



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



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

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 5th December 2021



Today's Psalm paints a dreamlike scene—a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing.

It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus," the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic.

Remembering "the Lord has done great things" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope—that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He'll do even greater things in the future. This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds—in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Epistle puts it, "the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory.

Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile—led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration and conversion by the Word of the Holy One (see Baruch 5:5). The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin if we turn to Him in repentance.

That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets (compare Jeremiah 1:1-4, 11). But John is greater than the prophets (see Luke 7:27). He's preparing the way not only for a new redemption of Israel but for the salvation of "all flesh" (see also Acts 28:28).

John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God."

ADVENT SERVICES

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Saturday 11th December: 10.30am-12.30pm.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available for 2 hours. During this time The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed. Fr. Denis and some other priests will be available to hear confessions.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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Friday 24th December 4.30pm
Vigil Mass of Christmas, Family Mass **8.40pm** Carols and Readings **9pm** the Mass of the Nativity of the Lord

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday 25th December 9.30am

SUNDAY HOLY FAMILY MASSES

Sunday 26th December 8.30am
& **10.30am** Mass: with Blessing of the Children's toys.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Saturday 1st January
10am: Mary the Holy Mother of God
6.30pm: Vigil Mass

TIME FOR REFLECTION:

For a variety of reasons people may find facing Christmas difficult at times. They may be missing family or friends, whether they have left this world or live too far away to visit. Alternatively they may need some moments of peace before the family arrive and the excitement of Christmas consumes all. Our church can provide the time and place to reflect and remember and give thanks to God for all the good things in our lives.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Elizabeth and Claire are looking forward to meeting confirmation candidates and their parents at the first preparation session **TODAY** Sunday 5th December after the 10.30 am Mass.

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!

What may be the last working party this year on the **Church Grounds** is planned for next **Saturday 11th December, starting at 9.30am**. Everyone is welcome and it would be lovely to see some new faces. Please let us know if you hope to join us in case we have to cancel because of bad weather. Contact is **Charlie Dowsett** at Charles.dowsett@ntlworld.com or text/call 07941 327050

Sat 4 th	6.30 pm Vigil Mass	Bob Austin RIP
Sun 5 th	8.30am 10.30am	Elizabeth Knight RIP Pam Winters Holy Souls Intentions
Mon 6 th	10.00	Bridget Keenan Holy Souls Intentions
Tue 7 th	10.00	Ann Tierney Holy Souls Intentions
Wed 8 th	10.00	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Freda Hough RIP
Thu 9 th	10.00	Gill Stevenson Holy Souls Intentions
Fri 10 th	No Mass	

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>

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

NEW CHURCH DOORS

A word of thanks to Val Shanley and Maple tree Construction, for installing the new church doors.

We had a donation for one set of the doors, and the other set was paid by the parish.

MENS'S SATURDAY BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP (GUYS HANGING TOGETHER)

Men's Saturday Breakfast Fellowship

Following interest expressed from a small group of men in the parish we have started meeting together once a month for morning breakfast. The objectives of this fledgling group at present are fairly straightforward;

1. To enjoy a nice breakfast with a Danish, some fruit etc. and tea or coffee.
2. To renew acquaintances with other men in the parish following Lockdown.
3. To forge relationships with new faces in the parish.
4. To watch the video series "The Chosen" based on the Gospel of St Matthew.
5. To spend some quality time together in discussion and prayer.

Men of all ages and from all backgrounds can be assured of a warm welcome and our sessions are relaxed and informal. We will continue to meet on the second Saturday of each month. Breakfast is 'served' from 8.30am onwards with the video presentation starting at approximately 9.00am. We will conclude no later than 10.30am. No commitment is necessary. Please feel free to just turn up on the day or you can phone to let us know you are coming. If you'd like to know more about Mens' Breakfasts or 'The Chosen', please contact John Blanchfield or Richard Miller on 07931 761403

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Let's not forget that the only Christmas present we wanted last year was to see our family and friends. Don't let the hustle and bustle of a commercial Christmas make you forget what's really important. *Please note that mass intentions as set out above may not always be read out, but the intention is offered.*

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; Robert Austin; Anne Smith; Betty Knight; Florence Robertson; Sr Germana Ryan; Molly Reilly; Andrew O'Neill; Jerzy Kryspinski; Margaret Turner; Margaret Deans; Patrick Kavanagh; James Dunne; Patrick Hussey.