



30th Sunday of the Year 24th October 2021

Seeing the Son of David:

Today's Gospel turns on an irony--it is a blind man, Bartimaeus, who becomes the first besides the apostles to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. And His healing is the last miracle Jesus performs before entering the holy city of Jerusalem for His last week on earth.

The scene on the road to Jerusalem evokes the joyful procession prophesied by Jeremiah in today's First Reading. In Jesus this prophecy is fulfilled. God, through the Messiah, is delivering His people from exile, bringing them back from the ends of the earth, with the blind and lame in their midst. Jesus, as Bartimaeus proclaims, is the long-awaited Son promised to David. Upon His triumphal arrival in Jerusalem, all will see that the everlasting kingdom of David has come.

As we hear in today's Epistle, the Son of David was expected to be the Son of God. He was to be a priest-king like Melchizedek (see Psalm 110:4), who offered bread and wine to God Most High at the dawn of salvation history.

Bartimaeus is a symbol of his people, the captive Zion which we sing of in today's Psalm. His God has done great things for him. All his life has been sown in tears and weeping. Now, he reaps a new life. Bartimaeus, too, should be a sign for us. How often Christ passes us by--in the person of the poor, in the distressing guise of a troublesome family member or burdensome associate (see Matthew 25:31-46)--and yet we don't see Him.

Christ still calls to us through His Church, as Jesus sent His apostles to call Bartimaeus. Yet how often are we found to be listening instead to the voices of the crowd, not hearing the words of His Church. Today He asks us what He asks Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" Rejoicing, let us ask the same thing of Him--what can we do for all that He has done for us?

OPEN MORNING - St John's Catholic Primary School

St John's, our Parish Primary School, is holding an Open Morning on Thursday the 11th November between 9.15 am and 10.45 am. There will be an opportunity to meet the Headteacher and our Reception team, visit our spacious Reception classroom and also to have a tour of the school. Children are welcome. For more information please visit stjohns4.herts.sch.uk or call the school office on 01462 892478.

TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 24.10.21

World Mission Sunday is celebrated in every Catholic community in the world. It's a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence and oppression. Every parish, school and community is invited to join this special event, and every penny, pound and prayer you give to Missio helps missionaries everywhere continue their work.

In the Holy Father's message for World Mission Sunday 2021, he says:

'Jesus needs hearts capable of experiencing vocation as a true love story that urges them to go forth to the peripheries of our world as messengers and agents of compassion'.

On this day, through prayer, reflection and material help, we express our support of missionaries from all continents who are striving to bring the true love of Christ to all who have yet to receive it.

There will be information at all Masses this weekend. Your generosity will be much appreciated. Gift Aid envelopes are also available. With many thanks. Pam Winters.

1st -31st OCTOBER - BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Nurse Mary Seacole saved countless lives and nursed many wounded soldiers back to health during the Crimean War. After her death in 1881, Mary Seacole was sadly forgotten.

Statue commemorating Nurse Mary Seacole outside St. Thomas' Hospital, London

Black History Month is necessary because people from African and Caribbean backgrounds have been a fundamental part of British history for centuries. However, campaigners believe their value and contribution to society is often overlooked, ignored or distorted.

Most schools still teach a history curriculum which focuses on traditional events and the achievements of white figures. Black History Month gives everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture.

Sat 23 rd	6.30 pm Vigil Mass	
Sun 24 th	8.30am 10.30am	World Mission Sunday J M Alexander RIP Maureen Delaney RIP
Mon 25 th	10.00	
Tue 26 th	No Mass	
Wed 27 th	10.00	
Thu 28 th	No Mass	Ss Simon & Jude
Fri 29 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. 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

Going into Hospital? - If you are going into hospital do ask to see a Catholic Chaplain. Please call the Chaplaincy office at the Lister Hospital 01438 285518. . Mobile: 07876 526935

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

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

The parish is very much in need of extra help with the flower rota. Would anyone is able to help please contact Helen McCallion on 01462894058 or leave your name and contact number with Fr Denis.

LOVE IS THE GREATEST THING

Love is the greatest force in the universe. It was given freely to the human race by our Heavenly Father. But love can also be fragile, for love needs love it has to be nurtured and cared for. Love will

only go where there is love. When love between town people is lost, it is because it has not been loved. Love is beautiful. It is a touch of heaven here on earth. But if not loved, it returns to its Heavenly Father. You see love is a force. It is not an emotional feeling, it is our greatest gift, a heavenly grace, an open gate to heaven.

For all love is God's love. That's why we have free will. Love is a choice, our choice-to love and be loved. So open your heart to receive. For without love, man is nought but a dream. **S.J. Parker.**

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: Henry Bartram; Rose Holloway; Louise Burke; John Brennan; Eileen Copps; Alfred Field; Ronald Bromage; Adelina Molloy; Michael Fitzgerald; Margaret Speck; Arthur Joseph Wilkinson.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MASS FOR DECEASED RELATIVES & FRIENDS

10th November 7pm:

November is the month of Holy Souls, when we pray for our deceased loved ones and we have our book of remembrance, in which we place the names of our family and friends who need our prayers. As we have had our service of blessing the graves in August, I thought that it might be a nice idea to celebrate a special mass in November this year. Do come and join us and if you know of anyone who has lost a loved one and would like to join us please do invite them to the Mass.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME



Confirmation candidates and their parents are invited to the first preparation session on Sunday 5th December after the 10.30 am Mass. 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. Application forms available at the back of the church. Subsequent meetings will take place on a Saturday evening before mass for candidates only. Thank you, Elizabeth and Claire.