



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



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

## 14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023

### Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened

Gospel Reading *Matthew 11:25-30*

#### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading from Matthew's Gospel comes after a discourse in which Jesus reproaches people who have witnessed his mighty deeds yet still lack belief. In this context, today's Gospel explains the reason for this unbelief and reveals what is necessary for faith. Today's Gospel also continues to enhance our understanding of discipleship as last week's Gospel did.

Jesus first prays in thanksgiving to God who has made himself known to Jesus' disciples. He praises God who has made himself known to the "little ones" and not to the wise and learned. As in other recent readings from Matthew's Gospel, a contrast is made here between the unbelieving Pharisees, who are wise and learned, and the faithful disciples, tax collectors, and sinners with whom Jesus keeps company.

The second part of this reading calls to our attention the unity between the Father and the Son. God has made himself known through Jesus, and in knowing Jesus, we come to know the Father. In Jesus' life and in his person, God reveals himself to us.

In the concluding sentences of today's Gospel, Jesus' teaching is again contrasted to the teaching of the Pharisees. This common theme of Matthew's Gospel probably reflects tension that existed between Jesus and the Pharisees and between the Pharisees and the community of Christians for whom Matthew wrote. Pharisaic Judaism became the predominant form of Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem about 70 A.D. Here that tension is expressed as alternative paths of holiness.

The careful observance of the Mosaic law taught by the Pharisees could be experienced by some as difficult and burdensome. In contrast, Jesus' way of holiness is presented as uncomplicated and even restful. 'Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.

Shoulder my yoke and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.



Trussell Trust foodbanks provide three days of emergency food to local individuals and families in crisis. Frontline care professionals including health visitors, social workers and school liaison officers refer people who are facing hunger to the foodbank. As well as receiving nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food parcels, people visiting the foodbank are welcomed with a cup of tea, listened to and signposted to agencies who are able to help resolve the underlying cause of the problem. By donating to the foodbank, you can help support local people in crisis, thank you!

<https://letchworth.foodbank.org.uk>

[info@letchworth.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@letchworth.foodbank.org.uk) Tel: 07825 300

437 **Serving Letchworth, Hitchin and Baldock**

Please help local people in crisis by buying items from the list below and giving them to the Foodbank's collection point. • **Sponge Puddings • Tinned Potatoes • Tinned Vegetables • Tinned Meat (Not Pies) • UHT Milk 1L (Not Skimmed) • Biscuits • Cereal**

**RCIA COURSE** The new session of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) begins this year in late September. It is the course of instruction for those seeking to enter the Catholic Church, and may also be appropriate for those Catholics who have been away from the Church and are returning or who wish to deepen their understanding of the faith.

The RCIA programme (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is held on Tuesdays, at 7.30pm in the parish rooms, in late September and will run until Easter 2023. It will consist of regular weekly meetings. If you would like to find out more please speak to Fr Denis Sarsfield on 01462-893127

#### **RED MISSION BOX HOLDERS**

Please could Red Box holders bring in their boxes for counting and place them on the small table at the back of the Church. Many thanks. Pam Winters

**Readings Parish Mass Book page 99**

**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](mailto: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](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) [Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

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

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 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**

**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.

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:**



We pray for the sick in the parish especially, Niels Sarsfield, Patrick Sarsfield and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time: Dorothy Osborne;

Philomena McTigue; Anna Ohtani; Monica Byrne; Hugh Kirke; Elizabeth Duff; Edwin Somers; Shirley Topajka; Jonathan Turner and Patrick O'Toole

Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.30	Marlene Downham RIP
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.30	Ken Woodruff RIP
	10.30am	Sea Sunday Collection for Stella Maris William Reidy
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Vernon Collis
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	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: 1<sup>st</sup> 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>



**The Prayer of Saint Pope John Paul II to Our Lady Star of the Sea**

Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean, guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas that they may reach the haven of peace and light prepared in Him who calmed the sea.

As we set forth upon the oceans of the world and cross the deserts of our time, show us, O Mary, the fruit of your womb, for without your Son we are lost.

Pray that we will never fail on life's journey, that in heart and mind, word and deed, in days of turmoil and in days of calm, we will always look to Christ and say,

'Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?'

Our Lady of Peace, pray for us!

Bright Star of the Sea, guide us!

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, pray for seafarers, pray for us. Amen