



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



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

you may find something for yourself or a Christmas gift for a friend.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3rd December 2023



Scripture Reflections

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in today's First Reading. In today's Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne—to save and shepherd His people. Today's readings are relatively brief. Their language and "message" are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today—as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves.

And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can't we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him? God is faithful.

As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift—especially the Eucharist and penance—to strengthen us as we await Christ's final coming. He will keep us firm to the end—if we let Him. So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning—repeated three times by our Lord in today's Gospel—to stay awake, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return.

SALE OF WOOD WORKING ITEMS

This weekend, December 2nd & 3rd after each of the Masses Bob Emmett will be having a sale of his woodworking items. The money gained from these sales is sent out to the Columban Sisters running hospitals, clinics and hospices across SE Asia & South America. Also supported is Sightsavers, a charity performing eye operations. There is a wide variety of items and

ADVENT SERVICES

E. H. Crouch Memorial Service

Service is at 7pm Thursday 7th December
Will be held here at the Holy Trinity Church, there will be a Christmas memorial service for the deceased members of families and friends who have passed away this year.

All are welcome.

Rotary Advent Carol Service

7pm Thursday 14th December

We will be joined by the Salvation Army band, and various primary schools and musicians around the town

Christmas Nativity Breakfast Event - All Parishioners Welcome!

Our Parish Men's Breakfast Group would like to invite all parishioners (both men and women) to a special Christmas Breakfast Event next Saturday, 9th December at 8.15am. The morning will begin as usual with a light breakfast followed by a big screen viewing of a one-off Christmas episode of The Chosen which is centred on the story of the Nativity and Mary's Calling to be the Mother of Christ. It is a thought-provoking and powerful portrayal of the events surrounding that very first Christmas. The programme content is aimed mainly at an adult audience. This will be a chiefly social event and we will finish at or around 11.00am. If you would like to attend all we ask is that you please, please call (or leave a message) to confirm your attendance so that we can adjust the catering and seating accordingly. Richard Miller 07931 761403 Thank you.

A PRAYER FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Almighty God, Millions of our brothers and sisters are on the move around the world, Not by choice, but by desperation. We pray that we may lead the way to bring about God's vision of peace and justice to all, And hope and love to those on the move near and far. For those forced to flee violence, We pray they find safety. For those seeking economic opportunity, We pray they find secure livelihoods. For those trying to support and protect their families, we pray that all migrants, refugees and displaced persons Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us. Amen

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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) 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

Message from Our Lady of Medjugorje

Dear children! May this time be interwoven with prayer for peace and good deeds, so that the joy of the expectation of the King of Peace may be felt in your hearts, families and in the world which does not have hope. Thank you for having responded to my call. 25 November 2023.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME



Confirmation candidates and their parents are invited to the first preparation meeting on Sunday 3rd December after the 10.30 am Mass. If you are in year 9, please consider if you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Parish. Application forms will be available at the back of the church. Subsequent meetings will take place in the New Year on a Saturday evening before mass, for candidates only. Please contact Joanna at: Joannabowen@me.com

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish especially; Celia Sheehan, Michael Hill and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time: Doris Smale; Ann Gentle; Robert Austin; Anne Smith; Florence

Robertson; Sr Germana Ryan; Molly Reilly; Andrew O'Neill; Jerzy Kryspinski; Margaret Turner; Margaret Deans; Patrick Kavanagh.

Sat 2 nd	6.30pm	Patsy & Kathleen Heaney Intentions
Sun 3 rd	8.30am 10.30am	Betty Knight RIP
Mon 4 th	10.00am	Jean Higgins RIP
Tue 5 th	10.00am	
Wed 6 th	10.00am	St Nicholas Bishop Robert Austin RIP
Thu 7 th	10.00am	St Ambrose Bishop and Doctor
Fri 8 th	No mass	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Friday abstinence</i>

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>

Reconciliation Saturday - 16th December - at 10.30am-12.30pm

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available for 2 hours - 10.30am - 12.30pm. Fr. Denis and a visiting priest will be available to hear confessions.

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass 23rd December 6.30pm

Sunday 24th December Morning mass 9.30am

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE Sunday 24th December

4.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas, Family Mass 8.40pm Carols and Readings

9 pm The Mass of the Nativity of the Lord

CHRISTMAS DAY Monday 25th December

Mass 9.30am Mass

Blessing of the Children's toys during mass

St Stephen's Day 26th December

Tuesday Mass 10am Mass

SUNDAY HOLY FAMILY MASSES

Saturday 30th December vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday 31st December 8.30 and 10.30 am Mass

Blessing of the Children's toys at 10.30 mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY Mary The Holy Mother of God

Monday 1st January Mass 10am

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday 6th January vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday 7th January 8.30 and 10.30 am Mass