



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



PP - Fr Denis Sarsfield. Parish Office: 01462 893127. Email: [baldock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:baldock@rcdow.org.uk).

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

**1<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

### FIRE OF LOVE

There are two places in Scripture where the curious detail of a “charcoal fire” is mentioned. One is in today’s Gospel, where the Apostles return from fishing to find bread and fish warming on the fire. The other is in the scene in the High Priest’s courtyard on Holy Thursday, where Peter and some guards and slaves warm themselves while Jesus is being interrogated inside. At the first fire, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, as Jesus had predicted. Today’s charcoal fire becomes the scene of Peter’s repentance, as three times Jesus asks him to make a profession of love. Jesus’ thrice repeated command, “feed My sheep,” shows that Peter is being appointed as the shepherd of the Lord’s entire flock, the head of His Church.. Jesus’ question, “Do you love me more than these?” is a pointed reminder of Peter’s pledge to lay down his life for Jesus, even if the other Apostles might. Jesus then explains just what Peter’s love and leadership will require, foretelling Peter’s death by crucifixion (“you will stretch out your hands”).

Before His own death, Jesus had warned the Apostles that they would be hated as He was hated, that they would suffer as He.

We see the beginnings of that persecution in today’s First Reading. Flogged as Jesus was, the Apostles nonetheless leave “rejoicing that they have been found worthy to suffer.”

Their joy is based on their faith that God will change their “mourning into dancing,” as we sing in today’s Psalm. By their sufferings, they know, they will be counted worthy to stand in heaven before “the Lamb that was slain,” a scene glimpsed in today’s Second Reading.

#### Let us sing to the Lord a song of love

*Sing to the Lord a new song; his praise is in the assembly of the saints. We are urged to sing a new song to the Lord, as new men who have learned a new song. A song is a thing of joy; more profoundly, it is a thing of love. Anyone, therefore, who has learned to love the new life, has learned to sing a new song, and the new song reminds us of our new life. The new man, the new song, the new covenant, all belong to the one kingdom of God, and so the new man*

of our love. But how can we choose unless we are first chosen? We cannot love unless someone has loved us first. Listen to the apostle John: *We love him, because he first loved us.* The source of man’s love for God can only be found in the fact that God loved him first. He has given us himself as the object of our love, and he has also given us its source. What this source is you may learn more clearly from the apostle Paul who tells us: *The love of God has been poured into our hearts.* This love is not something we generate ourselves; it comes to us *through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

My dear brothers and sisters, fruit of the true faith and holy seed of heaven, all you who have been born again in Christ and whose life is from above, listen to me; or rather, listen to the Holy Spirit saying through me: *Sing to the Lord a new song.* Look, you tell me, I am singing. Yes indeed, you are singing; you are singing clearly, I can hear you. But make sure that your life does not contradict your words. Sing with your voices, your hearts, your lips

If you desire to praise him, then live what you express. Live good lives and you yourselves will be his praise. *A Sermon by St Augustine*

#### **Mass Readings for the 3rd Sunday of Easter**

**First Reading** - Acts 5:27-32, 40B-41: “We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

**Responsorial Psalm** - Psalm 30: “I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.”

**Second Reading** - Revelation 5:11-14: “Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out: ‘To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever.’”

**Gospel** - John 21:1-19: “And none of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish.”

**Page number for parish book 265**

#### **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

The dates for the Baptism Courses in 2022 are: -  
**Session 1 Tuesday 24th May at 7.30pm.**  
**Session 2 Wednesday 31st May at 7.30pm.**

If you are interested in joining, please contact Richard and Marie Miller on 07931761403

## 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

## 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. Contact the School Office or 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 parish email address ([baldock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:baldock@rcdow.org.uk)) 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](http://www.news.va/en).

## Your SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

have responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people, and adults at risk. Please Contact: Patricia Cusack & Colete Murphy [Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) [Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

## Your Prayers are asked for:



We pray especially for the sick of the parish especially Celia Sheehan and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Concetta Lanni, Dorrie Randal and those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Martin Conway; Margaret Hesse; Mary Haywood; William Lee; Martin Jurgulanic; Edmund Topajka; Bridget Bolton; James Johnson; Teresa Hyams; Johan Kiausus; Eileen Simmons and Hugh Toal.

## 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/>

## PREPARATION FOR MASS

It's often said that, "You only get out of Mass what you put into it." In other words, if you don't prepare your heart for Mass, you will likely not be able to receive the many

graces God wants to give to you.

This is why various saints have suggested arriving early to Mass and offering a few short prayers of love. Prayers of preparation became such an ingrained tradition that many people would take their place in the pew and instantly kneel down for a minute or two to say these prayers before every Mass.

at 30 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Owen Foy RIP
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Eleanor Sian RIP Concetta Lanni RIP
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>No mass</b>	
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>No mass</b>	
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<b>The English Martyrs</b> Bernard & Margaret Looney
Thu 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	

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

THE WEDNESDAY WORD IS AVAILABLE VIA <http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

Fr. Denis is still celebrating Mass online at 6.30 pm every Saturday night for the Vigil Mass, & Sunday morning Mass 10.30am, also morning Masses Monday to Thursday at 10am.

Both are 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>

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

We celebrate the Feast Days of Saints Philip & James and the English Martyrs this week. The English Martyrs are a group of 40 English Catholics chosen from the hundreds who died for our Faith between 1535 & 1680 during the English Reformation. Coming from every walk of life, rich & poor, men & women, they showed astounding strength and courage in the face of persecution.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### KNIT & NATTER

Our next meeting is this coming Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, in the Holy Family Room. You are welcome to bring your own knitting or you can knit for charity, such as the Neo Natal unit at the Lister Hospital. Any adults wishing to learn how to knit are welcome to come along. Wool, needles, and support will be provided, as well as a cuppa and chat. Only £2 per session, which goes towards the church building fund.