



26th Sunday of the Year 26th September 2021

Reflection

Today's Gospel begins with a scene that recalls a similar moment in the history of Israel, the episode recalled in today's First Reading. The seventy elders who receive God's Spirit through Moses prefigure the ministry of the Apostles.

Like Joshua in the First Reading, John makes the mistake of presuming that only a select few are inspired and entrusted to carry out God's plans. The Spirit blows where it wills (see John 3:8), and God desires to bestow His Spirit on all the people of God in every nation under heaven.

God can and will work mighty deeds through the most unexpected and unlikely people. All of us are called to perform even our most humble tasks, such as giving a cup of water, for the sake of His name and the cause of His kingdom.

John believes he is protecting the purity of the Lord's name. But, really, he's only guarding his own privilege and status. It's telling that the Apostles want to shut down the ministry of an exorcist. Authority to drive out demons and unclean spirits was one of the specific powers entrusted to the Twelve.

Cleanse me from my unknown faults, we pray in today's Psalm. Often, like Joshua and John, perhaps without noticing it, we cloak our failings and fears under the guise of our desire to defend Christ or the Church.

But as Jesus says today, instead of worrying about who is a real Christian and who is not, we should make sure that we ourselves are leading lives worthy of our calling as disciples. Does the advice we give, or the example of our actions, give scandal—causing others to doubt or lose faith? Do we do what we do with mixed motives instead of seeking only the Father's will? Are we living, as this Sunday's Epistle warns, for our own luxury and pleasure while neglecting our neighbours? We need to keep meditating on His Law, as we sing in today's Psalm. We need to pray for the grace to detect our failings and to overcome them.

THE FEAST OF ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS.

This week we celebrate the feast day of **St. Thérèse** of the Child Jesus. St. Thérèse is a favourite of many Catholics who long to imitate her childlike love of Christ and others. We have a statue of Therese by the confessional. St. Therese of Lisieux, or St. Therese of the Child Jesus, died quite your only twenty-four years when she passed on at the end of the nineteenth century, leading a very simple and hidden life, but who, after her

death and the publication of her writings, became one of the best-known and loved saints".

"Little Therese", "never failed to help the most simple souls, the little ones, the poor and the suffering who prayed to her, but also illuminated all the Church with her profound spiritual doctrine, to the point that Saint John Paul II, in 1997, granted her the title of Doctor of the Church ... and described her as an 'expert in the Science of Love".

Therese expressed this science, in which all the truth of the faith is revealed in love, in her autobiography 'The Story of a Soul', published a year after her death". In 1890 she took her vows. 1896 marked the beginning of a period of great physical and spiritual suffering, which accompanied her until her death. In those moments, "she lived the faith at its most heroic, as the light in the shadows that invade the soul. In this context of suffering, living the greatest love in the littlest things of daily life, the Saint realised her vocation of becoming the love at the heart of the Church".

She died in the afternoon of 30 September, 1897, uttering the simple words, "My Lord, I love You!" "These last words are the key to all her doctrine, to her interpretation of the Gospel", "The act of love, expressed in her final breath, was like the continued breathing of the soul ... The words 'Jesus, I love You' are at the centre of all her writings".

St. Therese is "one of the 'little ones' of the Gospel who allow themselves to be guided by God, in the depth of His mystery. A guide for all, especially for theologians. With humility and faith, Therese continually entered the heart of the Scriptures which contain the Mystery of Christ.

COVID REGULATIONS IN CHURCH

At the moment we are still in the midst of a pandemic, and are following the guidelines laid down by the Bishop's conference of England and Wales. So we are still asked to sign in for mass, you can do this online on the parish website page, or sign in at the back of the church. You will need to wear a mask and sanitise your hands as you enter the church. After each mass the church is sanitised. If you could spread out on the benches and give each other space. Its important that we keep everyone safe. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

Sat 25th	6.30 pm	Blessed Virgin Mary Phillip Dean RIP
Sun 26th	8.30am 10.30am	Vincent Hulganga RIP Roy Stone, Peter Burke RIP
Mon 27th	10am	St Vincent de Paul Private Intention
Tue 28th	No mass	St Wenceslaus, Martyr
Wed 29th	10am	Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael Bill Piper RIP
Thu 30th	No mass	St Jerome,
Fri 1st	No mass	St Therese

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. 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>

RC HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Contact Tel: Mobile: 07876 526935 Lister 01438 285518.

St. JOHN'S SCHOOL is our Catholic Parish Primary School. Parish families are welcome to visit and have a tour of the school. Please come to the School Office or 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>

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

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. Please use the bank account details, available from our website below, or you can write to, telephone, or visit your bank as well. You can also donate via the website. Or 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:



We pray especially for the sick of the parish and for those who care for and support them, especially Christopher Gillham, Angela Gray and Mairead Kirke. We remember those who have died recently: Michael Turner and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Michael McCarthy; Roy Stone; Edward Chanas; Frederick Bridgman; Sr Aloyse Woodcock; Florence Ager; Eileen Fox; William Piper; Leo Ennis; Nora McComish; Ita Brimyard.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

KNIT & NATTER. Our next meeting is on Friday 1st October, 9.30 to 11am in the Holy Family room. New members very welcome. Please see the poster in the church porch.

SCHOOL FORMS FOR JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

PLEASE NOTE: Fr Denis will be available to sign application forms for John Henry School on Saturday 2nd October at 10.30am.

First Confession and First Holy Communion 2022 Programme (Open to any child in Year 3 or above)

The next programme will be commencing in November 2021. Application forms will be available from Sunday 12th September. If you have any questions please contact Fr. Denis.

RCIA 2021-2022: Are you an adult non-Catholic interested in exploring what Christianity and the Catholic faith are about? Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic? If your answer is yes then it may be that the Holy Trinity RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme is for you. The weekly meetings will begin on **Tuesday October 5th**. If you live within the Parish of Holy Trinity, Baldock and would like to find out more please speak to Fr Denis Sarsfield on 01462-893127.

RED MISSION BOXES

Thank you for bringing back your Red Box for counting. I had a very full box without a name, so if this is you, please phone me (Pam) on 01462 892265 so that I can accredit you with your collection. I will return your boxes, with a Mission Magazine, to the MISSIO Table at the back of the Church soon for your collection. Thank you for being part of the scheme. Pam Winters.

