



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



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

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### RAISED TO SERVE

In today's First Reading, Job describes the futility of life before Christ. His lament reminds us of the curse of toil and death placed upon Adam following his original sin. Men and women are like slaves seeking shade, unable to find rest. Their lives are like the wind that comes and goes.

But, as we sing in today's Psalm, He who created the stars promised to heal the broken hearted and gather those lost in exile from Him. We see this promise fulfilled in today's Gospel.

Simon's mother-in-law is like Job's toiling, hopeless humanity. She is laid low by affliction but too weak to save herself.

But as God promised to take His chosen people by the hand, Jesus grasps her by the hand and helps her up. The word translated "help" is actually Greek for "raising up." The same verb is used when Jesus commands a dead girl to arise. It's used again to describe His own.

What Jesus has done for Simon's mother-in-law, He has done for all humanity—raised all of us who lay dead through our sins.

Notice all the words of totality and completeness in the Gospel. The whole town gathers; all the sick are brought to Him. He drives out demons in the whole of Galilee. Everyone is looking for Christ.

We, too, have found Him. By our baptism, He healed and raised us to live in His presence. Like Simon's mother-in-law, there is only one way we can thank Him for the new life He has given us. We must rise to serve Him and His Gospel.

Our lives must be our thanksgiving, as Paul describes in today's Epistle. We must tell everyone the good news, the purpose for which Jesus has come—that others, too, may have a share in this salvation.

### THE POWER OF PRAYER

Praying for one another is one thing we can do in this difficult time. Pray in whatever way works for you. It doesn't have to be wordy or repetitive. A silent lifting of the heart to God is all it takes and as St Therese wrote; if we lift our hearts to God we lift up everyone we hold in our hearts too.

### TRUST

Why does God so strongly urge us to trust?

Because trust is homage to the Divine Mercy.

Anyone who expects God to help him is thereby acknowledging that God is almighty and good, that He can help us, and wants to do so, and that He is, above all else, merciful "No one is good but only God". We must know God in truth, for a false knowledge of Him chills our relationship with Him and obstructs the graces of His Mercy.

Our spiritual life depends chiefly on the concept that we ourselves form of God.

Between God and ourselves, there are certain fundamental relations which are inherent in our nature as creatures, but there are other relations which spring from our own attitude to God; and this attitude depends on our idea of Him. If we form false concepts of the Lord Most High, our relationship with Him will be wrong, and all our efforts to set it right will be in vain. If we have a distorted idea of Him, there are bound to be many gaps and imperfections in our spiritual life. If, on the other hand, our concept of Him is—as far as is humanly possible—true, our souls will, quite certainly, grow in holiness and light.

The concept of God is, then, the key to holiness, for it governs our conduct in relation to God, and God's attitude to us. God has adopted us as His children, but, unfortunately, we do not, in practice, behave like children. The son-ship of God is just a phrase, and in our actions we fail to show childlike trust in so good a Father.

For lack of trust prevents God from lavishing His blessings on us; it is like a dark cloud impeding the action of the sun's rays, or a dam cutting off one's access to spring water.

Nothing gives such glory to Divine omnipotence as the fact that God makes those who trust Him omnipotent also. Yet, if our trust is never to be disappointed, it must have those characteristics of which the King of Mercy Himself spoke. In relation to God, our trust should be supernatural, complete, pure, strong and enduring. Above all, our trust should spring from grace, and be founded on God.

*"Spirit of love and Mercy, be to me a refuge, a sweet consolation, a blessed hope, that in all the most trying circumstances of my life I may never cease to trust Thee" Blessed Michael Sopocko*

#### 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](mailto: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](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)

#### FUNERAL NOTICE

Sid Lazarus' Requiem Mass will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> February at 11.45am followed by cremation at Harewood Park Crematorium all are most welcome

#### YOUNG @ HEART

Our next coffee morning will be on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February after the 10am mass. (please note change of date) The sacrament of the sick will be administered during the mass. We provide the tea/ coffee and cakes all you have to provide is the chat!! All cake donations very welcome.

#### BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

**Session 1:** Tuesday, 8th February at 7.30pm

**Session 2:** Tuesday, 13th February 7.30 pm. If you are interested in joining the baptism course please contact Richard and Marie Miller. Please contact the parish office on 01462-893127

#### 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.

#### MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

The marriage preparation course will take place on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** starting at 1.30 pm and on the **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** at 3.30pm. This course will be online. For further information please contact Reman McDonagh [reman.mcdonagh@hotmail.com](mailto:reman.mcdonagh@hotmail.com)

#### YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish especially, Mary Callaghan, and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, Celia Sheehan, Simon Campion and Sidney Lazarus, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time: Catherine Stormont; Edith Smith; Norman Tuthill; Susan McKeand; John Johnson; Jean Harrington; David Eccles; Jacqueline Fielding; Francis Rees.

Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30pm	
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Ray Knight RIP Gabriel Mbeutchua, Birthday
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr Francis' Intention
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	St Paul Miki & companions, Martyrs
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	
Thu 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	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>

#### Prayer for our world

Creator God, who made our beautiful world, appointed us as its guardians and gifted us with everything we need, forgive us for the times we cause it harm; for the times our way of life affects our neighbours. Inspire us to care for the environment; to help rebuild lives and communities; to share in the griefs and anxieties, joys and hopes of all your people, so that all your creation may flourish.

Amen.

Stephen Davies/CAFOD