

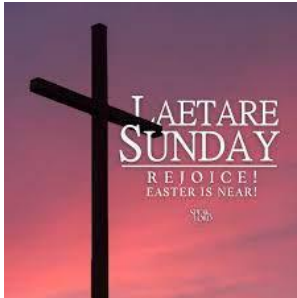


CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 10th March 2024



Prayer knocks, fasting obtains, mercy receives

From a sermon by Saint Peter Chrysologus, bishop

There are three things, my brethren, by which faith stands firm, devotion remains constant, and virtue endures. They are prayer, fasting and mercy. Prayer knocks at the door, fasting obtains, mercy receives. Prayer, mercy and fasting: these three are one, and they give life to each other. Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated: If you have only one of them or not all together, you have nothing. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others you open God's ear to yourself; when you fast, see the fasting of others. If you want God to know that you are hungry, know that another is hungry: If you hope for mercy, show mercy; if you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give. If you ask for yourself what you deny to others, your asking is a mockery.

Let us use fasting to make up for what we have lost by despising others. Let us offer our souls in sacrifice by means of fasting. There is nothing more pleasing that we can offer to God, as the psalmist said in prophecy: A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; God does not despise a bruised and humbled heart.

Offer your soul to God, make him an oblation of your fasting, so that your soul may be a pure offering, a holy sacrifice, a living victim, remaining your own and at the same time made over to God. Whoever fails to give this to God will not be excused, for if you are to give

him yourself you are never without the means of giving. To make these acceptable, mercy must be added. Fasting bears no fruit unless it is watered by mercy. Fasting dries up when mercy dries up. Mercy is to fasting as rain is to earth. However much you may cultivate your heart, clear the soil of your nature, root out vices, sow virtues, if you do not release the springs of mercy, your fasting will bear no fruit.

When you fast, if your mercy is thin your harvest will be thin; when you fast, what you pour out in mercy overflows into your barn. Therefore, do not lose by saving, but gather in by scattering. Give to the poor, and you give to yourself. You will not be allowed to keep what you have refused to give to others.

LENTEN ALMS

Your Lenten Alms donations this year will be directed towards supporting the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All donations will go towards projects across our Diocese, such as **Marriage & Family Life, Youth Ministry and education**.

Funds are also used to support the work of **Caritas Westminster**, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal with whatever they can afford. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the church with more information.

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.

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

Readings Parish Mass Book page 162

LAETARE SUNDAY Laetare Sunday is celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent, which is halfway through the Lenten season of fasting, penance

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 (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

and almsgiving. It is a day of joy in anticipation of the close arrival of Easter. Rose coloured vestments are allowed on this day. This Sunday is also known as Mothering Sunday when historically Christians visited their mother church.

PRAYER FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

Lord Jesus Christ you chose to put yourself into the nurturing hands of Mary your mother. Inspired by this example we too honour our mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. We ask this in your Holy Name.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT 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).

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.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish especially, Mary Callaghan and Barry Evans, and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Michael Kennely and Salvatore Tizzano. And all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Vincent Lewicki; Audrey King; Grainne Kirke; Joyce Fitzgerald; Irma Skeeles; Mary Dilley; Charles McQuade; Daphne Salisbury; Daisy Kulcullun; Ursula Duffer; Michael Collins; Michael McGinley.

Sat 9 th	6.30pm	Vincent Lewicki RIP
Sun 10 th	8.30am 10.30am	Michael & Breege Kerrane RIP Emma Sian RIP
Mon 11 th	10.00	
Tue 12 th	10.00	Robert Fletcher
Wed 13 th	10.00	Lucy Stevenson
Thu 14 th	10.00	Tom Keenan RIP
Fri 15 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>

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 for the Faithful by St. Patrick

May the Strength of God guide us. May the Power of God preserve us
May the Wisdom of God instruct us
May the Hand of God protect us
May the Way of God direct us
May the Shield of God defend us
May the Angels of God guard us-
Against the snares of the evil one.
May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us!
Christ be over all!

The Lenten Alms Box will be placed in the middle aisle of the cathedral. You can also use the QR code to make your donation online. Please use [this link](#) to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.