



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



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

12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 25th June 2023

Reflection on today's reading.

Jeremiah 20: 1-13; Psalm 68 (69); Romans 5: 12-15; Matthew 10: 26-33

Jesus instructed the Twelve: 'Do not be afraid'. Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love.

Today's readings are very apt for our current times, where many of us are experiencing vulnerability, tension, and unpredictability. Yet as followers of Christ, we are being called to trust in God our Father, who knows us intimately and understands our needs.

In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds the Twelve that they are not promised success; they will suffer. Yet he bids them repeatedly: 'Do not be afraid'. The Father's tender care will never desert them as God is on their side: not as a remote figure, but as a Father who has intimate knowledge of and care for each of them.

In these our own times of trial and vulnerability, we pray for God's guidance and teaching. 'Lord, you invite us to cry out with complete confidence in the Father's boundless love. This day we offer you praise and thanks for your abundant gifts to us in our poverty and weakness.'

The Nativity of John the Baptist



This week we celebrate the Solemnity of the Nativity of John the Baptist. You may be asking yourself what is so important about John the Baptist that we honour his birth? We honour Jesus' birth at Christmas and Mary's birth on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but why John the Baptist? Well, if you remember, Jesus said: "I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John" (Lk 7:28). Jesus honoured John above all other men and so it is fitting that we honour him too. Jesus and Mary were both set aside for a special purpose before they were born and so was John

the Baptist. Every human life is valuable and precious in God's eyes. We should remember to pray for all expectant mothers and fathers, that they come to love their little baby that they have not yet been able to see. This would be a good thing for us to do today, in honour of Saint John the Baptist's birthday.

ST JOHN SOUTHWORTH

Has his Feast Day this week and is one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales. He studied at the English College in Douai, in northern France. (The college later relocated to St Edmund's College, in Ware.) Having been arrested on 6 previous occasions, spending much of his time in The Clink in London, he was eventually tried under the Elizabethan anti-priest legislation, pleaded guilty and was executed in London. He is now laid to rest in Westminster Cathedral and in 2014, The Guild of Saint John Southworth was established in Westminster Cathedral. Its members are volunteers who will meet visitors, answer their questions and guide them around the cathedral if they wish. This service is free

ANNUAL OPEN-AIR MASS & PARISH BARBEQUE



This year will be held at 10.30am on Sunday 2nd 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 £10. A vegetarian option will be available. Tickets for children aged 5 to 12 years will be priced at £5, 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. It would be a good time to invite family and friends and please pray for good weather.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024 PROGRAMME (OPEN TO ANY CHILD IN YEAR 3 OR ABOVE)

On Saturday 16th September, between 10.00am and 11.30am, a parent's drop in at the Parish Rooms. During this time, you will meet with Fr. Denis and complete your child's application form for First Holy Communion. If your child was not

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 (aldock@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

Baptised in Baldock please bring their Baptism Certificate with you. The sessions will commence in November 2023 and the children will make their First Holy Communion in May 2024. If you have any questions please contact Fr. Denis.

CHURCH CALENDAR

MEN'S GROUP

Men of the Parish are welcome to come and join our regular Men's Breakfast sessions. These take place once a month on a Saturday morning with tea/coffee and a Danish served at 8.30am. We finish at 10.30am. Come along and meet friends old and new. See Richard M or John B for more details.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES IN BALDOCK CEMETERY

On Sunday 13th August, 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.

CAFOD: update on the conflict in Sudan

Violent conflict continues in Sudan and thousands of people are running out of food, water and medicine. Working as part of the Caritas network, your previous donations to CAFOD are enabling our teams to provide practical help to families who have escaped to neighbouring countries, including South Sudan. Please join Pope Francis in praying for peace in Sudan. Find out more on

the CAFOD website:

cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/sudan-conflict

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray for the sick in the parish especially, Fr. Philip Law, Patrick Sarsfield, Gray and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time: Catherine Fitzgerald; James McGee; Netta Summers; Nerina Aldridge; Nerina Aldridge; Alison Ash Noble; Daisy Restall; Sheila Rigley and Mary Carson-Rowland.

Wintershall Life of Christ

The greatest story of all time is movingly recreated with authentic detail, outstanding quality sound and music. The Life of Christ is a passion play not to be missed. It is both educational and entertaining, amusing and serious. Watch as hundreds of actors bring the story of Jesus to life in an open-air epic production set in stunning Surrey countryside. Young and old from all walks of life will be mesmerised as the story unfolds across three captivating acts from **10am to 3.30pm. 27th June 1st July. Book your tickets** <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/life-christ-6>

Sat 24 th	6.30pm	The Nativity of St John The Baptist Michael & Breege Kerrane RIP
Sun 25 th	8.30am 10.30am	Sisters of Providence & Immaculate Conception Eduardo Echavez RIP
Mon 26 th	10.00	
Tue 27 th	10.00	St John Southworth, Priest & Martyr Sheila Rigley RIP
Wed 28 th	10.00	Dorrie Randall RIP
Thu 29 th	10.00	Ss Peter And Paul, Apostles
Fri 30 th	No mass	

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 the Vigil Mass online at 6.30 pm every Saturday night & Sunday Mass at 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>