

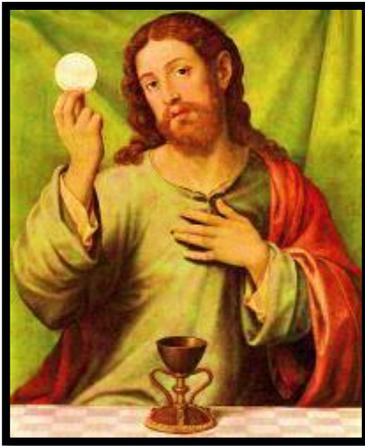


CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) 19th June 2022



O PRECIOUS AND WONDERFUL BANQUET

This Sunday we celebrate *The Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ* also known as *The Feast of Corpus Christi*. We commemorate in a special way what the Eucharist is all about. We remember the new covenant in Christ's death and resurrection and the institution of the Eucharist by Jesus himself when he pronounces the mysterious words during the last supper: "This is my body. This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many." However, the Eucharist is not only *memorial*, but *renewal* and *presence*. It is a renewal because we are invited to renew the covenant with God in Christ. In taking the 'cup of salvation', we participate again and again in the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary and we partake in the saving event of redemption. And it is presence because we believe that the Eucharist is not only a theological concept or a symbol, but a living person with the name Jesus. But it is still more. The Eucharist transforms us in what we truly are: Body of Christ. The Eucharist leads us into communion with God and with one another. Just as the blood that flows from the heart to unite all the members of our body, so too are we united intimately with God through the precious body and blood of Jesus. The deepest nature of the Eucharist is this bond with God and with the community as we can read in Paul's letter to the Corinthians: "The bread which we break, is it not a communion in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" Saint John Chrysostom's commentary on these words is very profound: "For what is the bread? It is the body of Christ. And what do those

who receive it become? The Body of Christ not many bodies but one body." Through the Eucharist we become what we truly are: Body of Christ. We become what we eat and drink: Body of Christ. The mystery of the Eucharist transcends our rationality. It leads us into awe and adoration. In his body and blood, Jesus gives himself to us to be with us always. In the Eucharist we have Jesus, we have his redemptive sacrifice, we have his resurrection, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit, and we have adoration, obedience and love of the Father." Let's ponder on this great feast the great gift of the Lord himself in our midst. **Fr Denis**

A homily by St Thomas Aquinas

Since it was the will of God's only-begotten Son that men should share in his divinity, he assumed our nature in order that by becoming man he might make men gods. Moreover, when he took our flesh he dedicated the whole of its substance to our salvation. He offered his body to God the Father on the altar of the cross as a sacrifice for our reconciliation. He shed his blood for our ransom and purification, so that we might be redeemed from our wretched state of bondage and cleansed from all sin. But to ensure that the memory of so great a gift would abide with us for ever, he left his body as food and his blood as drink for the faithful to consume in the form of bread and wine.

O precious and wonderful banquet, that brings us salvation and contains all sweetness! Could anything be of more intrinsic value? Under the old law it was the flesh of calves and goats that was offered, but here Christ himself, the true God, is set before us as our food. What could be more wonderful than this? No other sacrament has greater healing power; through it sins are purged firmly upon the hearts of the faithful that our Lord instituted this sacrament at the Last Supper St Thomas Aquinas. away, virtues are increased, It was to impress the vastness of this love more firmly upon the hearts of the faithful that our Lord instituted this sacrament at the Last Supper. *St Thomas Aquinas.*

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES IN BALDOCK CEMETERY

On Sunday 14th August, the Feast of the Assumption is celebrated this year. Father Denis will lead a small service at Baldock Cemetery, which is just off The Sycamores, next to The Orange Tree Pub. He will bless the graves of all our loved ones. If you wish to attend, please be there at 12.30.

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

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

- this Feast was historically known as Corpus Christi and celebrates the presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. The Feast dates from the Middle Ages when Pope Urban commissioned St Thomas Aquinas to compose a Mass and hymns. The hymns Tantum Ergo, O Salutaris Hostia and Panis Angelicus are still sung during Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as during processions in many parts of Europe to celebrate the Feast.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray especially for the sick of the parish especially Joe Sarno, and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Pietro Micele, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. George van Spall; Lino Sicheri; Bernard Lyons; Florence Langford; Mary Rodgers; Thomas Aldridge; Louis Launay; Helen Plumb; Edward Stryjski; John McNally; Joseph McCabe; Catherine Fitzgerald; James McGee.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

“St John’s Catholic Primary School is holding a 50th Anniversary Mass on Wednesday 22nd June at 10.00 a.m. Everyone is welcome and we would be delighted for previous members of staff, past pupils and their families to join us. We will be using the Mass as an opportunity to finally say a proper goodbye to Ms Alex Hanou who was Headteacher at St John’s for 15 years and retired during Covid. For

anyone wishing to contribute to a collection for Ms Hanou, donations can be made via the school office.”

ANNUAL OPEN-AIR MASS & PARISH BARBEQUE



This year will be held at 10.30am on Sunday 10th July. Please remember that, as there will be **ONLY ONE MASS DURING THE WEEKEND**, we hope that the whole parish will come together and celebrate. Tickets will soon be on sale, with adult tickets priced at £8. A vegetarian option will be available. Tickets for children aged 5 to 12 years will be priced at £4, under 5’s are free but must have a ticket to help us to cater for the numbers on the day. Please bring your own drinks and your own chairs for the day. We would appreciate the help of volunteers on the day, and we will put up lists at the back of the Church asking for support, please sign up if you are able to help. It would be a good time to invite family and friends, and please pray for good weather.

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| Sat 18 th | 6.30 pm | Hayley Parker RIP |
| Sun 19 th | 8.30am 10.30am | Michelle Stapleton RIP Ss Maria Vera |
| Mon 20 th | 10.00am | St Alban, Protomartyr Alistair McCallion Intentions |
| Tue 21 st | 10.00am | St Aloysius Cheryl Charles Intention |
| Wed 22 nd | 10.00am | Mass in School, Mass offered in thanksgiving |
| Thu 23 rd | 10.00am | Nativity of St John the Baptist Breege & Michael Kerrane RIP |
| Fri 24 th | No Mass | The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus |

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

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>

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. You can also donate via the website. Or, of course, you can contribute to the Collection during the mass. Thank you.