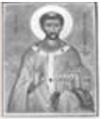




CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



PP - Fr Denis Sarsfield. Parish Office: 01462 893127. Email: baldock@rcdow.org.uk.

4th SUNDAY OF LENT

14th March 2021 Laetare Sunday

REFLECTION

Prayer knocks, fasting obtains, mercy receives

From a sermon by Saint Peter Chrysologus, bishop

There are three things, my brethren, by which faith stands firm, devotion remains constant, and virtue endures. They are prayer, fasting and mercy. Prayer knocks at the door, fasting obtains, mercy receives. Prayer, mercy and fasting: these three are one, and they give life to each other. Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated: If you have only one of them or not all together, you have nothing. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others you open God's ear to yourself; when you fast, see the fasting of others. If you want God to know that you are hungry, know that another is hungry: If you hope for mercy, show mercy; if you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give. If you ask for yourself what you deny to others, your asking is a mockery.

Let us use fasting to make up for what we have lost by despising others. Let us offer our souls in sacrifice by means of fasting. There is nothing more pleasing that we can offer to God, as the psalmist said in prophecy: A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; God does not despise a bruised and humbled heart.

Offer your soul to God, make him an oblation of your fasting, so that your soul may be a pure offering, a holy sacrifice, a living victim, remaining your own and at the same time made over to God. Whoever fails to give this to God will not be excused, for if you are to give him yourself you are never without the means of giving.

To make these acceptable, mercy must be added. Fasting bears no fruit unless it is watered by mercy. Fasting dries up when mercy dries up. Mercy is to fasting as rain is to earth. However much you may cultivate your heart, clear the soil of your nature, root out vices, sow virtues, if you do not release the springs of mercy, your fasting will bear no fruit.

When you fast, if your mercy is thin your harvest will be thin; when you fast, what you pour out in mercy overflows into your barn. Therefore, do not lose by saving, but gather in by scattering. Give to the poor, and you give to yourself. You will not be allowed to keep what you have refused to give to others.

Prayer for the Faithful by St. Patrick

May the Strength of God guide us
May the Power of God preserve us
May the Wisdom of God instruct us
May the Hand of God protect us
May the Way of God direct us
May the Shield of God defend us
May the Angels of God guard us-
Against the snares of the evil one.
May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us!
Christ be over all!
This day, O Lord, and forevermore. Amen

The Year Of St. Joseph

Welcoming the will of God

At the same time, Joseph is "an accepting Father," because he "accepted Mary unconditionally" – an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, "in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident." But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, "setting aside his own ideas" and reconciling himself with his own history. Joseph's spiritual path "is not one that explains, but accepts" – which does not mean that he is "resigned." Instead, he is "courageously and firmly proactive," because with "Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude," and full of hope, he is able "to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments." In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: "Do not be afraid!" because "faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad," and makes us aware that "God can make flowers spring up from stony ground." Joseph "did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it." For this reason, "he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak" (4).

A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Thank you God for the love of our mothers
Thank you for their care and concern
Thank you God for the joys
they have shared with us:
thank you God for the pains
they have borne for us;
thank you God for all that they give us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

LENTEN PROGRAMME

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

during Lent, The Children Stations of the Cross can be found online on the parish Facebook page. .

DAYTIME LENT FAITH SHARING GROUP A weekly, Lent, Faith Sharing Group is also running online

PARISH STUDY GROUPS FOR LENT

It is planned to run one or more study groups using Zoom teleconferencing. They will be based on a new publication

Holy Week Voices of the Holy Land- Poems and Reflections

<https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/holy-week-voices>

The next one is planned for 11.00am on Thursday 18th march, If you are interested in participating, or leading a group yourself, contact John White on 07803 203459 or [email jswhite@cix.co.uk](mailto:jswhite@cix.co.uk).

RECONCILIATION

Will be available for confessions Saturday 20th March 10.30-12.30pm. The Blessed Sacrament will be expositied during the two hours

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK:

Holy Thursday 1st April:

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm

Good Friday 2nd April:

Children's Stations of the Cross online

Celebration of The Lord's Passion at 3pm

A day of Fasting & Abstinence

Easter Vigil 3rd April: begins at sunset at 8.30pm

Easter Sunday 4th April: at 8.30am & 10.30am

Saturday 13th	6.30pm Vigil Mass	Mass online Lesley O'Neil (sick)
Sun 14 th	8.30am 10.30am	Betty Horohan RIP
Mon 15 th	7pm	Marie & Johnny Brennan RIP
Tue 16 th	No mass in church	
Wed 17 th	10am	Mass online St Patrick John Stevenson RIP
Thu 18 th	No mass in church	St Cyril of Jerusalem
Fri 19 th		Feast of St Joseph

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

Holy Hour: Saturday 5.15 - 6.15 pm

Confessions: Saturday 5.45 - 6.15 pm

Or by appointment with Fr. Denis

Family Mass: 1st Sunday 10.30 am

PARISH MASS ON-LINE

Fr. Denis is also still celebrating Mass online at 6.30 pm every Saturday night for the Vigil Mass, & Wednesday

morning Mass at 10am. Both are accessible 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 <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock>

BOOKING TO ATTEND MASS IN PERSON

For all services in Church, you need to book online, through our website below. If the Mass is full, the signing in book at the back of church cannot be used.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:



We pray especially for the sick of the parish and for those who care for and support them, especially, Karen O'Shaughnessy, Angela Gray, Mairead Kirke, and Dick Worbey. We remember those who have died recently; Anna Sokal, Alberto & Agata Celes, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: - Daisy Kulcullun; Ursula Duffer; Michael Collins; Michael McGinley; Cornelius McDine; James Ginnelly; Hannah Blows; Sidney Wells; Michael Burgess; Frederick Hawkins; Mary Wrighton; Dorothy Kaciniel

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 AVAILABLE VIA THIS LINK:

<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.

CHURCHES FINANCES & COLLECTION

A word of thanks to all those 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, available from our website below, to set up the standing order if you use online banking, or you can 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.