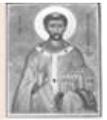




CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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

4th Sunday of the Year 30th January 2022

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we read from the Gospel of Luke, continuing immediately from last week's Gospel. Recall that in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah and announced that this Scripture was now fulfilled. In today's Gospel, we learn that the people of Nazareth are impressed by Jesus' words, and yet they seem surprised. They still think of Jesus as merely Joseph's son. They do not expect such words from someone they believe that they know.

This Gospel is about who Jesus is and who people believe him to be. The story of Jesus' preaching and rejection at Nazareth is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels. In Luke's Gospel, this incident is told in a way that foretells Jesus' passion and death and helps explain the inclusion of the Gentiles in the promise of salvation. In Luke's Gospel this incident appears at the beginning of Jesus' ministry; in Luke's Gospel, the people are surprised but not immediately offended by Jesus' words in the synagogue. It is the words that follow his reading from the prophet Isaiah that seem to offend them. Jesus challenges and provokes the people of Nazareth by referring to examples in which Israel rejected the prophets. He also challenges them to respond to his message, the message of a prophet, in a way that is different from their ancestors. This call for a new response leads to his rejection.

It is helpful to consider the historical context of Luke has witnessed the acceptance of the gospel message among many Gentiles. He endeavors to explain why the Good News of Jesus has not been as well-received by his Jewish contemporaries. Luke's report interprets the cause of Jesus' rejection at Nazareth in the context of this later Christian history. Just as the people at Nazareth did not welcome the Good News that Jesus announced, so too many among the people of Israel will not accept the preaching of the gospel.

After Jesus' words of challenge, Luke reports that there was a movement to kill Jesus by throwing him over a cliff. This differs from the reports found in Mark and Matthew's Gospels, where Jesus is said to be unable to perform miracles in Nazareth because of the people's lack of faith. Luke says that Jesus walks away from the crowd that intended to kill him; it is not yet his time. The animosity of the people of Nazareth prefigures and prepares the reader of

Luke's Gospel for the cross. Luke wants all to understand that it is through his death on the cross that Jesus offers God's salvation to all

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

The Lord assures Jeremiah that he will deliver him from all who fight against him.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 70:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15, 17

A song in praise of God's salvation

R/ My lips will tell of your help

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 (shorter form, *1 Corinthians 13:4-13*)

Paul describes love as the greatest of virtues.

Gospel Reading

Luke 4:21-30

Jesus is rejected in his hometown of Nazareth

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



This week's feast marks the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the Temple, forty days after he was born. As the firstborn, he belonged to God. According to the Law, Mary and Joseph were required to take him to the Temple and "redeem" him by paying five shekels. At the same time, the Law required the child's mother to offer sacrifice in order to overcome the ritual impurity brought about by childbirth. So the feast we celebrate shows a curious turn of events. The Redeemer seems to be redeemed. She who is all-pure presents herself to be purified. Such is the humility of our God. Such is the humility of the Blessed Virgin. They submit to the law even though they are not bound by it. This feast celebrates the presentation of Jesus in the temple 40 days after his birth, by Mary and Joseph to be consecrated to God. They meet Simeon and Anne who are inspired to recognize Jesus 'as a light for revelation' and this sparked the blessing of candles. The feast is also known as Candlemas.

ST JOHN BOSCO: We celebrate the Feast of St John Bosco on 31st January and, as the patron saint of apprentices, editors and publishers, schoolchildren, magicians, and juvenile delinquents, he was Canonised on Easter Sunday 1934, only 48 years after

his death. He founded the Salesian Order of Priests who carried on his work and mission in education after he had died, and they continue to run many schools all over the world today. He was passionate about education and saw it as his life mission to help other educators learn his effective Christian theory of teaching young people to live good lives, leading to him being given the title of 'Father & Teacher of Youth'. One of his many achievements was to negotiate new rights for boys employed as apprentices, meaning their employers could no longer use them to undertake menial work and unpaid labour.

DIocese OF WESTMINSTER YOUTH MINISTRY

Continuing this educational theme, The Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry (<https://dowym.com>) has plenty of resources for young Catholics (of all ages!) who are interested in learning more about our Faith. Whilst primarily for the Youth of the Diocese, from quizzes to an article about 'Faith & Science as One Journey', it is well worth a look at to help deepen understanding or learn something new about Catholicism.

Sat 29 th	6.30 pm Vigil Mass	Ellen Phyllis Carey RIP
Sun 30 th	8.30am 10.30am	Betty & Ray Knight RIP Tony Galvin Holy Souls Intentions
Mon 31 st	10.00	St John Bosco, Priest Stan & Billie Baines RIP
Tue 1 st	10.00	Anne Austin Holy Souls Intentions
Wed 2 nd	10.00	The Presentation of The Lord
Thu 3 rd	10.00	Jane Byrne RIP
Fri 4 th	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>

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

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; Matthew Bolton, Daniel Sheehan, Peter Francis, Isabella Brogden, Thomas Burke, Sr. Ailbe O'Callaghan, Annie Bartram, Nicholas D'Addario, Mary Anne Draper, Catherine Stormont, Edith Smith, Norman Tuthill, Susan Mc Keand and John Johnson.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children is holding its White Flower Appeal over this weekend. SPUC is currently campaigning to stop the de-criminalization 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

ALTAR SERVER'S TRAINING

Calling all old (and new) Altar Servers to refresh and update their serving skills on **Saturday 5th February 11.30 to 12.30.**