPOSITORY

Christmas is coming despite the dreaded coronavirus! We have a good selection of Christmas cards, candles, Advent calendars and other items, all at reasonable prices. They are on sale in the Repository at the back of the church and will be there when lockdown is over. Please place any money in the cash box on the table.

Please remember in your prayers:



We pray especially for the sick of the parish and for those who care for and support them, especially, Angela Gray, Mairead Kirke, and Dick Worbey. We remember those who have died recently; Mary & Richard Hill, Chris Windebank and Margaret Doyle and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Alec Brown, Colman Welby, Alexander McKerroll, Patricia Geary, Henry Osborne, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Mary Connolly, George Paterson, Michael Kelly and Anton Adamski.

Act of Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen

CHURCHES FINANCES & COLLECTION

A word of thanks to all those people who have donated for the upkeep of the Parish in one way or another. There are several ways to support the Parish. One of them is via a standing order, which is easy to set up and easy to stop, if you want to, when this difficult period has passed. Please use the bank account details from our website below to set up the standing order if you use online banking, or you can also write to, telephone or visit your bank as well. You can also donate via the website. Or, of course, you can contribute after mass in the Collection Plates provided.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock/donate/>.

Fr. Denis would like to thank everyone for their generosity during this time of pandemic

FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021 PROGRAMME



(open to any child in Year 3 or above)

The next programme will be commencing in December with a welcome meeting and regular sessions starting in January 2021.

Application forms will be available from **Sunday 25th October**. If you have any questions please contact Fr. Denis. Many thanks Jo Chrysandreas