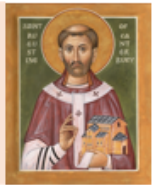




CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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

FIRST SUNDAY IN OF LENT 18th February 2024

REFLECTION



The New Creation

Lent bids us to return to the innocence our baptism. As Noah and his family were saved through the waters of the deluge, we were saved through the waters of Baptism, Peter reminds us in today's Epistle.

And God's covenant with Noah in today's First Reading marked the start of a new world. But it also prefigured a new and greater covenant between God and His creation.

We see that new covenant and that new creation begin in today's Gospel.

Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam—the beloved son of God living in harmony with the wild beasts (see [Genesis 2:19-20](#)), being served by angels. Like Adam, He too is tempted by the devil. But while Adam fell, giving reign to sin and death (see [Romans 5:12-14, 17-20](#)), Jesus is victorious. This is the good news, the “gospel of God” that He proclaims. Through His death, resurrection, and enthronement at the right hand of the Father, the world is once again made God's kingdom.

In the waters of Baptism, each of us entered the kingdom of His beloved Son. We were made children of God, new creations.

But like Jesus, and Israel before Him, we have passed through the baptismal waters only to be driven into the wilderness—a world filled with afflictions and tests of our faithfulness.

We are led on this journey by Jesus. He is the Saviour—the way and the truth we sing of in today's Psalm He feeds us with the bread of angels, and cleanses our consciences in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As we begin this holy season, let us renew our baptismal vows—to repent and believe the gospel.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LENT “Lent” is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words *lencten*, meaning “Spring,” and *lenctentid*, which literally means not only

“Springtide” but also was the word for “March,” the month in which the majority of Lent falls. Since the earliest times of the Church, there is evidence of some kind of Lenten preparation for Easter. For instance, St. Irenaeus wrote to Pope St. Victor I, commenting on the celebration of Easter and the differences between practices in the East and the West. This tended to revolve around how long fasting would last in preparation - from a day or two to a 40 hour ‘day’.

Lent becomes more regularized after the legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313. The Council of Nicea noted that two provincial synods should be held each year, “one before the 40 days of Lent.” St. Cyril of Alexandria also noted the practices and duration of Lent, emphasizing the 40-day period of fasting.

Finally, Pope St. Leo (AD 440 - 461) preached that the faithful must “fulfil with their fasts the Apostolic institution of the 40 days,” leading to us being able to conclude that by the end of that century, the 40-day period of Lent existed, and that prayer and fasting constituted its primary spiritual exercises.

SPUC(Society for the Protection of Unborn Children)Appeal 11/12 February

Many thanks for your kind donations of £210.25 and to those people who donated online.

Also thanks to those for completing and sending the cards, which will greatly help the campaign.

THANKS GIVING FOR THE SACRMENT OF MARRIAGE. Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

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.

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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

Baldock Catholic Scout Group

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

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

LENTEN PROGRAMME

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

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.

CAFOD Lent prayer

2024: Come, follow me: Loving God, when our boat is rocked on the sea of life, by poverty, illness or disaster, you quiet the waves, calm

the storm, and lead us safely to shore "Come, follow me", guiding us to new life with you. Lead us then, Lord, to play our part in calming the storm and sharing your gifts with each other, so that all people throughout the world may look to the future with hope. Amen

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: Bridget Dilley; Sr Theresa Ryan; Francis Foley; John Labrum; Christine Hawes; Honora Doyle; Trevor Flood; Elizabeth Horohan; Elizabeth Horohan; George Kerrison; James Griffin; Alberto Cheles; Bridget Lynch; Frances Scully; Osythe Corry; Timothy Madden; Penelope Gardener; Timothy Scully.

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

Sat 17 th	6.30pm	Kerry & John Bull
Sun 18 th	8.30am 10.30am	Ann & Tom Callaghan RIP Anthony Sian RIP
Mon 19 th	10.00	Francis' intention
Tue 20 th	10.00	John Marcey RIP
Wed 21 st	10.00	Saint Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
Thu 22 nd	10.00	The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle
Fri 23 rd	No Mass	Saint Polycarp Bishop and Martyr

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>

A new food redistribution service for Baldock & the surrounding area

KA Food Station: Food for all in need: No vouchers or referrals required: St Mary's Church Hall Church St, Baldock SG7 5AE

Every Thursday 10.30 to 11.30am

*Remember to bring your shopping bags