



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



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

17th Sunday of the Year 25th July 2021

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Prayer for Grandparents

Lord Jesus, you were born of the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Sts. Joachim and Anne. Look with love on grandparents the world over. Protect them! They are a source of enrichment for families, for the Church and for all of society. Support them! As they grow older, may they continue to be for their families strong pillars of Gospel faith, guardians of noble domestic ideals, living treasuries of sound religious traditions. Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they may pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual experience. AMEN

Scripture Note

For this and the next four Sundays the Gospel readings come from Chapter Six of St John's Gospel. John has no account of the institution of the Eucharist. But this chapter more than compensates for that. The miracle described in the First Reading shows God's concern for his people during a time of famine. The bread in question was the bread of the first-fruits, which was meant to be offered to God. But instead of offering it to God, Elisha, the prophet of the old covenant, gave it to the people. The left-overs stress God's generosity. Like Elisha, Jesus, the prophet of the old covenant, feeds hungry people, and does so even more astonishingly. There are clear Eucharistic overtones in the way the miracle is related. Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and distributed them to the people. Such language is meant to remind us of what he did at the Last Supper and of what happens every time we celebrate the Eucharist. Even though both feedings are miraculous there is an essential human element in each, without which no miracle is possible.

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.

A Summertime meditation



Meditation In this summer period many have left the city and find themselves at tourist sites or in their homeland for their vacations. It is a time when this much awaited rest serve to strengthen our minds and bodies, which, given the hectic course of modern existence, daily undergoes a continuous fatigue and strain. The holidays also afford a precious opportunity to spend more time with relatives, to visit family and friends, in a word, to give more space to those human contacts whose desired cultivation is impeded by the rhythm of daily duties.

For many, holiday time becomes a profitable occasion for cultural contacts, for prolonged moments of prayer and of contemplation in contact with nature or in monasteries and religious structures.

Having more free time, one can dedicate oneself more easily to conversation with God, meditation on Sacred Scripture, and reading some useful, formative book. Those who experience this spiritual repose know how useful it is not to reduce vacations to mere relaxation and amusement.

THE NEWSLETTER SUMMER BREAK



The newsletter team have been up in their lofts retrieving their buckets and spades because it's time to set off on our holidays. We'll be back on the 5th September. We sincerely hope all our parishioners have an enjoyable summer. In the meantime check out the parish website for updates on what's going on in the parish:

Prayer

Loving Father, during this time of rest and relaxation please repair in me whatever is weary or broken, and revive my drooping spirit. Let this time of holidays be a graced time of recollection and rejuvenation, of deeper self-awareness and eager self-giving. May it be an occasion of refreshment and reinvigoration - a time to reclaim my friendship with Jesus Christ, who is our Lord now and for ever. Amen

Sat 24 th	6.30 pm	Francis Mendonca
Sun 25 th	8.30am 10.30am	Ray Knight RIP Myriam Anderson
Mon 26 th	7pm	St Joachim and Anne, Parents of the blessed Mary.
Tue 27 th	No mass	
Wed 28 th	10am	Robert Fletcher
Thu 29 th	No mass	St Martha
Fri 30 th	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: 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.

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.

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

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, Tony Targett, 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: Ann Lynch, Gladys Clare, Arthur Crook, John Casey, Paul Bugil, Mary Light, Sr

Brigid Maher, Ray Knight, William O'Mahony, Barry Huber and Annie Davey.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

KNIT & NATTER is back!



Our next meeting is on *Friday 6th August in the Holy Family Room, 9.30 to 11 am*. All knitters, whether experienced or just learning, are most welcome. For further details please see the poster in the church porch.

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.

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.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation preparation will begin again in the autumn school term 2021-22. If you are due to be in year 9 or 10 (delayed from last year due to Covid), please consider if you wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the parish.

