



# 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).

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Welcome back after the summer holidays, I do hope that you were able to get some sort of break. Just an update on where we are with restrictions at mass. Not much has changed since the summer holidays. Go slowly seems to be the message. I am aware that after the summer holidays there may be a rise in infections with school children going back to school. I think it's best we put the outdoor mass on hold for the time being and in early October we can assess the situation and put on some sort of event if possible: So just a few practical things. You will still need to book in for mass on *the Parish website*: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock>  
Masks are to be worn in confined spaces. Hand sanitizers will still be in place. All benches have been opened up. So there will be more seating available at all masses. Let's give each other plenty of space and spread out on the benches. The church is cleaned after every mass.

At the moment I think it's good that we follow the advice and go slowly in lifting the restrictions. The virus can still cause serious illness and the effects of long COVID can be debilitating; so let's keep ourselves and others safe. Fr. Denis

### Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission

A two-year 'synodal' process is taking place in the Catholic Church from October 2021 that culminates in the final Synod Gathering of Bishops in Rome in October 2023. The overall theme is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission". For the first time, the Synod Office in Rome has produced a comprehensive process which encompasses the stated aim of the Holy Father that the Church in today's world should have a vision of missionary communion orientated to evangelisation.<sup>1</sup>

The process begins in the Particular (or Local) Church and then moves to the level of the Bishops' Conference. From there, discernment takes place in the Regional Area - for England and Wales, it would be steered by the European Council of Bishops' Conferences (CCEE) - before moving to the Universal Church with the final Synod Gathering of Bishops in 2023, sub et cum Petro.

### Origins

The process reflects the teaching of the Second Vatican Council in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*. In this Council Document, the universality of the People of God is affirmed (LG§12) and by their anointing in the Holy Spirit, the universal body is "incapable of being at fault in belief." A presupposition for this important

statement is a formation of the people in a lived experience of faith, foreshadowed in the Old Testament especially in the Exodus, from which the life of the Gospel is lived by those united to Christ in his new covenant (LG§9).

The sacrament of Baptism offers entry into the life of faith and love. The Eucharistic liturgy is the pre-eminent place that the Christian community gathers to celebrate this faith and love. So, the People of God celebrate this life of faith and love in the context of the Scriptures and the Eucharist. Thereby their faith in the Word of God and in the Tradition of the Church, through the Scriptures and the teaching office of the Church, is affirmed and nurtured. Faith is nourished through the hearing of the Word and the sharing of the Body of the Lord. Through these actions, the members of the Church enter into communion with him and all each other.

### The importance of the Bishop

From this universal people, the bishops are chosen and consecrated and have an attention to the whole flock but, in particular, to the Church to which they have been appointed (LG§23). Their ministry is one of "pastors, masters of teaching, priests of sacred worship, ministers of government." Theirs is the charism of discernment as they are the "authentic guardians, interpreters and witnesses to the faith of the whole Church."<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, the bishops have a key role in listening to the people of God in their particular Church, and under the power of the Holy Spirit, to hear and discern what is being said of that Church. "In virtue of this catholicity, each part contributes its own gifts to other parts and to the entire church, so the whole and each of the parts are strengthened by the common sharing of all things and by the common effort to achieve fullness in unity." (LG §13). Each local Church is a fundamental part of the Universal Church, so what happens in each local Church contributes to the whole. It is the first link in the communion of faith shared with the other churches and cemented in the unity of the local Church around the bishop. The diversity of the local Churches and their context brings different gifts to the whole, which contribute to it. This is key to understanding this synodal pathway.

### All-Many-One

The synod process is one of "journeying together" towards Christ - the Way, the Truth and the Life - who calls his people into a unity of purpose and mutual listening between people and pastors. This journeying arrives at the Synod of Bishops gathering itself, which is presided over by the Bishop of Rome, who is called to speak as "pastor and teacher of all Christians" as the supreme witness to the *fides totius Ecclesiae*.<sup>3</sup>

The bishops are linked to the Bishop of Rome through the bond of episcopal communion and at the same time, are subject to him as head of the College of Bishops. The process therefore can be considered as an exercise of listening all-many-one; that is, the voice of the people of God in the particular church (all), must be heard, listened to and discerned by their bishops as the authentic pastors (many), who then gather with the Successor of Peter (one) who acts as a point of unity for the Universal Church.

The ultimate discernment is for the Pope who will offer a Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation based on what is presented to him throughout the process of mutual listening, in which the fruits of this discernment are published in a manner that reflects the life of the Church as always changing within its own context in the world, yet ever faithful to that which it has received.

Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	John & Kathleen Walsh
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Vera Boag Jean Stynes RIP
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Ss Margaret Clitherow & Margaret Ward Martyrs
Tue 31 <sup>th</sup>	No mass	
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	10am	Kevin (Peter) Seddon RIP World Day of prayer for the Care of Creation.
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	No mass	
Fri 3 <sup>rd</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. Mass is 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. Please go to the Parish website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock>

**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](mailto: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, Angela Gray, and Mairead Kirke. We remember those who have died recently, Tony Targett, Dick Worbey, Peter Seddon, Daisy Quinn Restall, and Sean Stynes and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Ellie Thiele, Gustaw Zyllich, Eileen Gaffney, Daisy Wisniowska, and Mary Ann Joyce

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**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**