



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



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

4th SUNDAY of Easter 21st APRIL 2024

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 61st WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Dear brothers and sisters!

Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life. Hearing that divine call, which is far from being an imposed duty - even in the name of a religious ideal - is the surest way for us to fulfil our deepest desire for happiness. Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find ourselves...

To young people, and especially those who feel distant or uncertain about the Church, I want to say this: Let Jesus draw you to himself; bring him your important questions by reading the Gospels; let him challenge you by his presence, which always provokes in us a healthy crisis. More than anyone else, Jesus respects our freedom. He does not impose, but proposes. Make room for him and you will find the way to happiness by following him. And, should he ask it of you, by giving yourself completely to him.

This Day is dedicated in a particular way to imploring from the Father the gift of holy vocations for the building up of his Kingdom: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Lk 10:2). Prayer - as we all know - is more about listening to God than about talking to him. The Lord speaks to our heart, and he wants to find it open, sincere and generous. His Word became flesh in Jesus Christ, who reveals to us the entire will of the Father. In this present year, devoted to prayer and preparation for the Jubilee, all of us are called to rediscover the inestimable blessing of our ability to enter into heartfelt dialogue with the Lord and thus become pilgrims of hope. For "prayer is the first strength of hope. You pray and hope grows, it moves forward. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. Hope is there, but by my prayer I open the door" ([Catechesis](#), 20 May 2020).

This is, in the end, the goal of every vocation: to become men and women of hope. As individuals and as communities, amid the variety of charisms and ministries, all of us are called to embody and communicate the Gospel message of hope in a world marked by epochal challenges. These include the baneful spectre of a third world war fought piecemeal; the flood of migrants fleeing their homelands in search of a better future; the burgeoning numbers of the poor; the threat of irreversibly compromising the health of our planet. To say nothing of all the difficulties we encounter each day, which at times risk plunging us into resignation or defeatism.

To be pilgrims of hope and builders of peace, then, means to base our lives on the rock of Christ's resurrection, knowing that every effort made in the vocation that we have embraced and seek to live out, will never be in vain. Failures and obstacles may arise along the way, but the seeds of goodness we sow are quietly growing and nothing can separate us from the final goal: our encounter with Christ and the joy of living for eternity in fraternal love. This ultimate calling is one that we must anticipate daily: even now our loving relationship with God and our brothers and sisters is beginning to bring about God's dream of unity, peace and fraternity. May no one feel excluded from this calling! Each of us in our own small way, in our particular state of life, can, with the help of the Spirit, be a sower of seeds of hope and peace.

In this light, I would say once more, as I did at World Youth Day in Lisbon: "*Rise up!*" Let us awaken from sleep, let us leave indifference behind, let us open the doors of the prison in which we so often enclose ourselves, so that each of us can discover his or her proper vocation in the Church and in the world, and become a pilgrim of hope and a builder of peace! *Rome, Saint John Lateran, 21 April 2024, Fourth Sunday of Easter.* POPE FRANCIS

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 49 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 13 of whom are from our own Diocese. We also have one seminarian in Valladolid and one at the Beda, presently on

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

pastoral placement in Ruislip. Last year 3 deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. The Priest Training Fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests.

PRAYER FOR ST GEORGE'S DAY

Dear Lord, Help us to be like your faithful servant George, who did not give up on what he believed was right. Help us all to be respectful and tolerant of others who we do not fully understand. We pray that persecution of people of all faiths will come to an end. AMEN

MISSIO RED BOX SCHEME

The amount raised during 2023 from our Boxes and donations given directly was £1,140.42. Thank you very much. Your support for the Missions is greatly appreciated. Many thanks, Pam Winters Tel: 01462 892265

CRAFT & CHAT. A crafting group for adults who enjoy hand sewing, embroidery, knitting etc, and those who would like to learn how to knit/crochet. We meet on the first Friday

of each month in the Holy Family room from 9.30 - 11am. Cost is £2 per session (which includes a cuppa) and which goes towards Parish funds. Our next meetings are Fridays 3rd May and 6th June

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish especially; Peter Robinson, Mary Callaghan, Pamela Steele, Barry Evans, Tom Gurhey and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Sylvia Kelly; and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Brian Conway Bronislaw Kreics; Anna Ciampa; Mary Kate Drew; Vivienne Kingham; Paul Solich; William Currie; Maureen Eccles; Margaret Du Boulay; Elizabeth Dunne; Pasquale Mansi; June Mason; Charles Canty; Peter Dejkalo.

Sat 20 th	6.30pm	For friends V&M George needing God's help
Sun 21 st	8.30am 10.30am	Bishop Paul to celebrate mass for confirmations Sue Albone RIP Family Unity
Mon 22 nd	10.00am	Nigel McDonnell
Tue 23 rd	10.00am	Saint George, Martyr, Patron of England Nella Kelly RIP
Wed 24 th	10.00am	Saints Erkenwald and Mellitus
Thu 25 th	10.00am	Saint Mark, Evangelist
Fri 26 th	No 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>

ANNUAL OPEN AIR MASS & PARISH BARBEQUE -

will be held on Sunday 30th June, at 10.30am. Please remember that as there will be only one Mass during the weekend, we come together as a parish and celebrate. Everyone is invited to bring their own chairs or blanket. We will serve food afterwards, but more information will follow nearer the time. We will need volunteers to help once again. It would be a good time to invite family and friends, and please pray for good weather. It is a good day to come together as the family of the church and meet new people. You are most cordily welcomed.