



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



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## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023



### At Lazarus' Tomb:

As we draw near to the end of Lent, today's Gospel clearly has Jesus' passion and death in view. That's why John gives us the detail about Lazarus' sister, Mary—that she is the one who anointed the Lord for burial (see John 12:3,7). His disciples warn against returning to Judea; Thomas even predicts they will "die with Him" if they go back.

When Lazarus is raised, John notices the tombstone being taken away, as well as Lazarus' burial cloths and head covering—all details he later notices with Jesus' empty tomb. Like the blind man in last week's readings, Lazarus represents all humanity. He stands for "dead man"—for all those Jesus loves and wants to liberate from the bands of sin and death.

John even recalls the blind man in his account today (see John 11:37). Like the man's birth in blindness, Lazarus' death is used by Jesus to reveal "the glory of God". And again like last week, Jesus' words and deeds give sight to those who believe. If we believe, we will see—that Jesus loves each of us as He loved Lazarus, that He calls us out of death and into new life.

By His Resurrection Jesus has fulfilled Ezekiel's promise in today's First Reading. He has opened the graves that we may rise, put His Spirit in us that we may live. This is the Spirit that Paul writes of in today's Epistle. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will give life to we who were once dead in sin.

Faith is the key. If we believe as Martha does in today's Gospel—that Jesus is the resurrection and the life—even if we die, we will live.

"I have promised and I will do it," the Father assures us in the First Reading. We must trust in His word, as we sing in today's Psalm—that with Him is forgiveness and salvation.

### The Feast of the Annunciation

"Our Lady has nothing of her own, that is nothing, which is not the gift of God to her. When we ask her for any grace, we are in fact asking her to pray to God for it for us". (Letter dated 25th February, 1868)

Marian devotion was really important to St John Henry Newman. He often reflected that a childhood doodle of some rosary beads on the cover of his school exercise book sowed a seed in him which flowered, fully, in his conversion to Catholicism. This devotion was described by him as like a miniature version of the creed. When in old age he could no longer read, and saying mass gradually became more difficult, the rosary became crucial to his spiritual life.

Writing from Maryvale, his first home as a Catholic, he suggests to George Ryder, who was struggling with this way of praying, that he should: "fix a time for saying it, and keep to it. How do you say it? Try it thus, if you don't so use it at present, but perhaps you do -viz before each mystery, set before you a picture of it, and fix your mind upon that that picture, (e.g, the Annunciation, the Agony, etc.) while you say the Pater and 10 Aves, not thinking of the words, only saying them correctly. Let the exercise be hardly more than a meditation". (Letter dated 19th September 1848)

May we follow St John Henry Newman's example in asking for Mary's intercession in our journey through this present 'vale of tears'. Remembering as he says: "No one has access to the Almighty as His Mother has; none has merit such as hers. Her Son will deny her nothing that she asks; and herein lies her power." (Meditations and Devotions -John Henry Newman)

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to Thy protection, implored Thy help, or sought Thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to Thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to Thee do I come; before Thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in Thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

### 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.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 & Colette Murphy  
[Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray for the sick in the parish especially, 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 Peter Butterly; Henry Davey; Brigid Randall; James McGrath; Helena Solich; Patrick Bowen; Marsha Long; Leon Grudulis; Agnes Wilson; Marguerite Wilson.

### PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

New envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Please find your surname as they are in alphabetical, not numerical order.

If you cannot find your envelope or if you would like to start using envelopes please speak to Catherine.

### CHURCH CALENDAR

#### KNIT & NATTER. PLEASE

**NOTE** Our next meeting will be Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March in the Holy Family room, 9.30 to 11am. All adults are welcome - experienced or beginners. £2 per session.

#### Open Air Mass:

2nd July 10.30 am, followed by BBQ.

### REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF THE DIOCESE

Bishop John Sherrington recently addressed the Towards Decarbonisation Seminar as the Diocese

seeks to reduce its Carbon Footprint and live the Church's teaching on how to take care of our common home. You can read more here. - <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/carbon-neutrality/the-continuing-call-to-ecological-conversion/>

### 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 6<sup>th</sup> April:

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm

##### Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> April:** begins at sunset at 8.30pm

**Easter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April:** at 8.30am & 10.30am

#### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Divine Mercy Novena starts on Good Friday 16th April at 3pm An hour of adoration and meditations on Divine mercy of the Blessed confessions available.

Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	Vigil Mass 6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Sisters of Providence
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Barbara Weston
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Olive & Harold Underwood RIP
Thu 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Justin Anderson
Fri 31 <sup>st</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

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

THE WEDNESDAY WORD IS AVAILABLE VIA

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

#### HELP SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

Sign up to receive newsletters by email and help reduce our paper usage! To register, please visit [www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock](http://www.parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock) & click on 'Sign up for e alerts' on the homepage.