



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



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

## Second Sunday of Advent 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024



### A reflection

There is a decisive moment that marks the start of every journey: the clutch is released, and the car moves; or, almost buckling under the heft of a rucksack, the pilgrim takes the first of a million steps.

There was a precise moment in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar which launched John the Baptist out of the wilderness and into the crowds: The Word of God came to him. A collision with John's personality at full thrust must, in turn, have been a decisive moment for many people: not just a change of direction, but a whole new way of being human. If they listened to him, their lives stopped being as they were before and started to be something else.

Fast-forward to today's second reading, St Paul's letter to the Philippians. We imagine Paul pausing as he writes, picturing the faces of the recipients from Acts 16. Among them are Lydia - the prosperous woman who forced Paul to submit to her hospitality - and the gaoler, who jumped from despair to joyful discovery because Paul and Silas 'spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all his household'. Like our Christian communities today, they rejoice in their partnership in the Gospel, working together and praying for each other. As we spend time waiting for the Word to come to us this Advent, we might bear in mind Dietrich Bonhoeffer's words:

'We ponder the chosen text on the strength of the promise that it has something utterly personal to say to us for this day...Here we are not expounding [the text] or preparing a sermon

or conducting Bible study of any kind; we are rather waiting for God's Word to us...Often we are so burdened and overwhelmed with other thoughts, images and concerns that it may take a long time before God's Word has swept all else aside and come through. But it will surely come...

### Prayer for Advent - Light up our Lives

Christ, come into our world of darkness.

Light up our lives with your coming.

Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth. Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world and to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings. Amen.

### ADVENT SERVICES

#### Rotary Carol Service: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

7.00pm: Will take place here with music and carols from the Salvation Army Band and local primary schools. This is always an enjoyable festive occasion, so please do join us.

#### The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December

From 10.30am-12.30pm: The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed. Fr. Denis and other priests will be available to hear confessions.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

#### Christmas Eve: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

4.30pm: Vigil Family Mass of Christmas  
8.40pm: Carols and Readings  
9.00pm: Nativity of the Lord Mass

#### Christmas Day: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am: Mass

#### St. Stephens Day: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am: Mass

#### The Holy Family Masses

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December: 6.30pm (Vigil Mass)  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December: 8.30am and 10.30am

#### New Year's Day: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025

10.00am: Feast of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

#### The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord Masses

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January: 6.30pm (Vigil Mass)  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January: 8.30am and 10.30am

Readings: Parish Mass Book Page 84

**Finance Committee** We are looking for new members to join the parish finance committee. The committee meets four times a year and helps with the financial welfare of the parish. This includes discussing and planning ahead for church projects, such as building and fundraising. The parishioners of this parish have always been very generous when we ask for financial help. Could you spend some of your precious time helping with the parish finance? If you have a background in finance it would be a great help. Fr Denis

**Christmas Hamper Draw 2024 is Back!** This year's draw will take place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December after the 10.30am Mass. All are welcome to come along for a Christmas tippie and some festive nibbles. As before, lists to sign up for donations for the hampers can found at the back of the church and all donations will be gratefully accepted. Tickets will be on sale after each Mass, prices at £1 per strip and all proceeds will go towards repairs to the parish house roof.

**Christmas Eve Family Mass** We are looking for children to act, read and sing during the Family Mass on Christmas Eve: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm. Children need to be in Early Years 2 or above. There will be a rehearsal on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December after the 10.30am Mass in church. Please contact Jo Chrysandreas via email (jo.chrysandreas@gmail.com) to confirm your child's interest and that they are able to attend the rehearsal and the Mass.

**Money Donations** Would be gratefully received for Christmas flowers. A box for donations is on the table at the back of the church.

**Your Prayers Are Asked For:**



We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish especially; Sally-Ann Riegel and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, Maria Valsehecci and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

*Andrew O'Neill, Jerzy Kryspinski, Margaret Turner, Margaret Deans, Patrick Kavanagh, James Dunne, Patrick Hussey, Adelaide Murphy, Oliver Lynch, May Jones Alexander, Catherine McCall, Gordon Hackett, Jane Buckley, Josephine Cornish, Jennifer Windebank, Mary Craster, Francis Horohan.*

**Mass Times and Intentions**

Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Teresa McHugh Intentions
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Betty Knight RIP Phil & Michael Maloney Intentions
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	J.M Alexander RIP
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Robert Austin RIP
Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

*Please note that mass intentions as set out above may not always be read out, but the intention is offered.*

**Holy Hour:** Saturday 5.15 - 6.15 pm

**Confessions:** Saturday 5.45 - 6.15 pm

Or by appointment with Fr. Denis.

**Family Mass:** First Sunday of the month 10.30 am

**Children's Liturgy:** Takes place during the 10.30am Mass except on the First Sunday of the Month and during school holidays.

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.***

**Parish Safeguarding Officers** have responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people, and adults at risk within the Parish.

Patricia Cusack: Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Colette Murphy: Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

**Our Catholic Schools**

**St. John's Catholic Primary School, Baldock**

T: 01462 892478 W: stjohns4.herts.sch.uk

**The Saint John Henry Newman School,**

Stevenage, T: 01438 314643 W: jhn.herts.sch.uk

**John O'Neil is the Lister Hospital RC Chaplain**

Mob: 07876 526935 or T: 01438 285518

**Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Weddings and Funerals** for further details please speak to Fr. Denis, look at the website or contact the parish office.

**Church Hall Bookings** the church hall is available to be booked for groups or celebrations. Please contact the parish office for more details.

**Baldock Catholic Scout Group** for boys & girls aged 6-14. Contact: enquiries@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk