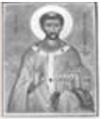




CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION 28th March 2021

Jesus' Passion

St. Francis de Sales once wrote: "I especially commend earnest mental prayer . . . upon the life and Passion of our Lord. If you contemplate him frequently in meditation, your whole soul will be filled with him, you will grow in his likeness, and your actions will be moulded on his." Francis knew that if we want to see real transformation in our lives, we need to dwell deeply on the cross. One of the best ways to do this is to imagine yourself in the upper room, in Gethsemane, or on the mount of crucifixion.

Picture yourself sitting next to Jesus as he consecrates the bread and wine. What does his voice sound like? What is the expression on his face? Gaze into his eyes as he stands before Pilate and receives his death sentence. Why is he silent? What is going through his mind as he hears the crowd crying out for his crucifixion?

So often we think that what we do is what matters most. It does matter, but what God wants to do in us matters even more. This is why it is so important to contemplate the Passion, opening ourselves to God's grace as we do.

Fr. Karl Rahner, one of the great theologians of Vatican II, once wrote: "We cannot deny that here below man can have experiences of grace that give him a feeling of liberation, open totally new horizons to him, make a deep impression on him, transform him, shaping, even over a long period of time, his deepest Christian attitude." This is what really matters! This is how we can become more like Christ.

I truly believe that God wants to fill us with grace as we ponder the Passion this week. He wants to make a deep impression in our souls and cut us to the heart with his love. So look up to heaven every day this week, and thank him for giving himself to you so fully. Wishing you all a blessed Holy Week as we prepare for the great feast of Easter.

Fr. Denis

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

A FATHER IN THE SHADOWS.

Centered on Mary and Jesus

Taking a cue from *The Shadow of the Father* – a book by Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński – Pope Francis describes Joseph's fatherhood of Jesus as "the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father."

"Fathers are not born, but made," says Pope Francis. "A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child."

Unfortunately, in today's society, children "often seem orphans, lacking fathers" who are able to introduce them "to life and reality." Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be "capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities."

This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a "most chaste" father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, "knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus."

Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: "In him, we never see frustration, but only trust," writes Pope Francis. "His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust." Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that "needs fathers," and not "tyrants"; a society that "rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction."

True fathers, instead, "refuse to live the lives of their children for them," and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realizes that "he is most a father and an educator at the point when he becomes 'useless,' when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied." Being a father, the Pope emphasizes, "has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a 'sign' pointing to a greater fatherhood": that of the "heavenly Father".

PLANNED GIVING & GIFT AID

The envelopes for use from 11th April are available on a table at the Lady Altar side of Church, this is to ease congestion.

If you are a UK tax payer and would like to Gift Aid your donation, please speak to Father Denis, Catherine or any member of the Finance Committee. This also applies if you wish to set up a standing order or begin to use envelopes. Please remember that for every £1 donated 25p can be claimed from HMRC at no cost to the donor.

If your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay UK tax, and so are not able to Gift Aid your donation, please let Catherine know.

All personal information is confidential.

Thank you for your continuing support to parish finances, especially during this very challenging past year.



Please note the change of mass time for Monday 5th April, from 7pm to 10am

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Sat 27 th | 6.30pm Vigil Mass | Mass online Patrick Bowen RIP |
| Sun 28 th | 8.30am 10.30am | Mass for people of the parish |
| Mon 29 th | 7pm | Clea Fletcher |
| Tue 30 th | No mass in church | |
| Wed 31 st | 10am | |
| Holy Thursday 1 st April | 7.30pm | Private intention. |
| Good Friday 2 nd | 3pm | <i>A day of fasting & Abstinence</i> |

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, Alastair McCallion, Karen O'Shaughnessy, Angela Gray, Mairead Kirke, and Dick Worbey. We remember those who have died recently; Anna Sokal, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: James

McGrath; Helena Solich; Patrick Bowen; Marsha Long; Leon Grudulis; Josef Jarosz; Agnes Wilson; Marguerite Wilson; John Campbell; Doris Bartram; Sean Duggan; Vera Holmes-Walker; Francesca Walsh; .

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.

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

It is planned to run one or more study groups using Zoom teleconferencing. contact John White on 07803 203459 or email.jswhite@cix.co.uk

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

Easter Monday 5th April - Mass at 10am

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.