



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



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

## First Sunday of Lent 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025



### Scripture Reflection

Lent is a sacred time in the Christian calendar, a period of reflection, penance, and renewal. It invites us to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter by drawing closer to God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. But at its heart, Lent is more than just a ritual; it is an invitation to grow in holiness and deepen our relationship with Christ.

The First Sunday of Lent provides a profound foundation for this season of reflection. In the Gospel reading, we encounter the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13). After His baptism, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert, where He fasts for forty days and is tempted by the devil. This passage not only reveals the humanity of Jesus, who faces the same trials and temptations we do, but it also highlights His unwavering trust in the Father. Jesus' response to each temptation is rooted in the Scriptures, demonstrating that God's word is the ultimate strength against sin.

As we begin Lent, we are invited to reflect on our own struggles with temptation. Just as Jesus faced challenges in the wilderness, we too face moments of weakness in our spiritual lives. Yet, like Him, we are called to resist temptation through prayer, fasting, and a deeper reliance on God's word. This period of forty days symbolizes a journey of purification, reminding us that we are not alone in our struggles. Christ walks with us, offering strength and grace to help us endure.

Lent is a time for conversion, to reflect on our own temptations and weaknesses, and to return to God with a renewed heart. To experience God's forgiveness. By following the example of Jesus in the wilderness, we can use this season to grow in faith, draw closer to Christ, and prepare to celebrate the victory of His Resurrection at Easter. Fr. Denis

### A prayer for Pope Francis

Heavenly Father,

We lift up Pope Francis to You in prayer. Please grant him strength and comfort during this time of sickness. Surround him with Your love and healing presence. Give wisdom to the doctors and caregivers who attend to him. May he feel the support and prayers of all who care for him. Restore his health and grant him peace. Amen

**Cafod:** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March is Cafod Fast Day when we are asked to fast from food and donate the money to Cafod. There are envelopes at the back of the church. Lent is a time to help those who are poorer than ourselves and to enter into the spirit of Lent, while providing material help as well.

Cafod is an international development charity who reach out to people living in poverty with practical help, whatever their religion or culture. Cafod is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Through their global Church network, one of the largest in the world, they have the potential to reach everyone. They campaign for global justice, so that every woman, man and child can live a full and dignified life.

### Cafod Prayer

**"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.

**Mill Hill Missionaries:** The National Novena to St Joseph takes place between 10-18 March. St Joseph is the Missionaries' Patron and during this Novena we pray for God's peace in our hearts and for the World and for the support of one another through the intercession of St Joseph. The Novena Prayer booklet is available from [www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena)

**Readings: Parish Mass Book Page 153**

### Lenten Programme

**Stations of the Cross** - will be held after the 10.00am Wednesday Mass and every Friday (except Good Friday) at 7.00pm, during Lent.

**Reconciliation - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March** - From 10.30-12.30pm a visiting priest and Fr. Denis will be available for confessions. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during this time.

**Children's Stations of the Cross- Friday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**April** - On Good Friday, at 10.30am.

**Do you have a spare hour or two to listen to children read?** St John's are looking for volunteers to listen to small groups. Training will be given. Even if you're unable to make a regular commitment, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school on: 01462 892478.

### 2025 Parish Dates for your Diary

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

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Marriage Preparation Course Part 1:** 1.30pm online.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Marriage Preparation Course Part 2:** 3.00pm online.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Cake Sale:** Will take place after each weekend Mass.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May - First Holy Communion Mass:** 11.00am.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May - Confirmation Mass:** Bishop Paul McAleenan will confirm the candidates at the 10.30am Mass.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 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.*



### Your Prayers Are Asked For:

We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

*Stephen Wycochi, Eileen Muscovita, Thomas Keenan, Vincent Lewicki, Audrey King, Grainne Kirke, Joyce Fitzgerald, Irma Skeeles, Mary Dilley, Charles McQuade, Daphne Salisbury, Daisy Kulcullun, Ursula Duffer, Michael Collins.*

### Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Emma Q Sian RIP
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Nooreen Keene RIP Vincent Lewicki RIP
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Irma Skeeles
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Tom Keenan RIP
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Pat Gibson
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	

*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.**

### 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