



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



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

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 19th December 2021



COME LORD JESUS

The Fourth Sunday of Advent falls during the second part of Advent when there is an increase in pace, intensity and expectation. The use of the O antiphons on the seven days preceding Christmas Eve at the Gospel Acclamation contributes to the heightened sense of waiting. Each of these titles may be used to refer to Jesus and in fact together they form a miniature litany: Wisdom from above, Lord, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Rising Sun, King of nations Emmanuel. Every year at Christmas the Church waits again through the Liturgy the coming of Christ. The Christ-mass, is the centre of this expectation. Jesus has come once at Bethlehem, and He will come again in glory. In the meantime he comes to whoever opens their heart to receive him. He is in the joys and sorrows of each day. He is in his Word, in the Eucharist, and in his people. He is in the least of his brothers and sisters. He is in the place where he is least expected. He is there beside the one who is suffering in solitude which comes from the fact that he suffered himself.

He is Emmanuel God with us, which is the last of the O antiphons titles given to him by the prophet Isaiah in today's readings. He is always by our side; but we ask him to come again to each of us, to deepen our faith this Christmas.

Come, Lord Jesus, come soon. In this time of your coming, support and console us who trust in your love. Fr Denis

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

God of Light

A child is born for us and a son is given to us
Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven
in silent watches of the night
and now your church is filled with wonder
at the nearness of her God
Open our hearts to received his life
and increase our vision with the rising of dawn,
that our lives may be filled with
his glory and his peace. Amen

READERS FOR ALL WEEKEND MASSES

The rota for each mass is due to be updated to start in the New Year. Please let Pat Biggins - at pat.biggins@ntlworld.com or phone 07752580759 - know as soon as possible if you are willing to be included as a reader. Existing readers; it would help if you would confirm your continuing availability.

PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

A Prayer for Love

Holy Father, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, your greatest gift of love to your people. Fill my heart with such love, opening my heart to accept your great love for me. Overflow my heart with your love, so I may pour it out into the world. Amen

A MOTHER'S GREETING

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer: All this is recognized by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognizes that in Mary "the mother of my Lord" has come to her. Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her.

Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they awaits- "she who is to give birth." She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy -as she is the mother of our Lord.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHURCH CLEANING

In preparation for the Christmas Services, takes place on Wednesday 22nd December after 8.00am Mass. Please come and help to make our church look beautiful for this great Feast. All help welcome

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 18 th	6.30 pm Vigil Mass	Peter Bobbin RIP
Sun 19 th	8.30am 10.30am	Dennis King RIP Sis Marcia Vera
Mon 20 th	10.00	Jackie Pearson
Tue 21 st	10.00	Private Intention
Wed 22 nd	10.00	Murray Family
Thu 23 rd	No mass	
Fri 24 th	Christmas eve 4.30 pm 8.40 pm	

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>

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:



We pray especially for the sick of the parish and for those who care for and support them, especially Lucy Lazarus . We remember those who have died recently: Jenny Markey and Angela Gray, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time; Mary Teresa Smith; Eileen Moynihan; Maggie Tuthill; Dennis King; Ellen McGuinness; Andrij Hnatiw; Herbert Rigby; Barbara Maraldo; Patricia Gray; Emma Targett; Catherine Wilson; Arthur Smith James McTigue; Rosa Gelmini; Ermelinda Lowrey; Matthias Hofmeister; Shirley Balls; Dora Noonan; Patrick Dowdall; Norina Brever; Muriel Gyde; Catherine Broadbent; Rena Nedic; Stanley Newcombe; Ethel Brown.

The Birth of Christ - Alfred Lord Tennyson

The time draws near the birth of Christ;
The moon is hid-the night is still;
The Christmas bells from hill to hill
Answer each other in the mist.
Four voices of four hamlets round,
From far and near, on mead and moor,
Swell out and fail, as if a door
Were shut between me and the sound.
Each voice four changes on the wind,
That now dilate and now decrease,
Peace and good-will, good-will and peace,
Peace and good-will to all mankind.
Rise, happy morn! rise, holy morn!
Draw forth the cheerful day from night;
O Father! touch the east, and light
The light that shone when hope was born!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Whilst there is no obligation to attend Mass on Christmas Day, many people will want to celebrate the birth of Christ.

One way in which more people can participate in the 'days of the Nativity of the Lord' is by attending Mass during the Christmas Octave, from Christmas Day until the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on 1 January. The meaning of the Octave and Christmastide, which extends until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, has been lost and could be recovered during this period of time.

Participation in the Octave will enable people to celebrate the rich liturgy of the Feasts that occur during the eight days. This will of course depend on the generosity of those who steward and clean the church. I pray for you that the hope given by the Incarnation and the birth of Christ will continue to be a light shining in the darkness.