More details will follow after September, and application forms will be available at the back of the church at that time. We hope to run the first meeting in December, with candidates and parents, and subsequent meetings will then take place on a Saturday evening before mass (candidates only). Elizabeth and Claire

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.

TEA AND COFFEE (& BISCUITS) AVAILABLE



AFTER 10.30 MASS outside in the garden ground

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Pope to the elderly: God sends his angels to console your loneliness. Pope Francis reassures the elderly that God is always with them in his message for **the first-ever World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.** He also reminds them of their vocation to preserve our roots and to pass on the faith to the younger ones.

Pope Francis on Tuesday released a message for the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The theme chosen by the Pope for the inaugural commemoration is “I am with you always”

“The whole Church is close to you - to us - and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!” the Pope said, identifying with the elderly, as one of them.

Comfort amid the pandemic

The Pope’s message comes amid the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic that has affected everyone, especially elderly people. Many, Pope Francis noted, “fell ill, others died or experienced the death of spouses or loved ones, while others found themselves isolated and alone for long periods.”

“The Lord is aware of all that we have been through in this time,” the Pope said, “He is close to those who felt isolated and alone, feelings that became more acute during the pandemic.” Illustrating this, he recounted the story of St. Joachim, the grandfather of Jesus, who, according to tradition, was consoled by a messenger of the Lord when he felt estranged from those around him.

The Lord sends angels, messengers through His words, Even at the darkest moments, the Lord continues to send angels to console our loneliness and to remind us that He is with us always, the Pope assured.

These angels, he continued, will at times have the face of our grandchildren, while at other times, “the face of family members, lifelong friends or those we have come to know during these trying times, when we have learned how important hugs and visits are for each of us.”

At the same time, the Lord also “sends us messengers through his words, which are always at hand” the Pope noted, inviting the elderly to “try to read a page of the Gospel every day, to pray with the psalms, to read the prophets.” He added that “the Scriptures will also help us to understand what the Lord is asking of our lives today. For at every hour of the day, and in every season of life, he continues to send labourers into his vineyard.”

The vocation of the elderly

The Holy Father went to recall the words of Jesus to the disciples when he asked them to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”

Addressing these words to the elderly, he highlighted that this helps them better understand that they have the vocation “to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones” irrespective of their age, if they are alone or have a family, if they work or not or if they are grandparents or not. The Pope underlined that there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to grandchildren.

Further encouraging the elderly to “set out and undertake something new” in spite of the doubts and questions they might have, he reminded them that Jesus himself heard a similar question when Nicodemus asked him “how can a man be born when he is old” (Jn 3:4)

It can happen, “if we open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. The Holy Spirit whose freedom is such that goes wherever, and does whatever he wills,”

Emerging from the crisis

Reflecting on collective efforts to put an end to the pandemic, Pope Francis stressed that we will not emerge from the present crises as we were before, but either better and worse. He noted that “no one is saved alone” and we are all indebted to one another because “we are all brothers and sisters.”

In this regard, he went on to insist that the elderly “are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow” where, together with their children and grandchildren, “will live once the storm has subsided.”

Finally, Pope Francis spoke on prayer, recalling Pope Benedict XVI’s words: “the prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others.”

He reminded the elderly that their prayer is “a very precious resource; a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need” that “inspires in everyone the serene trust that we will soon come to shore” especially in these times “as we continue to sail in the same boat across the stormy sea of the pandemic.”

Concluding, the Holy Father held up the example of Blessed Charles de Foucauld to the elderly, explaining that the story of his life “shows how it is possible, even in the solitude of one’s own desert, to intercede for the poor of the whole world and to become, in truth, a universal brother or sister.” He, therefore, asked the Lord that through his example, “all of us may open our hearts in sensitivity to the sufferings of the poor and intercede for their needs.”

“May each of us learn to repeat to all, and especially to the young, the words of consolation we have heard spoken to us today: “I am with you always”! keep moving forward! May the Lord grant you his blessing,” the Pope said