



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



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

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time 20th February 2022

The readings for this Sunday lead us to think about mercy and justice. This is a good time to think about the way we think and act toward each other. Are we merciful as God is merciful to us? In the first reading David has the opportunity to kill Saul, but he does not do it. In the second reading Paul tells us we shall bear the image of Christ. In the gospel Jesus tells us we must love our enemies, forgive each other, and stop judging.

Daily Mass Readings for this Sunday's Mass

First Reading - 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23: "The Lord will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness. Today, though the Lord delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the Lord's anointed."

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 103:

"The Lord is compassion and Love."

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:45-49: "Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one."

Gospel - Luke 6:27-38: "But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

The Story of the Chair of Saint Peter

This feast on Tuesday 22nd February commemorates Christ's choosing Peter to sit in his place as the servant-authority of the whole Church.

Second-century Christians built a small memorial over his burial spot. In the fourth century, the Emperor Constantine built a basilica, which was replaced in the 16th century.

Peter's chair refers to the occupant, not the furniture. Its first occupant stumbled a bit, denying Jesus three times and hesitating to welcome gentiles into the new Church. Some of its later occupants have also stumbled a bit, sometimes even failed scandalously. As individuals, we may sometimes think a particular pope has let us down. Still, the office endures as a sign of the long tradition we cherish and as a focus for the universal Church.

Readings: Parish Mass Book Page 141.

Praying for peace

Almighty God we pray for the situation on the border of Ukraine. We pray for those who live in fear, that you may grant them peace. We pray that the voices for discernment and peaceful solutions may prosper. Lord, we ask that you raise up peacemakers on all sides, that war and violence might be averted. Give diplomats wisdom, understanding and build trust. We that the Holy Spirit may descend on these troubled countries and the peace of Christ to these nations. Amen.

ST. POLYCARP, Bishop, Martyr, whose feast we celebrate on Wednesday 24th February, was a disciple of St. John. He wrote to the Philippians, exhorting them to mutual love and to hatred of heresy. In 167, persecution broke out in Smyrna. When Polycarp heard that his pursuers were at the door, he said, "The will of God be done;" and meeting them, he begged to be left alone for a little time, which he spent in prayer for "the Catholic Church throughout the world." He was brought to Smyrna early on Holy Saturday; and, as he entered, a voice was heard from heaven, "Polycarp, be strong." When the proconsul besought him to curse Christ and go free, Polycarp answered, "Eighty-six years I have served Him, and He never did me wrong; how can I blaspheme my King and Saviour?" When he threatened him with fire, Polycarp told him this fire of his lasted but a little, while the fire prepared for the wicked lasted forever. At the stake he thanked God aloud for letting him drink of Christ's chalice. The fire was lighted, but it did him no hurt; so he was stabbed to the heart, and his dead body was burnt. "Then," say the writers of his acts, "we took up the bones, more precious than the richest jewels or gold, and deposited them in a fitting place, at which may God grant us to assemble with joy to celebrate the birthday of the martyr to his life in heaven!"

DIocese of Westminster Youth Ministry

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.

RC Hospital Chaplain:
John O Neil. Please call the Chaplaincy office at the Lister Hospital
Contact Tel: Mobile: 07876 526935 Lister 01438 285518,

For all general parish enquiries contact:
Parish Office: Tel: 01462 893127

Parish Priest: Father Denis Sarsfield

Church Hall Hire:
Please contact parish office 01462 893127

Baptism Preparation:
For further information please contact Richard and Marie Miller Tel: 01462 490630.

RCIA Course: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults programme consists of regular weekly meetings; if you would like to find out more please speak directly to Fr. Denis.

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, Mr Tom Timson 01462 892478 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 (baldock.rcc@ntlworld.com) or handing them to Fr. Denis. Thank you

VATICAN NEWS

Remember that you can keep up with all the latest news from The Vatican at the Official Vatican Network www.news.va/en.

Your **Safeguarding** Representatives have special responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people and adults at risk. Please Contact: Patricia Cusack & Colete Murphy Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Please remember in your prayers:



We pray especially for the sick of the parish, and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Lucy Lazarus RIP, Trevor Flood. And those whose anniversaries occur about this time. Francis Ginnelly, Bridget Mynott, Violet Luff, Ellen Callison, Joan Ryan, Angus Hill, Helen Fitzgibbons, Annie Brennan and Ernest D'Addario.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



The Passage a Catholic Charity, working with people who are homeless, is holding a St David's Day concert on Thursday 3 March at 7.30 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square with The London Welsh Male Voice Choir and soloist tenor Ryan Vaughan Davies. All tickets are £20. Please support the work of this excellent charity. Tickets at passage.org.uk/st-davids-day-concert or telephone 020 75921856

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

COURSEThe 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

ANNUAL MASS OF

THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY
Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of

Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14th May 2022 at 3pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). 020 75921856 Details of attendees are sent to: family@rcdow.org.uk

Sat 19 th	6.30 pm Vigil Mass	People of the Parish
Sun 20 th	8.30am 10.30am	Ann James, Tom Callaghan RIP Mark Tuff RIP
Mon 21 st	10.00	Pat Gibson
Tue 22 nd	10.00	The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle Adrian Sewell (sick)
Wed 23 rd	10.00.	St. Polycarp Private intension
Thu 24 th	10.00	Michael & Breege Kerrane RIP
Fri 25 th	No Mass	Friday - abstinence

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>

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/>