



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 the Year 16th January 2022

Think of these first weeks after Christmas as a season of "epiphanies." The Liturgy is showing us Who Jesus is and what He has revealed about our relationship with God.

Last week and the week before, the imagery was royal and filial - Jesus is the new-born king of the Jews who makes us co-heirs of Israel's promise, beloved children of God. Last week in the Liturgy we went to a Baptism.

This week we're at a wedding:

We're being shown another dimension of our relationship with God. If we're sons and daughters of God, it's because we've married into the family.

Have you ever wondered why the Bible begins and ends with a wedding - Adam and Eve's in the garden and the marriage supper of the Lamb?

Throughout the Bible, marriage is the symbol of the covenant relationship God desires with His chosen people. He is the Groom, humanity His beloved and sought-after bride. We see this reflected beautifully in today's First Reading.

When Israel breaks the covenant she is compared to an unfaithful spouse. But God promises to take her back, to "espouse" her to Him forever in an everlasting covenant.

That's why in today's Gospel, Jesus performs His first public "sign" at a wedding feast.

Jesus is the divine Bridegroom, calling us to His royal wedding feast. By His New Covenant, He will become "one flesh" with all humanity in the Church.

By our Baptism, each of us has been betrothed to Christ as a bride to a Husband.

The new wine that Jesus pours out at today's feast is the gift of the Holy Spirit given to His bride and body, as today's Epistle says. This is the "salvation" announced to the "families of nations" in today's Psalm.

PEACE SUNDAY

Catholics are being invited to help rebuild communities in the wake of the pandemic and help the work towards peace as church leaders urge Christian communities to mark Peace Sunday.

This year the theme chosen by Pope Francis for his 1st January message is: "Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace."

He said: "All can work together to build a more peaceful world, starting from the hearts of

individuals and relationships in the family, then within society and with the environment, and all the way up to relationships between peoples and nations."

PRAYER

O God of peace, who are peace itself and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp nor a violent mind receive, grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good and that those in conflict may forget evil and so be healed. Amen

ST. ANTHONY

Anthony "the Great", the "Father of Monks", ranks with those saints whose life exercised a profound influence upon succeeding generations. He was born in Middle Egypt (about 250) of distinguished parents. After their untimely deaths, he dedicated himself wholly to acts of mortification.

One day while in church he heard the words of the Gospel: "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have, and give it to the poor" (Matt. 19:21). It seemed as if Christ had spoken to him personally, giving a command he must obey. Without delay he sold his property, gave the proceeds to the poor, and went into the desert (about 270). When overcome by fatigue, his bed was the hard ground. He fasted rigorously, ate only bread and salt, and drank only water. Nor would he take food before sundown; at times he passed two days without any nourishment. Often, too, he spent whole nights in prayer.

The saint suffered repeatedly from diabolical attacks, but these merely made him more steadfast in virtue. He would encourage his disciples in their struggle with the devil with such words: "Believe me; the devil fears the vigils of pious souls, and their fastings, their voluntary poverty, their loving compassion, their humility, but most of all their ardent love of Christ our Lord. As soon as he sees the sign of the Cross, he flees in terror."

He died in 356 on Mount Kolzin by the Red Sea, 105 years old. A year later his friend, the fearless bishop and confessor St. Athanasius, wrote his biography, which for centuries became the classic handbook of ascetics. St. Anthony lived in solitude for about twenty years. "His was a perfectly purified soul. No pain could annoy him, no pleasure bind him. In him was neither laughter nor sadness. The sight of the crowd did not trouble him, and the warm greetings of so many men did not move him. In a word, he was thoroughly immune to the vanities of the world, like a man unswervingly governed by reason, established in inner peace and harmony."

The apostle's words tell us that we should so awaken in the morning as though we would not live to evening, and so fall asleep as if there were to be no awakening. For our life is by nature uncertain and is daily meted out to us by Providence. If we are convinced of this and live each day as the apostle suggests, then we will not fall into sin; no desire will enslave us, no anger move us, no treasure bind us to earth; we will await death with unfettered hearts."

Sat 15 th	6.30 pm Vigil Mass	Mrs Noonan
Sun 16 th	8.30am 10.30am	Bridget Keenan Mary Connors RIP
Mon 17 th	10.00	St Anthony, Abbot Eva Nemeth RIP
Tue 18 th	10.00	Trish Davey
Wed 19 th	10.00	Maria Delvin
Thu 20 th	10.00	Betty Horohan RIP
Fri 21 st	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>

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

LITURGICAL COLOUR: GREEN

The theological virtue of hope is symbolized by the colour green, just as the burning fire of love is symbolized by red. Green is the colour of growing things, and hope, like them, is always new and always fresh. Liturgically, green is the colour of Ordinary Time, the season in which we are being neither especially penitent (in purple) nor overwhelmingly joyful (in white).

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; Albert Wallace; Brigid Bousfield; Josephine Cornish; Agata Cheles; Kate McCabe; Bridget Dilley; Sr Theresa Ryan; Francis Foley; John Labrum; Mary Casey; Christine Hawes; Honora Doyle; James McNally; Elizabeth Horhan; Ethel Gaynor; George Kerrison.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BALDOCK

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18-25th January.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Dates for the Baptism Courses 2020

18th January Bap (1) - 25th January Bap (2) at 7.30pm If you are interested in joining the baptism course please contact Richard and Marie Miller [07931761403](tel:07931761403)

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

For the protection of the unborn children is holding it's white flower appeal on the weekend of the 28th/29th January. SPUC's is currently campaigning to stop the de-criminalisation of abortion. Please help in this fight against abortion.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

The marriage preparation course will take place on Saturday 5th March starting at 10.30 am and on the Sunday 6th March at 1.30pm. This course will be online. For further information please contact Reman McDonagh on: reman.mcdonagh@hotmail.com Fr Denis Sarsfield