



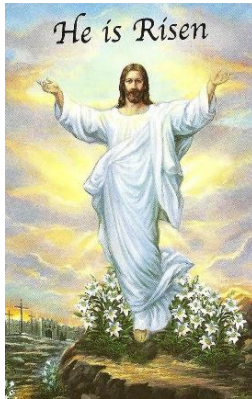
CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

18th May 2025



The Gospel Reflection

In this passage, Jesus speaks to His disciples about His impending glorification and gives them a **new commandment: to love one another as He has loved them**. He emphasizes that this love will be the defining mark of His followers.

Jesus' words in this Gospel passage come at a pivotal moment—just after Judas leaves to betray Him. Despite knowing what is to come, Jesus does not focus on His suffering but on the **love** that should unite His disciples. He calls them to a **higher standard of love**, one that mirrors His own **selfless, sacrificial** love.

This commandment is not just about being kind—it is about **radical love**, the kind that forgives, serves, and puts others before oneself. It is the love that led Jesus to wash His disciples' feet and ultimately give His life for them. He does not ask for mere affection but for **action**—love that is visible, transformative, and enduring.

In today's world, where division and conflict often overshadow unity, this Gospel challenges us to reflect: **How do we love?** Do we love only when it is convenient, or do we love as Christ did—without conditions? This passage reminds us that **true discipleship** is not measured by words or rituals but by the **love we show to others**.

As we journey through Easter, let us strive to embody this love in our daily lives. May our actions reflect Christ's love, drawing others closer to Him. **Amen.**

Queen of the May

May is a month that is loved, and its arrival is welcome for several reasons. In our hemisphere spring advances with so many colourful blossoms; the climate is favourable for walks and excursions. For the liturgy, May always belongs to the Easter Season, the season of the "alleluia," of the revelation of the mystery of Christ in the light of the Resurrection and of the Easter faith; and it is the time of expectation of the Holy Spirit, who descends with power on the nascent Church at Pentecost.

With both these contexts, the "natural" and the liturgical, the tradition of the Church is well in tune in dedicating the month of May to the Virgin Mary. She is, in fact, the most beautiful flower to blossom in creation, the "rose" that appeared in the fullness of time, when God, sending his Son, gave the world a new spring. And she is, at the same time, a humble and discreet protagonist of the first steps of the Christian community: Mary is its spiritual heart, because her very presence in the midst of the disciples is a living memory of the Lord Jesus and pledge of the gift of his Spirit.

Mary was the first to fully observe the word of her Son, and so demonstrating that she loved him not only as his mother, but as a humble and obedient handmaid; because of this God the Father loved her and the Most Holy Trinity made its dwelling in her. Moreover, when Jesus promises his friends that the Holy Spirit will assist them, helping them to remember and understand profoundly every word of his, how can we not think of Mary, who in her heart, temple of the Spirit, meditated and interpreted faithfully everything that her Son said and did? In this way, already before and above all after Easter, the Mother of Jesus became also the Mother and model of the Church.

Let us invoke the intercession of the Virgin Mary for the Church, and for peace in the world, and for the Love of Christ to dwell in our homes.

Fr. Denis

Congratulations to Beatriz, Benjamin, Allaryce, Harry, Leopold, Chastity, Caroline and Ruby who are making their confirmation this weekend. May God bless and strengthen them on their journey of faith through life.



Mass Times and Intentions

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|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| Sat 17 th | 8.30pm | Marie McAlister RIP |
| Sun 18 th | 8.30am 10.30am | Christine McCullagh RIP Francesco & Virginia Cataldo |
| Mon 19 th | 10.00am | Peter Bobbin |
| Tue 20 th | 10.00am | |
| Wed 21 st | 10.00am | Peter Curley |
| Thu 22 nd | 10.00am | Marie Alexander RIP |
| Fri 23 rd | 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.**

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Lord source of eternal life and truth, Grant wisdom and strength to your servant, Pope Leo XIV. May he lead with courage, compassion, and faith, Guiding your Church in love and unity. Fill his heart with the light of your Spirit, that he may be a beacon of hope to the world. Bless his words and actions, that they may reflect your truth and justice.

May he walk humbly in your presence, Serving with grace and devotion. Protect him from all harm, and grant him peace in his mission. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Priest Training Fund Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. It is not too late to donate if you wish. Envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. For more information, or to donate, visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

The Friends of the Holy Land is a national charity based in Kenilworth, helping vulnerable Christians in the Holy Land. At all Masses over the weekend of the 1st June there will be a short presentation by their Chief Executive, Brendan Metcalfe, followed by a retiring collection.

2025 Parish Dates for your Diary

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

Sunday 17th August - Blessing of the Graves: 12.30pm at Baldock Cemetery.

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 Tara Ferrissey, Peter Comiski, Ray Carter and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Veronica Eccles and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Frederick Szymiczek, Francesco Picillo, Walter Picking, Michael Madigan, Daniel Barrett, Theresa Biggins, Michael Harrington, Mary Morrissey, Pietro Micele, Eileen Heffernan, Olindo Lanni, Anthony Callaghan, Freda Worbey, Annie Heaney, Patrick Kilbride.

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.