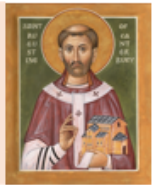




CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 14th January 2024

Peace Day - Peace on Earth



Peace
Sunday

For his theme for the World Day of Peace in 2024, Pope Francis has chosen 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. Whilst this might seem a strangely technical theme, we do need to think about the consequences of the advances in AI for peace and justice.

Certainly, governments around the world are taking the development of AI seriously. In November, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak invited experts and world leaders to a summit, expressly to look at AI and safety. Prior to the summit, he affirmed that, whilst we should not be alarmist, and that there are undoubtedly benefits for humanity in the development of AI, "get this wrong," he said, "and AI could make it easier to build chemical or biological weapons." Further he said, in the most extreme case, there is even a risk that humanity might lose control of AI completely, experts warning earlier in the year that, "Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war."

In that light, Pope Francis is raising a highly contemporary theme and one he has spoken on before when he has addressed the risks in the development of technology, not least in *Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum*. He has already said it is a theme he will return to on World Communications Day 2024, when he will consider 'Artificial Intelligence and wisdom of the heart for a fully human communication'.

For many of us, the first question is: 'what exactly is 'Artificial Intelligence?' It is a concept that has entered our everyday language and yet we are not quite sure what it encompasses. Inevitably, there are a number of definitions but that used by the UK Information Commissioner is helpful: "AI is an umbrella term for a range of technologies and approaches that often attempt to mimic human thought to solve complex tasks.

Things that humans have traditionally done by thinking and reasoning are increasingly being done by, or with the help of, AI."

We are already familiar with a number of its uses - internet search engines like Google, the ability of applications like Amazon, YouTube and Netflix to recommend something to buy, watch or listen to, based on our previous choices, software like ChatGPT which can generate articles and essays, or design software that can generate images. What are our concerns as peacemakers in the development of AI? First there is the direct impact of AI on war and weapons. Drone Wars UK warn that AI is seen by the world's military powers as a way to revolutionise warfare and gain an advantage over enemies. Worrying military applications of AI are already being rolled out and those in development pose threats to our lives, human rights and wellbeing.

Then there are the fundamental concerns that Pope Francis raised when he announced his theme for the World Day of Peace: the need to be vigilant that a "logic of violence and discrimination" doesn't take root in the development of AI at the expense of the most fragile and excluded; that the advancement of AI does not fuel injustice and inequality and therefore conflict, and, of course, that AI is developed so that it serves humanity and the protection of our common home. It is a theme we will need to keep returning to.

Prayer- God our creator and sustainer, we thank you for the gifts of creativity you have given us, for the ability to explore science and understand your creation. We ask your forgiveness for the times we have used science for evil and not for good, for war and not for peace. Make us vigilant as we develop technology, that violence and discrimination may not take root, that injustice and inequality will not be fueled, that the poor and vulnerable will not pay the cost. May all that we create contribute to peace and justice. **Amen**

Readings Parish Mass Book page 127

Scripture reading - Hearing the Call:

In the call of Samuel and of the first Apostles, today's readings shed light on our own calling to be followers of Christ. Notice in the Gospel today that John's disciples are prepared to hear God's call. They are already looking for the Messiah, so they trust in John's word and follow when he points out the Lamb of God walking by. Samuel is also waiting on the Lord—sleeping near the Ark of the Covenant where God's

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

glory dwells, taking instruction from Eli, the high priest. Samuel listened to God's word and the Lord was with him. And Samuel, through his word, turned all Israel to the Lord. The disciples too heard and followed—words we hear repeatedly in today's Gospel. They stayed with the Lord and by their testimony brought others to the Lord. These scenes from salvation history should give us strength to embrace God's will and to follow His call in our lives.

God is constantly calling to each of us personally, by name. He wants us to seek Him in love, to long for His word. We must desire always, as the Apostles did, to stay where the Lord stays, to constantly seek His face. For we are not our own, but belong to the Lord, as Paul says in today's Epistle.

We must have ears open to obedience, and write His word within our hearts. We must trust in the Lord's promise—that if we come to Him in faith, He will abide with, and raise us by His power. And we must reflect in our lives the love He has shown us, so that others too may find the Messiah. As we renew our vows of discipleship in this Eucharist, let us approach the altar singing the new song of today's Psalm:

“Behold I come . . . to do your will O God.”

THE CHURCH HALL

The hall is ready to hold events, parties, workshops, birthday parties etc. seating for 50 people, £15 per hour.

If you are planning an event do now consider this venue

CONTACTLESS CARD

NEW -We now accept donations by Contactless Card It is for those who wish to make a donation by card; we can now accept card payments for general donations. It is very easy to use. If you need help please do ask. The machine is on the back table of the church.

CONFIRMATION - 2024

Confirmation preparation- If you are due to be in year 9 or 10, please consider if you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the parish. Application forms are available at the back of the church. The confirmation programme will start with the first meeting on 20th January 2024 at 4.45pm. This meeting will be for candidates only

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish especially; Celia Sheehan, Mary Callaghan and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, Stewart Anthony, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time: Mary Anne O'Neill; Maria Davey; Suzanne Burrows; Barbara Robbins; Mary Tresigneme; Emily Kennedy; Joseph Rurojc; Michael Salisbury; Albert Wallace; Brigid Bousfield; Josephine Cornish; Agata Cheles; Kate McCabe; Bridget Dilley; Sr Theresa Ryan; Francis Foley; John Labrum; Mary Casey; Honora Doyle; James McNally; Trevor Flood.

Sat 13 th	6.30pm	Sean Willis RIP
Sun 14 th	8.30am 10.30am	Maggie Briones
Mon 15 th	10.00am	Francis' Intention
Tue 16 th	10.00am	Catherine Fitzpatrick
Wed 17 th	10.00am	
Thu 18 th	10.00am	Aidan McCarthyRIP
Fri 19 th	No mass	Friday Abstinence

Please note that mass intentions as set out above may not always be read out, but the intention is offered. 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>