



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



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

Forth Sunday of Lent 30th March 2025

Welcoming the Lost with Open Arms

The story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) is one of the most powerful images of God's mercy. It speaks to all of us—those who have wandered far and those who have remained faithful. The beauty of this parable is not just in the son's return but in the father's response: an embrace filled with love, not judgment; a feast of joy, not condemnation.

The younger son, blinded by self-interest, leaves home in pursuit of pleasure, only to find himself broken and empty. Yet, in his lowest moment, he remembers his father—a father whose love is greater than his mistakes. When he returns home, expecting rejection or punishment, he is instead met with open arms, a robe, a ring, and a feast. How often do we find ourselves lost in life—caught up in selfish desires, distant from God, or unsure of our way? And yet, God waits for us with open arms, eager to restore us to His grace. His love is not given in measure but in abundance, welcoming every repentant heart back into His family.

As we reflect on this Gospel, let us ask ourselves: Do we have the courage to return when we have strayed? And just as importantly, do we, like the father, extend mercy and welcome to those seeking to find their way home?

This Sunday, let us rejoice in the infinite mercy of God, who never gives up on us, and strive to be people who reflect His love in our families, our parish, and our community.

“This son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.”
(Luke 15:24)

Lenten Reflections: Walking the Path of Conversion

1. A Call to Repentance

“You cannot be half a saint; you must be a whole saint or no saint at all.” - St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Lent is a time of wholehearted conversion. As we fast, pray, and give alms, let us ask the Lord to renew our hearts completely, not just partially. May we allow His grace to transform us into saints, fully devoted to His will.

2. The Power of the Cross

“Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven.” - St. Rose of Lima

The sacrifices of Lent remind us that the road to Easter passes through Calvary. Our sufferings, when united with Christ's, become a means of grace. Let us embrace the cross with love, knowing that resurrection follows.

3. The Gift of Silence

“It is best to learn to silence the faculties and to cause them to be still, so that God may speak.” - St. John of the Cross

In a noisy world, Lent invites us to enter into silence, to listen to God's voice in prayer. Can we take moments each day to be still, to surrender distractions, and to let the Lord speak to our hearts?

4. Mercy and Forgiveness

“If God sends you many sufferings, it is a sign that He has great plans for you and that He certainly intends to make you a saint.” - St. Ignatius of Loyola

Lent is a season of mercy. It is a time to seek reconciliation with God and one another. The Sacrament of Confession is a great gift—let us approach it with trust, knowing that God longs to embrace us with His love.

Lenten Programme

Reconciliation - Saturday 5th April -10am till 11am Fr. Denis will be available for confessions. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during this time.

Stations of the Cross - after the 10am Wednesday Mass and every Friday at 7.00pm, during Lent.

Services for Holy Week

Holy Thursday -17th April

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm

Good Friday - 18th April

Children's Stations of the Cross at 10.30am

Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm

Easter Vigil - Saturday 19th April

Mass at 8.30pm

Easter Sunday - 20th April

Mass at 8.30am & 10.30am

Divine Mercy Sunday - 27th April

Holy Hour and confessions at 2.45pm

Readings: Parish Mass Book Page 168

Lenten Prayer: A Heart Renewed

*Lord Jesus,
As we journey through this Lenten season,
Open our hearts to Your grace.
Teach us to fast from selfishness,
To feast on Your Word,
To pray with sincerity,
And to give with joy.
May this holy season bring us closer to You,
So that we may rise with You in glory at Easter.
Amen*

Craft & Chat: Will take place on Friday 4th April, 9.30-11am. This group is for any adults who enjoy knitting, crochet, or any form of hand sewing, embroidery etc. Tuition can also be given to any adults who wish to learn how to knit/crochet. Price per session is £2.

2025 Parish Dates for your Diary

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.



Your Prayers Are Asked For:

We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish, especially Peter Comiski, Gerri Quinn, Ray Carter and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Christine Philbin and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Josef Jarosz, Patrick Heffernan, Agnes Wilson, Marguerite Wilson, John Campbell, Doris Bartram, Sean Duggan, Vera Holmes-Walker, Francesca Walsh, Geoff Rota, Brian Sutton, Fr Robert Holmes Walker.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 29 th	6.30pm	John Joe Cooney
Sun 30 th	8.30am 10.30am	
Mon 31 st	10.00am	Brian Porter RIP
Tue 1 st	10.00am	Private Intention - Happy Birthday
Wed 2 nd	10.00am	
Thu 3 rd	10.00am	
Fri 4 th	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.

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

The Vigil Mass (6.30pm) and the Sunday Mass (10.30am) can be watched online via 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

To receive an email copy of the Newsletter, please visit our website:

parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock and click on 'Subscribe to Alerts' at the bottom of the page.