

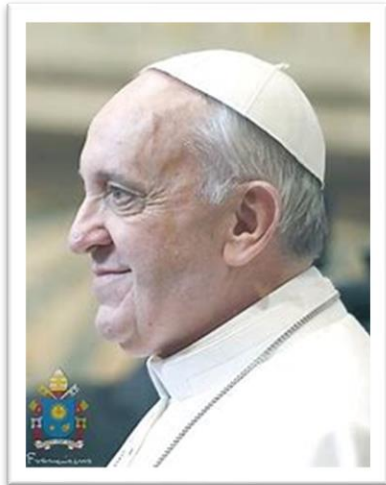


CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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

Divine Mercy Sunday 27th April 2025



In Loving Memory: Pope Francis (Jorge Mario Bergoglio) 1936 - 2025

With deep sorrow and abiding gratitude, the Catholic Church mourns the passing of Pope Francis, who departed this life peacefully in 2025 at the age of 88. As the 266th pontiff and the first from the Americas, Pope Francis will be remembered as a transformative shepherd whose papacy was marked by humility, compassion, and a bold call to mercy and justice.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on December 17, 1936, Jorge Mario Bergoglio was the son of Italian immigrants and grew up in a modest, working-class home. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1958 and was ordained a priest in 1969.

Throughout his priesthood and episcopacy, he demonstrated a deep concern for the marginalized, embodying the Jesuit spirit of service and simplicity. Elevated to the College of Cardinals in 2001 by Pope John Paul II, he became known for his humility, often seen riding public transportation and living in a small apartment rather than the cardinal's residence.

On March 13, 2013, following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Bergoglio was elected pope—the first Jesuit, the first from Latin America, and the first to take the name Francis, inspired by St. Francis of Assisi. This choice signalled a papacy rooted in humility, care for creation, and solidarity with the poor. Pope Francis quickly became a global spiritual leader whose influence extended far beyond the

Catholic world. His landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'* (2015) called for urgent ecological conversion and care for our common home, awakening global awareness to environmental degradation and climate justice. His apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) urged the Church to be more missionary and joyful, moving toward the peripheries and reaching those on the margins. In *Amoris Laetitia* (2016), he emphasized the importance of mercy and discernment in family life, encouraging a pastoral approach that balances truth with compassion. Through *Fratelli Tutti* (2020), he envisioned a world of universal fraternity, challenging all people to reject indifference and build a civilization of love. At the heart of his writings was a consistent call to mercy—a Church that is “a field hospital after battle,” reaching out to the wounded with tenderness and grace. He frequently reminded the faithful that “the name of God is Mercy,” and that the Church must open its doors wide to all, especially those most in need.

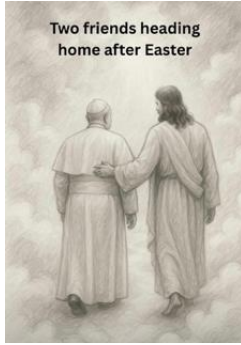
Pope Francis also worked tirelessly to reform the Roman Curia, promote interfaith dialogue, address the clergy abuse crisis with humility and resolve, and model a Church that listens, accompanies, and serves. As we reflect on his life, we give thanks for a pope who walked with the people, who saw Christ in the poor, and who challenged the Church to live the Gospel with courage and joy. May his soul rest in God's eternal peace, and may his example continue to inspire the faithful around the world.

A Prayer for Pope Francis

Eternal Father,
We thank You for the life and service of Pope Francis, your faithful shepherd who guided Your Church with humility, compassion, and love. In his words and actions, he revealed Your mercy And called us to care for the poor, the earth, and one another.

Now, Lord, receive him into Your eternal embrace. Grant him the peace he so often preached, the rest he so deeply deserves, And the joy of being united with You, whom he served with all his heart. And may his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, Through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

Readings: Parish Mass Book Page 256



Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 26 th	8.30pm	Terry Gee RIP
Sun 27 th	8.30am 10.30am	Eleanor Sian RIP Monique Mbeutcha 11 th Birthday
Mon 28 th	10.00am	Saint George Marie McAlister RIP
Tue 29 th	10.00am	Saint Catherine of Siena
Wed 30 th	10.00am	
Thu 1 st	No Mass	
Fri 2 nd	No Mass	Saint Athanasius

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.**

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.

Funeral Dates

Marie McAlister - Monday 28th April at 11.30am

- Mass at The Holy Trinity Church

Robert Darling - Tuesday 6th May at 11.30am

- Mass at The Holy Trinity Church

Craft & Chat: Our next meeting is on Friday 2nd May, 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 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.

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



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 Marie McAlister, Robert Darling and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

June Mason, Charles Canty, Peter Dejkalo, Pamela Prior, Peter King, Eliza Impey, Elizabeth McClennan, Martin Conway, Margaret Hesse, Mary Haywood, William Lee, Martin Jurgulanic, Edmund Topajka.

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.