



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



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

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 11th February 2024

Scripture reflection

In the Old Testament, leprosy is depicted as punishment for disobedience of God's commands. Considered "unclean" - unfit to worship or live with the Israelites, lepers are considered "stillborn," the living dead. Indeed, the requirements imposed on lepers in today's First Reading - rent garments, shaven head, covered beard - are signs of death, penance, and mourning. So there's more to the story in today's Gospel than a miraculous healing.

When Elisha, invoking God's name, healed the leper, Naaman, it proved there was a prophet in Israel. Today's healing reveals Jesus as far more than a great prophet - He is God visiting His people.

Only God can cure leprosy and cleanse from sin and only God has the power to bring about what He wills. The Gospel scene has an almost sacramental quality about it.

Jesus stretches out His hand - as God, by His outstretched arm, performed mighty deeds to save the Israelites. His ritual sign is accompanied by a divine word ("Be made clean"). And, like God's word in creation ("Let there be"), Jesus' word "does" what He commands.

The same thing happens when we show ourselves to the priest in the sacrament of penance. On our knees like the leper, we confess our sins to the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm. And through the outstretched arm and divine word spoken by His priest, the Lord takes away the guilt of our sin.

Like the leper we should rejoice in the Lord and spread the good news of His mercy. We should testify to our healing by living changed lives. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we should do even the littlest things for the glory of God and that others may be saved.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is the 1st day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter (40 days + Sundays). It symbolizes the 40 days and nights that Jesus fasted in the Judaean Desert and was tempted by Satan. The ashes used by the priest to make a cross on the forehead are of branches of the Palm tree which were blessed the previous year. The cross symbolizes repentance and we are reminded that death comes to everyone as the priest says

'remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return'. Ash Wednesday is marked by fasting, abstinence and prayer.

During Lent the priest wears purple vestment; this colour associated with mourning anticipates the pain and suffering of the Crucifixion. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from 'shrive' meaning absolution for sins by doing penance, so it became a day when worshippers would use up their rich foods eg eggs, sugar to make pancakes in anticipation of the Lenten fast

A PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Gracious God, as I receive these ashes, remind me of my mortality and the need for repentance. Help me to turn away from sin and toward your grace during this Lenten season.

LENTEN PROGRAMME

Ash Wednesday mass 14th Feb. 10am & 7.30pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held after the 10.00 Wednesday mass and every Friday (except Good Friday) at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

RECONCILIATION

On Saturday 9th March at 10.30-12.30pm a visiting priest and Fr. Denis will be available for confessions. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during the two hours.

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK:

Holy Thursday 28th March -

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7.30pm

Good Friday 29th March -

Children's Stations of the Cross: 10.30am

Celebration of The Lord's Passion: 3pm

A day of Fast & Abstinence

Easter Vigil Saturday 30th March - 7.30pm

Easter Sunday 31st March

Easter Services 8.30 & 10.30am

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

The marriage preparation course will take place on **Saturday 2nd March** starting at 1.30 pm and on the **Sunday 3rd March** at 3.30pm. This course will be online. For further information please contact Reman McDonagh reman.mcdonagh@hotmail.com

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.

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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.her.ts.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) 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 aldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk aldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

CONTACTLESS CARD

NEW - For those who wish to make a donation by card; We now accept payments by Contactless Card 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.

YOUNG @ HEART

Our next coffee morning will be on Thursday 22nd 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.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish especially, Mary Callaghan, Pamela Steele and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, Sid Lazarus, Celia Sheehan and Simon Campion. And those whose anniversaries occur about now: May Tilley, Alessandro Gelmini, Ethel Richer; Anne Cox; Alastair Cumming; Ann (Nancy) Lee; Lucy Lazarus; Stanislaw Grulich; Rose Harold; Maria Nicholson; Denis Cronin; Catherine Topham; Agnes Ross; Annie Astle; Julia Brooks.

BAPTISM DATES

The dates for the upcoming Baptism Preparation Sessions have been changed. They are now as follows:

Session One: Thursday 15th Feb 7.30pm

Session Two: Thursday 29th Feb 7.30pm

If you are interested in joining the baptism course please contact Richard and Marie Miller, through the parish office on 01462-893127

Baldock Catholic Scout Group

For boys and girls aged 6 to 14. Contact: enquiries@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk

FUNERAL NOTICES

Sid Lazarus' Requiem Mass will be on the 15th February at 11.45am

Celia Sheehan requiem Mass will be on Friday 16th February all are most welcome.

SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

An Appeal for this Charity will be held on 10th and 11th February. Many thanks in advance for your response to this important cause.

Sat 10 th	6.30pm	Michael & Breege Kerrane RIP
Sun 11 th	8.30am 10.30am	Pamela Steele
Mon 12 th	10.00	Private Intention
Tue 13 th	10.00	Francis's Intention
Wed 14 th	10.00 7.30pm	Clare Botterill RIP Ash Wednesday, day of Fast and Abstinence
Thu 15 th	10.00 11.45	Sid Lazarus' Requiem Mass
Fri 16 th	11 am	Celia Sheehan requiem Mass

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> Thank you to all for your generosity in 2023 below are the amounts we raised for the various causes.

Racial Justice	£113.17
Lenten Alms (Cardinal's Lenten Appeal)	£67.00
Day for Life	£117.71
Priests' Training Fund	£395.46
Peter's Pence	£293.41
Catholic Education Service	£134.21
Sick & Retired Priests	£234.60
Mission Appeal	£420.98
World Mission Day	£159.52
Mary's Meals, bottle collection	£210.80
Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris)	£322.05
CAFOD (x2 collections)	£863.80
Total	£3,332.71

