



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



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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

### SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Sharing the Word of God at Home. On the popular public television program Antiques Roadshow, people from around the country bring their treasures to be appraised by various experts. An antique might be a cherished family heirloom displayed proudly in a prominent place in the home, or a long-forgotten trinket gathering dust on a shelf in the attic. Whatever the item, the owner is usually surprised to hear the expert's comments. The appraiser might put a low price tag on something the owner thought had great value. And what was originally purchased for a few dollars sometimes turns out to be a prized collector's item now valued at thousands of dollars. Take a look around your home. What is your family's most valued possession? Is it an object, a person, a relationship? How does your family express delight and pride in this treasured possession? The Second Vatican Council teaches that "the treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly so that a richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's Word" Do we consider the Bible a treasure, a special table around which the family gathers? Is the family Bible among your home's most valuable possessions? As we consider practical ways to share the Word of God at home, perhaps we will be surprised to discover that the family Bible, regardless of whether it is prominently displayed or is gathering dust on an attic shelf, is one of the most valuable spiritual treasures in a Christian home. A Living and Effective Word "Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern the reflections and thoughts of the heart," writes the author of the Letter to the Hebrews (4:12). God's Word is "living and effective" because we welcome it, in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd ed.), "not as a human word, 'but as what it really is, the word of God'" ([Washington, DC: Libreria Editrice Vaticana-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000], no. 104, quoting 1 Thes 2:13). But how is the Word of God to become "living and effective" in our homes, in our families, in our professional and social relationships? Here are a few practical ways to make the treasures

of the Bible into a table at which your family is nourished and strengthened for the Christian life.

**Reading, Reflecting, Renewing.** Begin to break open God's Word in your home by dedicating some family time each week for a brief reading of a Scripture passage, perhaps the Sunday Gospel. Given the hectic and stressed pace of life and our typically overworked schedules, making family time for the Bible reminds us of the need to put God first. Gathering around the table of God's Word enriches and strengthens the experience of family as a "domestic Church." Choose a comfortable and quiet place in the home, away from the distractions of television and ringing telephones. Read the passage aloud, and then allow some time for the family to reflect on and share its meaning together.

**Practical Resources:** In recent years Catholic Bible study resources have become more readily available. Choose a study aid that is user-friendly and suited to the ages of children in the family. Parents with young children are encouraged to include as many Bible stories as possible in a child's library and to devote time to reading and discussing the rich levels of meaning in the sacred stories. When children, with their natural capacity for awe and wonder, marvel at the biblical stories, they can be led to connect the story of their life and their family to the story of salvation itself. Biblical stories and figures who reveal human weakness and sinfulness provide opportunities to discuss, at age-appropriate levels, the realities of human experience in the light of God's love and mercy.

#### **Fr. Desmond Baker**

I write with the sad news of the death on 20 December, of Fr. Desmond Francis Henry Baker. Fr. Des was born in London in June 1940 and died peacefully in the Conquest Hospital close to where he had been living in retirement at St Leonard's on Sea, East Sussex.

*We pray for the repose of his soul:*

*Grant, we pray, O Lord, that the soul of Fr Desmond, your servant and Priest, whom you honoured with sacred office while he lived in this world, may exult for ever in the glorious home of heaven. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen*

#### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

##### **18-25 JANUARY**

Throughout his papacy Pope Francis has repeatedly stressed the need for Christian Unity. He marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. John Paul II's encyclical on Christian unity—"Ut Unum Sint" "That all may

be one” by reaffirming the church’s “irrevocable” commitment to work for unity among the world’s roughly 2.3 billion Christians. “I too share the healthy impatience of those who sometimes think that we can and should do more,” he said. “One thing is certain, unity is not chiefly the result of our activity, but a gift of the Holy Spirit. Yet, unity will not come about as a miracle at the very end. Rather, unity comes about in journeying; the Holy Spirit does this on the journey.”

<b>Sat 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	6.30 pm Vigil Mass	Agata & Alberto Cheles RIP
<b>Sun 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	8.30am 10.30am	Nonnie Kelly & Family RIP People of the Parish
<b>Mon 24<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00	St Francis de Sales Rose Dowsett
<b>Tue 25<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00	Conversion of St Paul the Apostle Angela Gray RIP
<b>Wed 26<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00	Ss Timothy and Titus Bernard & Margaret Looney RIP
<b>Thu 27<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00	St Angela Merici John Stevenson RIP
<b>Fri 28<sup>th</sup></b>	No Mass	St Thomas Aquinas

*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>

#### **CHURCHES FINANCES & COLLECTION**

A word of thanks to all those who have donated for the upkeep of the Parish in one way or another. There are several ways to support the Parish. One of them is via a standing order, which is easy to set up and easy to stop, if you want to, when this difficult period has passed. Please use the bank account details, available from our website below, to set up the standing order if you use online banking, or you can write to, telephone or visit your bank as well. You can also donate via the website. Or, of course, you can contribute after mass in the Collection Plates provided. *Fr. Denis would like to thank everyone for their generosity during this time of pandemic.* <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock/donate/>.

#### **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: , and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time; James Griffin; Alberto Cheles; Bridget Lynch; Frances Scully; Osythe Corry; Timothy Madden; Penelope Gardener; Timothy Scully; Eva Burgess; John O’Leary; Boleslaw Kuczynski; Margaret Barkley; Claude Geary; Joseph Craster; Erna Wells; James (Seamus) Duff; Carmela Martin.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BALDOCK**

**There will be a Service for Christian Unity at St. Mary’s Church Baldock on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 12 noon.** All are welcome, PLEASE bring a packed lunch.

#### **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](mailto:reman.mcdonagh@hotmail.com)

#### **A WORD OF THANKS:**

An extra note from a newsletter editor; it’s so wonderful to be singing again in church, albeit through masks, but a big thank you to our organists who help to make this possible.