

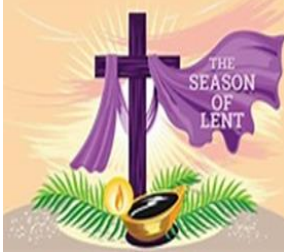


CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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

Fourth Sunday in Lent Laetare Sunday 19th March 2023



Eyesight to the Blind

God's ways of seeing are not our ways, we hear in today's First Reading. Jesus illustrates this in the Gospel—as the blind man comes to see and the Pharisees are made blind.

The blind man stands for all humanity. "Born totally in sin" he is made a new creation by the saving power of Christ.

As God fashioned the first man from the clay of the earth (see Genesis 2:7), Jesus gives the blind man new life by anointing his eyes with clay (see John 9:11). As God breathed the spirit of life into the first man, the blind man is not healed until he washes in the waters of Siloam, a name that means "Sent." Jesus is the One "sent" by the Father to do the Father's will. He is the new source of life-giving water—the Holy Spirit who rushes upon us in Baptism.

This is the Spirit that rushes upon God's chosen king David in today's First Reading. A shepherd like Moses before him (see Exodus 3:1; Psalm 78:70-71), David is also a sign pointing to the good shepherd and king to come—Jesus.

The Lord is our shepherd, as we sing in today's Psalm. By his death and Resurrection, He has made a path for us through the dark valley of sin and death, leading us to the verdant pastures of the kingdom of life, the Church.

In the restful waters of Baptism, He has refreshed our souls. He has anointed our heads with the oil of Confirmation and spread the Eucharistic table before us, filling our cups to overflowing.

With the once-blind man we enter His house to give God the praise, to renew our vow: "I do believe, Lord."

"The Lord looks into the heart," we hear today. Let Him find us, as Paul advises in today's Epistle, living as "children of light"—trying always to learn what is pleasing to our Father.

LAETARE SUNDAY

This is a day of celebration within the austere period of Lent, when Easter is at last within sight. Traditionally rose coloured vestments are worn on this day. It is also known as Mothering Sunday. On this day historically Christians returned to their mother church (home parish).

Lord Jesus, you who chose to put yourself into the nurturing and watchful hands of Mary your mother. Inspired by this example we too honour our mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. We ask this in your holy name.

MOTHERING SUNDAY



Laetare Sunday is also known as Mothering Sunday and is celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent. In the early church this was a day when people paid a solemn visit to their mother church, and left an offering at the altar. Gradually this became a feast day for mothers. Children who were away from home would return to visit their mother with a gift. Let us show love and kindness towards all mothers today, perhaps offering to do the washing up with a smile!

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, we thank you for mothers - for all they mean, or have meant, for the love they have shown and the care they have given. We thank you for the qualities of mothers -their patience, their kindness, concern and understanding.

Social and Fundraising Group; Are looking for new members if you would like to be involved in this group please contact Fr. Denis If you can think of ways to help raise the money.

REPOSITORY. We now have a good selection of Easter cards on sale. You can pay with cash or contactless card.

MISSIO RED BOX SCHEME

Please could Red Box holders bring in their boxes for counting and place them on the side tables at the back of Church. Pam Winters.

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 the parish office on 01462-893127 .

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.her.ts.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

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Will take place on Saturday 25th March 2023, at 2.30pm and Sunday the 26th March at 1pm A donation of £20 per couple is asked to cover costs. Please contact the parish office if you are interested.

PLANNED GIVING

The envelopes for the new tax year will be available next weekend 18/19 March. If your tax status has changed or you need more information please speak with Catherine Kennedy.

THE CHURCH HALL

The hall is ready to hold events, parties, workshops, birthday parties etc. seating for 50 people, £10 for Parishioners & £15 per hour for outside organizations. If you are planning an event do consider this venue with excellent parking and access. Contact Parish Office 01462 893127

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray for the sick in the parish especially, Anthony Lewicki, Fr. Peter Maher, Peter Robinson, Patrick Sarsfield, Fr. Philip Law and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries are at this time: James Ginnelly; Hannah Blows; Sidney Wells; Frederick Hawkins; Mary Wrighton; Dorothy Kaciniel; Cecilia Parisi; Dominic Manson;

Mary Anne Doughty; Thomas Mason; Mary Kate Drew; James Creamer; Fr Michael Lee; Joseph Partridge; Maria Parisi; Elsie Shepherd; Sadie Dyson; Lilian Cook.

LENTEN PROGRAMME

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held after the 10.am mass on Wednesday and at 7.30pm every Friday (except Good Friday). All are welcome.

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK:

Holy Thursday 6th April:

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm

Good Friday 7th April:

Children's Stations of the Cross at 10.30am

Celebration of **The Lord's Passion** at 3pm

Good Friday is a day of Fasting & Abstinence

Easter Vigil 8th April: begins at sunset at 8.30pm

Easter Sunday 9th April: at 8.30am & 10.30am

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

16th April at 3pm An hour of adoration and meditations on Divine mercy of the Blessed confessions available.

Sat 18 th	Vigil Mass 6.30pm	
Sun 19 th	8.30am 10.30am	Patrick Callinan RIP Claudia Pater
Mon 20 th	10.00am	St Joseph Clea Fletcher
Tue 21 st	10.00am	
Wed 22 nd	10.00am	Angela Gray RIP
Thu 23 rd	10.00am	John Stevenson RIP
Fri 24 th	No Mass	The Annunciation

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

Fr. Denis is still celebrating Mass online at 6.30 pm every Saturday night for the Vigil Mass,

Sunday morning Mass 10.30am, all 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>

THE WEDNESDAY WORD IS AVAILABLE VIA

<http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

SAVE THE TREES Sign up to receive newsletters by e mail and help reduce our paper usage! Visit www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock click on 'Sign up for e alerts' on the homepage.