



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME

7th February 2021

Raised to Serve

In today's First Reading, Job describes the futility of life before Christ. His lament reminds us of the curse of toil and death placed upon Adam following his original sin (see [Genesis 3:17-19](#)). Men and women are like slaves seeking shade, unable to find rest. Their lives are like the wind that comes and goes.

But, as we sing in today's Psalm, He who created the stars promised to heal the brokenhearted and gather those lost in exile from Him. We see this promise fulfilled in today's Gospel.

Simon's mother-in-law is like Job's toiling, hopeless humanity. She is laid low by affliction but too weak to save herself.

But as God promised to take His chosen people by the hand (see [Isaiah 42:6](#)), Jesus grasps her by the hand and helps her up. The word translated "help" is actually Greek for "raising up." The same verb is used when Jesus commands a dead girl to arise (see [Mark 5:41-42](#)). It's used again to describe His own.

What Jesus has done for Simon's mother-in-law, He has done for all humanity—raised all of us who lay dead through our sins (see [Ephesians 2:5](#)).

Notice all the words of totality and completeness in the Gospel. The whole town gathers; all the sick are brought to Him. He drives out demons in the whole of Galilee. Everyone is looking for Christ.

We, too, have found Him. By our baptism, He healed and raised us to live in His presence.

Like Simon's mother-in-law, there is only one way we can thank Him for the new life He has given us. We must rise to serve Him and His Gospel.

Our lives must be our thanksgiving, as Paul describes in today's Epistle. We must tell everyone the good news, the purpose for which Jesus has come—that others, too, may have a share in this salvation.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Praying for one another is one thing we can do in this difficult time.

Pray in whatever way works for you. It doesn't have to be wordy or repetitive.

A silent lifting of the heart to God is all it takes and as St Therese wrote; if we lift our hearts to God we lift up everyone we hold in our hearts too.

Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"



PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.*

*Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

A beloved, tender, obedient father

Saint Joseph, in fact, "concretely expressed his fatherhood" by making an offering of himself in love "a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home," writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

And because of his role at "the crossroads between the Old and New Testament," St Joseph "has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people" (PC, 1). In him, "Jesus saw the tender love of God," the one that helps us accept our weakness, because "it is through" and despite "our fears, our frailties, and our weakness" that most divine designs are realized. "Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser," emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God's mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we "experience His truth and tenderness," - because "we know that God's truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us" (2).

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his 'fiat' he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to "do the will of the Father." Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he "cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption," as St John Paul II said, "and is truly a minister of salvation" (3).

BOOKING IN FOR MASS

For all services in church you will need to book in online. If the mass is full you cannot use the sign in book at the back of church.

PARISH MASS ON-LINE

Fr. Denis is still celebrating mass online, every Saturday night 6.30pm vigil mass, & Wednesday 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 6 th	6.30pm Vigil Mass	Mass online Phyllis Carey RIP
Sun 7 th	8.30am 10.30am	Ray Knight RIP
Mon 8 th	7pm	Carmel Kierman
Tue 9 th	No mass in church	
Wed 10 th	10am	St Scholastica Virgin Mass online Ann Cooney
Thu 11 th	No mass in church	Our Lady of Lourdes
Fri 12 th		

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

The Wednesday Word is now available on this link page:

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

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL is our Catholic Parish Primary School. Please 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>

RC HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Contact Tel: Mobile: 07876 526935 Lister 01438 285518,

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.

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; Betty Hororan, Maria Barker and Alberto & Agata Celes, all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: David Eccles; Jacqueline Fielding; Francis Rees; May Tilley; Alessandro Gelmini; Ethel Richer; Anne Cox; Alastair Cumming; Ann (Nancy) Lee; Stanislaw Grulich; Rose Harold.

HARVESTERS MEN'S VIRTUAL MEET UP - 9, 16, 23 March 2021

This year the Harvesters Men's Weekend has become the Harvesters Men's Evenings. Over the course of three Tuesday evenings (9th March, 16th March and 23rd March), we will be exploring and unpacking the theme: "*Empowered to Serve*". There will be uplifting Praise and Worship, engaging speakers and the usual small group time in which to journey, share and delve deeper into the talks with other men from across the country. This is a free event with no obligation. You can join one or all of the sessions. Go on give it a try! To register for the event please follow this link <http://harvesters.org.uk/#about>

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

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