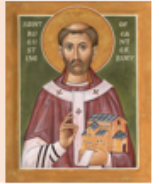




CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10th December 2023



Scripture Reflections

Our God is coming. The time of exile - the long separation of humankind from God due to sin - is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy.

Isaiah in today's First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile. But as today's Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God - the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God.

God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus towards the promised land. And He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord.

John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth, as we sing in today's Psalm.

He has done all this, not for humanity in the abstract, but for each of us. The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle. Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our lives, so that everything we do leads us to Him. Today, let us hear the beginning of the gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion.

Readings Parish Mass Book page 85

SALE OF WOODWORKING ITEMS.

Bob & Eileen Emmett would like to say a big thank you to our parishioners for buying their woodworking items. The total collection was £320 the money will go to the Columban Sisters running hospitals, clinics and hospices across SE Asia & South America. Also supported is Sightsavers, a charity performing eye operations.

Christmas Eve Family Mass: We are looking for children/young people to act, read and sing during this Mass on Christmas Eve: Sunday 24 th December at 4.30pm. Children need to be in Early Years 2 or above. We are looking for older children at secondary school to take part too! There will be a rehearsal on Sunday 17 th December after the 10.30am Mass in church. Please contact Jo Chrysandreas (jo.chrysandreas@gmail.com) to confirm your child's interest and that they are able to attend the rehearsal and the Mass. Many thanks Jo Chrysandreas and Caroline Luckraft.

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ADVENT SERVICES

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

THE FIRE OF ADVENT

"Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts. Since it comes at winter time, fire is a fitting sign to help us celebrate Advent...If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer. Our worship and devotion will have to stoke the kind of fire in our souls that can truly change our hearts. Ours is a great responsibility not to waste this Advent time." "Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is

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.stjohns4her.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 Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

reborn in the Bethlehem's of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present. "An old abbot was fond of saying, 'The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days.' "The supreme trick of Old Scratch is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music and cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos—the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth can be long, but it is familiar to us all." An Advent Examination

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, Michael Hill, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time: James Dunne; Patrick Hussey; Adelaide Murphy; Oliver Lynch; May Jones Alexander; Catherine McCall; Gordon Hackett; Jane Buckley; Josephine Cornish; Jennifer Windebank; Mary Craster; Francis Horohan; Martin

Geraghty; Joseph Sicheri; John Walsh; Henrietta Knights.

A Short Prayer before Confession Loving God, thank you for the gift of this Sacrament of your healing love and mercy. Help me to know the sins I ought to confess, and grant me your grace to confess them fully with a contrite heart. Amen

Sat 9 th	6.30pm	Eileen & Sean Kissane Intention
Sun 10 th	8.30am 10.30am	Alice Condon RIP Pat & Mary Gurhney
Mon 11 th	10.00am	Anne O'Grady RIP
Tue 12 th	10.00am	Our lady of Guadalupe
Wed 13 th	10.00am	St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Salvador Gaduzo
Thu 14 th	10.00am	St John of the Cross
Fri 15 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>

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 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 7st January 8.30 and 10.30 am Mass