



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



PP - Fr Denis Sarsfield. Parish Office: 01462 893127. Email: [baldock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:baldock@rcdow.org.uk).

## 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### The Church's Mission

In commissioning the Apostles in today's Gospel, Jesus gives them, and us, a preview of His Church's mission after the Resurrection. His instructions to the Twelve echo those of God to the Twelve Tribes of Israel on the eve of their exodus from Egypt. The Israelites were sent out with no bread and only one set of clothes, wearing sandals and carrying a staff (Exodus 12:11). Like the Israelites, the Apostles are to rely solely on the providence of God and His grace.

Perhaps Mark also wants us to see the Apostles' mission, the mission of the Church, as that of leading a new exodus—delivering peoples from their exile from God and bringing them to the promised land, the kingdom of heaven. Like Amos in today's First Reading, the Apostles are not “professionals,” who earn their bread by prophesying. Like Amos, they are simply men (Acts 14:15) summoned from their ordinary jobs and sent by God to be shepherds of their brothers and sisters.

Again this week, we hear the theme of rejection: Amos experiences it, and Jesus warns the Apostles that some will not welcome or listen to them. The Church is called not necessarily to be successful, but only to be faithful to God's command.

With authority and power given to it by Jesus, the Church proclaims God's peace and salvation to those who believe in Him, as we sing in today's Psalm.

This word of truth, this Gospel of salvation, is addressed to each of us, personally, as Paul proclaims in today's Epistle. In the mystery of God's will, we have been chosen from before the foundation of the world—to be His sons and daughters, to live for the praise of His glory. Let us, then, give thanks for the Church today, and for the spiritual blessings He has bestowed upon us. Let us resolve to further the Church's mission—to help others hear the call to repentance and welcome Christ into their lives.

### The year of St Joseph

The history of salvation is worked out “in hope against hope” (Rom 4:18), through our weaknesses. All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realized in and despite our frailty. Thus Saint Paul could say: “To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me: ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for

power is made perfect in weakness’” Since this is part of the entire economy of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy.

The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser (cf. Rev 12:10). That is why it is so important to encounter God's mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience his truth and tenderness. Paradoxically, the evil one can also speak the truth to us, yet he does so only to condemn us. We know that God's truth does not condemn, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us. That truth always presents itself to us like the merciful father in Jesus' parable (cf. Lk 15:11-32). It comes out to meet us, restores our dignity, sets us back on our feet and rejoices for us, for, as the father says: “This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found” (v. 24).

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.

### Baptism Course:

The dates of the two sessions for the forthcoming Baptism Preparation Course are Wednesday, 22nd September and Wednesday 29th September at 7.30pm. Each session lasts for about an hour and a half. The sessions will take place at 14, North Road, Baldock, SG7 5BX. For further information contact 07931 761 403.

### Prayer for Sea Sunday

Gracious God, today, on Sea Sunday, we offer our prayers for those whose lives are affected by the sea. We pray for people whose work takes them to sea; For those in the different branches of the navy; For those who transport goods by ship; For those who catch fish for their living. Be with them as they work, and keep them safe when the weather is bad and seas are rough. We pray for those who give help when people get into difficulties at sea. For the lifeboat service, and for air-sea rescue; For coast guards, and for lifeguards. We thank You for their courage, and ask that You will guard and guide them as they work for others in need. Lord God, creator of all that is, hear our prayer.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### OUR ANNUAL OPEN-AIR MASS POSTPONED FOR THE TIME BEING, PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

On Sunday 15th August, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Father Denis will lead a small service at Baldock Cemetery, which is just off The Sycamores, next to The Orange Tree Pub. He will be blessing the graves of all our loved one.

**Newsletter:** Please submit items for inclusion, preferably by Tuesday evening, by either emailing the **dedicated newsletter email address** ([baldock.rcc@ntlworld.com](mailto:baldock.rcc@ntlworld.com)) or handing them to Fr. Denis. Thank you

Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Hugh Kirke RIP Peter Ivaldi Successful Op
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	No mass	
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St Camillus de Lellis.
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup>	No mass	St Bonaventure.
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	No mass	

*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:** 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### 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.

#### TEA AND COFFEE (& BISCUITS) AVAILABLE



AFTER 10.30 MASS outside in the garden ground

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:



We pray especially for the sick of the parish and for those who care for and support them, especially Donald Mbeutcha, Thomas Sarsfield, Angela Gray, Mairead Kirke and Dick Worbey. We remember those who have died recently, Mary Mc Fadden and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Anna Ohtani; Monica Byrne; Hugh Kirke; Elizabeth Duff; Edwin Somers; Shirley Topajka; Patrick O'Toole; Edward Kerrigan; Andrew Kelly and Helena Tutak.

#### THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

(RCIA), is a process developed by the Catholic Church for prospective converts to Catholicism. Candidates are gradually introduced to aspects of Catholic beliefs and practices. If you are interested in exploring what Christianity and the Catholic faith are about and are thinking of becoming a Catholic, then the Holy Trinity RCIA programme may be for you. If you would like to find out more please speak directly to Fr. Denis or phone -the parish office on tel. 01462 893127.

#### 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.

**MISSIO - APF MISSIONS** Would all box holders please leave your red mission boxes at the back of the church to be emptied. Any queries please telephone Pam Winters. 01462 892265

#### PROPERTY NEEDED TO RENT

If anyone hears of a small property to rent with its own garden and preferably 2 bedrooms in the Baldock, Letchworth or Hitchin area, please let Pam Winters know on 01462 892265. Thank you.

#### Prayer to St Joseph for a Happy Death

O Blessed Joseph, who yielded up thy last breath in the arms of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me this grace, O holy Joseph, that I may breathe forth my soul in praise, saying in spirit, if I am unable to do so in words: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give Thee my heart and my soul." Amen