



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



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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 23rd February 2025

Scripture Reflection

The Gospel, this week, calls us to practice love and mercy, even toward those who hurt us. This is not an easy task, as human nature often seeks revenge or retribution when wronged. Yet, Jesus teaches us to respond with compassion, turning the other cheek and loving our enemies.

Mercy and love are at the heart of the Christian faith, as demonstrated in the life and teachings of Jesus. He didn't just preach love from a distance; He showed it by forgiving those who persecuted Him, including those who crucified Him. His words on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34), provide the ultimate model of mercy. This radical forgiveness calls us to extend grace, even when it seems undeserved.

To show mercy and love to those who hurt us, we must first remember the mercy that God has shown us. None of us are without fault, and God's forgiveness of our own sins should inspire us to forgive others. We don't forgive because the person deserves it; we forgive because God calls us to live according to His mercy and love.

Practical ways to show this mercy include offering a kind word, resisting the urge to seek revenge, and praying for the person who hurt you. Instead of harbouring bitterness or anger, we must seek healing through compassion. It's not about condoning wrongdoing, but about recognizing the humanity of the person who has wronged us and seeking their good.

Ultimately, loving and showing mercy to those who hurt us reflects God's grace at work in our lives, turning pain into opportunity for growth and reconciliation. How to forgive like God forgives. Well through our baptism we enter into the very life of God. The reciprocal love between the: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit enables us to love as God loves. Ask the Holy Trinity to help us to pour out his love upon us.
Fr. Denis

The 2025 Jubilee Year

While the original biblical concept of the Jubilee Year was tied to specific rituals in ancient Israel, its modern significance is often more symbolic, offering a time to reflect on social justice,

forgiveness, and the renewal of relationships—both with each other and with God. In 2025, the Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church is particularly noteworthy. It marks the end of a 25-year cycle since the last official Holy Year, which took place in 2000. Pope Francis has spoken about the Jubilee Year as a time of mercy, healing, and hope. The theme of the 2025 Holy Year (as expected) is likely to emphasize themes like peace, reconciliation, and the importance of working toward justice for all people, particularly the marginalized.

Living with Hope The concept of the Jubilee Year offers a profound reminder about hope and the possibility of starting anew. Living with hope in this context means embracing renewal, not just on a personal level but on a collective one as well. We can use the idea of the Jubilee Year to: Forgive and Reconcile: Just as debts were forgiven in the biblical Jubilee, we are called to forgive others and mend broken relationships. Whether it's personal, family, or even societal divisions, reconciliation brings peace and healing. Ultimately, the Jubilee Year of 2025 presents an invitation to live with hope through renewal and transformation, to celebrate and promote a world of mercy, justice, and reconciliation. By reflecting on this, we can create personal and collective actions that promote hope and healing in our lives and communities.



Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2025 This Holy Year invites us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. We invite you to consider supporting work being done in the Diocese of Westminster to bring hope into many lives. Your contributions will help fund vital projects across our Diocese, including Youth & Evangelisation, Social Action, Marriage & Family Life, and Catholic Education Initiatives. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, extends his heartfelt thanks to all who give what they can to this meaningful cause. Donation envelopes are available today, and you can also contribute online using the QR code.

Readings: Parish Mass Book Page 141

World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) A World Day of Prayer Service (this year prepared by the women of the Cook Islands) will be held at the United Reformed Church, Baldock on Friday 7th March at 2.00pm. Everyone is warmly invited to attend and refreshments will be served after the Service.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 22 nd	6.30pm	
Sun 23 rd	8.30am 10.30am	Fr Michael Targett RIP Kay Arthur RIP
Mon 24 th	10.00am	Joyce Piper - Thanksgiving
Tue 25 th	10.00am	Donel Hickey RIP
Wed 26 th	10.00am	Helen Glennon RIP
Thu 27 th	10.00am	Joseph Scullion
Fri 28 th	No Mass	

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

Pope's Francis' Prayer Intention for February - For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

2025 Parish Dates for your Diary

Friday 7th March - Youth Group: 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

Saturday 8th March - Parish Men's Breakfast: 8.30am - 10.30am.

Saturday 15th March - Baptism Course: 11.00am in the Parish Rooms, followed by two other meetings online.

Saturday 22nd March - Marriage Preparation Course Part 1: 1.30pm online.

Sunday 23rd March - Marriage Preparation Course Part 2: 3.00pm online.

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th March - Cake Sale: Will take place after each weekend Mass.

Saturday 10th May - First Holy Communion Mass: 11.00am.

Sunday 18th May - Confirmation Mass: Bishop Paul McAleenan will confirm the candidates at the 10.30am Mass.

Sunday 6th July - Open Air Mass: 10.30am in the church grounds. *This is the only Mass that weekend.*

Please speak to Fr. Denis if you have any questions regarding these events. Further information will be shared nearer the time.



Your Prayers Are Asked For:



We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish especially Philomena O'Neill, Lynne Cumming and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Helen Glennon and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Ellen Callison, Joan Ryan, Angus Hill, Helen Fitzgibbons, Annie Brennan, Ernest D'Addario, Pierre Borgers, Richard Callaghan, Mary Toal, Margarita Malone, Mary Ann Wrighton.

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.*

Contacts

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