



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



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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

6th April 2025

Gospel Reflection

In this powerful narrative, the scribes and Pharisees bring before Jesus a woman accused of adultery, hoping to trap Him in a dilemma. According to the Law of Moses, she should be stoned to death, yet Jesus responds with the famous words, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

This encounter highlights several layers of spiritual and human truths. First, it reveals the hypocrisy of the accusers. They are quick to condemn the woman, yet their own sins go unnoticed. Jesus shifts the focus from judgment to introspection, forcing each person to confront their own imperfections. His challenge is not just to the accusers but to all of us: before we cast judgment on others, we must examine our own hearts.

Second, the Gospel emphasizes God's mercy and forgiveness. Jesus does not condone the woman's sin but offers her an opportunity for redemption. "Neither do I condemn you," He tells her. This is not an endorsement of sin, but an invitation to repentance and transformation. Jesus' actions reveal the compassionate heart of God, who is always ready to forgive those who sincerely turn to Him.

Finally, this passage invites us to reflect on our own attitudes toward judgment and mercy. Are we quick to condemn, or do we reflect God's mercy in our dealings with others? As we continue our Lenten journey, we are called to seek forgiveness, extend mercy, and embrace the transformative love of Christ. Jesus' challenge to the accusers is a reminder that all of us stand in need of God's grace.

Charity as life in faith

When we make room for the love of God, then we become like him, sharing in his own charity. If we open ourselves to his love, we allow him to live in us and to bring us to love with him, in him and like him; only then does our faith become truly "active through love"; only then does he abide in us. Faith is knowing the truth and adhering to it; charity is "walking" in the truth. Through faith we enter into friendship with the Lord, through charity this friendship is lived and cultivated.

Faith causes us to embrace the commandment of our Lord and Master; charity gives us the happiness of putting it into practice. In faith we are begotten as children of God; charity causes us to persevere concretely in our divine Sonship, bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Faith enables us to recognize the gifts that the good and generous God has entrusted to us; charity makes them fruitful. **Pope Benedict**

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - Sunday 27th April Holy Hour and Confessions at 2.45pm - 4.00pm

The Feast of Divine Mercy, celebrated on the Octave of Easter (the Sunday after Easter), is a relatively new addition to the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar. Celebrating the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ, as revealed by Christ Himself to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, was extended to the entire Catholic Church by St John Paul II in 2000, the day that he canonized Saint Faustina. There will be a holy hour in honour of divine Mercy here in the church on Sunday. There is a Novena which begins on Good Friday and ends on Divine Mercy Sunday. **Priests will be available to hear confessions during holy hour.**

Lenten Programme

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 176

Pope's Intention for April

For the use of the new technologies - Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times. Amen.

The Terminal Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

Following on from this weekend's Pastoral Letter from the Cardinal - We would like to ask you to appeal to your MP and ask them to vote against the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill.

Cakes 4R Church

A massive THANK YOU to everyone who baked or bought some delicious cakes or just generously gave a donation last weekend. ... we raised a grand total of £343.50 🐣🐣 which goes straight back in to the church funds.

2025 Parish Dates for your Diary

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, Ray Carter and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Christine Philbin, Gerry Quinn, Pat Worbey, Marie McCallister and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Theresa Mahoney, Robert Grey, Josuah Corby, John Albone, Lisa Gratte, Norah O'Leary, James Harkin, Mary Piper, Margaret Delaney, Teresa Casey, Patrick Bowen, Margaret Lee, Nuala Darling, Ivy Cesvette, Patrick Hearne, Concetta Lanni.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 5 th	6.30pm	Patrick Heaney Intentions
Sun 6 th	8.30am 10.30am	
Mon 7 th	10.00am	
Tue 8 th	10.00am	
Wed 9 th	10.00am	
Thu 10 th	10.00am	Margaret Lee & All deceased Lee Family
Fri 11 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: stjohs4.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.