



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



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## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024



### Spiritual Sacrifice

Jesus does not come to destroy the Temple, but to fulfil it—to reveal its true purpose in God’s saving plan. He is the Lord the prophets said would come—to purify the Temple, banish the merchants, and make it a house of prayer for all. The God who made the heavens and the earth, who brought Israel out of slavery, does not dwell in sanctuaries made by human hands.

Nor does He need offerings of oxen, sheep, or doves (see Psalm 50:7-13). Notice in today’s First Reading that God did not originally command animal sacrifices—only that Israel heed His commandments.

His law was a gift of divine wisdom, as we sing in today’s Psalm. It was a law of love, perfectly expressed in Christ’s self-offering on the cross.

This is the “sign” Jesus offers in the Gospel today—the sign that caused Jewish leaders to stumble, as Paul tells us in the Epistle.

Jesus’ body—destroyed on the Cross and raised up three days later—is the new and true sanctuary. From the temple of His body, rivers of living water flow, the Spirit of grace that makes each of us a temple (see 1 Corinthians 3:16), and together builds us into a dwelling place of God.

In the Eucharist we participate in His offering of His body and blood. This is the worship in Spirit and in truth that the Father desires.

We are to offer praise as our sacrifice (see Psalm 50:14,23). This means imitating Christ—offering our bodies—all our intentions and actions in every circumstance, for the love of God and the love of others.

### Lent is a Time for Conversion, Growing Close to

God The confessional is a place of forgiveness, not threats, Pope Francis stressed that Lent is a time that is “helpful for conversion,” It is a time for growing closer to God and making changes in life, he affirmed. In the prophet Isaiah we read: ‘Come now, let us set things right, says the LORD:

Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool. If you are willing, and obey, you shall eat the good things of the land’; according to the Holy Father, who continues to compare God to a parent helping a child to find the right path. He says: “God is like a father of a small child who has pulled a prank, and he has to correct him,” the Pope explained. “He knows that if he approaches him with a stick in hand, things will not go well. “He has to approach him with trust and confidence. In this passage, this is how the Lord calls us: ‘Come on, let’s have a coffee together. Let’s talk this over, let’s discuss it. Don’t be afraid, I’m not going to beat you.”

### 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 28<sup>th</sup> March -

Mass of the Lord’s Supper: 7.30pm

Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March -

Children’s Stations of the Cross: 10.30am

Celebration of The Lord’s Passion: 3pm

*A day of Fast & Abstinence*

Easter Vigil Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March - 7.30pm

Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Easter Services 8.30 & 10.30am

#### THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>.

10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (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).

Readings Parish Mass Book page 154

**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 ([aldock@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:aldock@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@2ndaldockscouts.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@2ndaldockscouts.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](mailto:Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) [Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:Baldocksg3@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.

**PARISH MEN'S GROUP**

The next parish Men's Breakfast event will take place in the Parish Rooms next Saturday morning, 9th March at 8.30am. Come and join us for coffee, fruit juice, bacon butties, Danish pastries etc. Enjoy some warm company, a bit of banter, and some light discussion in an atmosphere of warm, genuine, Christian friendship. Your faith will be enhanced and energised! Men of all ages welcome! We meet every second Saturday from 8.30 to 10.30.

**A PRAYER DURING LENT**

*"He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds" Psalm 147:3*

God of all wholeness, heal our hearts of all that prevents us responding to our sisters and brothers excluded by poverty and prevented from living a full and healthy life. This Lent, may we: implore justice through our prayer, stand in solidarity through our fasting, and reach out through our giving. Send your life-giving power to revive the weary, restore the broken and renew the face of the earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**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, especially Salvatore Tizzano. And all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Ellen Summers; Maureen Page; Julia Spraggs; Peter Gwozdz; Joanne Keeton; Iwan Ilkiw; Patricia Picking; John Clayton; Sr Christine Bertrand; Albert Hynes; Anna Hacker; Ruth McNally; Stephen Wycochi; Eileen Muscovita; Thomas Keenan.

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.30pm	
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Kay & Tom Arthur RIP Malachi Mbeutcha birthday
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Fr Cyril
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Pat Gibson
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	
Fri 8 <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>

**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

**PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH**

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

**TEA AND COFFEE (& BISCUITS) AVAILABLE**



**AFTER 10.30 MASS EVERY SUNDAY**