



## CHRIST THE KING 21st November 2021



### Solemnity of Christ the King

What's the truth Jesus comes to bear witness to in this last Gospel of the Church's year?

It's the truth that in Jesus, God keeps the promise He made to David of an everlasting kingdom, of an heir who would be His Son, "the first born, highest of the kings of the earth" (see 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Psalm 89:27-38).

Today's Second Reading, taken from the Book of Revelation, quotes these promises and celebrates Jesus as "the faithful witness." The reading harkens back to Isaiah's prophecy that the Messiah would "witness to the peoples" that God is renewing His "everlasting covenant" with David (see Isaiah 55:3-5).

But as Jesus tells Pilate, there's far more going on here than the restoration of a temporal monarchy. In the Revelation reading, Jesus calls Himself "the Alpha and the Omega," the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. He's applying to Himself a description that God uses to describe Himself in the Old Testament—the first and the last, the One who calls forth all generations (see Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12).

"He has made the world," today's Psalm cries, and His dominion is over all creation (see also John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17). In the vision of Daniel we hear in today's First Reading, He comes on "the clouds of heaven"—another sign of His divinity—to be given "glory and kingship" forever over all nations and peoples.

Christ is King and His kingdom, while not of this world, exists in this world in the Church. We are a royal people. We know we have been loved by Him and freed by His blood and transformed into "a kingdom, priests for his God and Father" (see also Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 2:9).

As a priestly people, we share in His sacrifice and in His witness to God's everlasting covenant. We belong to His truth and listen to His voice, waiting for Him to come again amid the clouds.

### MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

November is the month when we think about the holy souls and especially from our own families, those close to our hearts. The Church prays for everyone who has passed on to the next life marked with the sign of faith. Let us remember them, our faith tells us that they are very much alive, and our prayers can help them. There will be a book of remembrance, which will be present at every mass. We will offer Holy Mass for the deceased. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church with a list of those to be entered into the Book. Please fill out the list provided of your deceased parents, relatives and friends and all you wish to pray for.

### PRAYER FOR THE DEAD

Go forth, Christian soul, from this world  
in the name of God the almighty Father,  
who created you,  
in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living  
God, who suffered for you,  
in the name of the Holy Spirit,  
who was poured out upon you,  
go forth, faithful Christian,  
May you live in peace this day,  
may your home be with God in Zion,  
with Mary, the virgin Mother of God,  
with Joseph, and all the angels and saints.

**We thank Father Euloge and Father Tom who will celebrate mass this weekend.**

### MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY 21<sup>ST</sup> November 2021

Pope Francis urged young people to:-  
**"Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen." (cf. Acts 26:16)**  
He said that last year's message of "Young man, I say to you arise" was preparing young people for the grave challenge of the pandemic. He acknowledged the losses, social isolation and setbacks suffered, as well as the contributions made by young people in helping to save lives and sow seeds of hope. He uses the story of St Paul's conversion to inspire young people, saying "Young people what great potential you have in your hands! What great strength you have in your hearts."

### REPOSITORY

There is a good selection of Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars and Candles on sale in the repository from this weekend onwards. Don't miss out!

Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm Vigil Mass	Maureen Lydon Intention
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Barry Huber RIP Christine Mahony Intention
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00	St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr Kathleen & Patsy Heaney Intention
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	No Mass	St Clement, Pope & Martyr
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Hedy & Robert Flecter
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	
Fri 26 <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. 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>

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 please note new address** baldock@rcdow.org.uk or handing them to Fr. Denis. Thank you

**RED BOX COLLECTION**

Please could Red Box Holders bring in their boxes for counting and leave them on the table at the back of the Church. If anyone would like to have their box collected from home, please call Pam on 01462 892265. With many thanks.

**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 and Mairead Kirke. We remember those who have died recently: Angela Gray and Michael Turner, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Sr Alberta Kennedy; Michael Zac; Alec Brown; Colman Welby; Alexander McKerroll; Patricia Geary; Henry Osborne; Kathleen Fitzgerald; Mary Connolly; George Paterson; Michael Kelly.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME**



Confirmation candidates and their parents are invited to the first preparation session on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**ST. CECILIA**

On Monday we commemorate St. Cecilia -- patron of church music. St. Cecilia was born into a senatorial family, she was a Christian from infancy yet given in marriage to a noble pagan youth, Valerianus. When she explained to him that her body was protected by an angel, he asked to see the angel and was soon converted to Christianity. His brother visited and also converted. Described as zealous children of Faith, they generously gave their riches to the poor and buried those who died for their belief in Christ. As a result they were condemned to death and Cecilia herself was taken prisoner. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, she made a "glorious profession of faith" and was "condemned to be suffocated in the bath of her own house." When that proved to be unsuccessful, she was beheaded. The story of St. Cecilia is not unlike other martyrs of the early church -- she and her husband and brother-in-law were steadfast in faith and willing to not only change their lives to follow Christ but also to give their lives. St. Cecilia is frequently depicted with an organ or playing the organ. There are poems that refer to her as singing in her heart to God only. What a beautiful image. Her lasting contribution is to encourage all of us to sing in our hearts to God.