



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



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

Sixth Sunday of Easter 25th May 2025

Pope Leo XIV homily at his inaugural Mass

Brothers and Sisters, I greet all of you with a heart full of gratitude at the beginning of the ministry that has been entrusted to me. St. Augustine wrote: “Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you” (Confessions, I: 1,1).

In these days, we have experienced intense emotions. The death of Pope Francis filled our hearts with sadness. In those difficult hours, we felt like the crowds that the Gospel says were “like sheep without a shepherd” (Mt 9:36). Yet on Easter Sunday, we received his final blessing and, in the light of the Resurrection, we experienced the days that followed in the certainty that the Lord never abandons his people but gathers them when they are scattered and guards them “as a shepherd guards his flock” (Jer 31:10).

In this spirit of faith, the College of Cardinals met for the conclave. Coming from different backgrounds and experiences, we placed in God’s hands our desire to elect the new successor of Peter, the bishop of Rome, a shepherd capable of preserving the rich heritage of the Christian faith and, at the same time, looking to the future, in order to confront the questions, concerns, and challenges of today’s world. Accompanied by your prayers, we could feel the working of the Holy Spirit, who was able to bring us into harmony, like musical instruments, so that our heartstrings could vibrate in a single melody.

I was chosen, without any merit of my own, and now, with fear and trembling, I come to you as a brother, who desires to be the servant of your faith and your joy, walking with you on the path of God’s love, for he wants us all to be united in one family...

With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God’s love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made “restless” by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity. Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk toward God and love one another.
Pope Leo

Pope Leo XIV's symbols of office

Coat of Arms: His shield is divided diagonally—one half features a **white fleur-de-lis on a blue background**, symbolizing the Virgin Mary, while the other displays a **heart pierced by an arrow resting on a book**, representing Saint Augustine's teachings.



Motto ("In Illo Uno Unum")

This phrase, meaning “*In the One, we are one,*” comes from Saint Augustine's writings and reflects Leo XIV's commitment to unity within the Church.

Ring of the Fisherman: symbolizes his role as the successor of Saint Peter, During the Mass of Inauguration of his pontificate on May 18, Pope Leo XIV received the Ring of the Fisherman—a symbol of the Petrine Ministry with deep roots in the New Testament.

Bearing an image of St. Peter, the ring has New Testament roots and significance. In the Gospel of Matthew (16:19), St. Peter was given the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, and in the Gospel of Luke 22:32, Jesus tells Peter he must strengthen his brothers in the faith and mission.

The Ring of the Fisherman thus authenticates the faith and symbolizes the duty with which the first Pope was entrusted. As Peter is known as the fisherman Apostle, the ring is referred to as the Ring of the Fisherman, or the Piscatory Ring, symbolizing the continuous lineage from the first Pope to today. *(continue on next page)*

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This ring has been part of the symbols of the papacy since at least the 13th century. It was used as a signet ring to seal official documents signed by the Pope until 1842. Now, it is used symbolically, but every Pope still has a ring.

When the Pope dies, his Ring of the Fisherman, along with the Lead Seal, is marked with a chisel, thereby ensuring the seal cannot be forged. Therefore, every ring is unique and personal to each Pope.

Now, Pope Leo XIV continues the tradition of the Ring of the Fisherman, with an image of St. Peter with the keys and the net—signalling the passing of the torch, as the 266th Successor to St. Peter now officially undertakes the mission entrusted to St. Peter over 2 millennia ago.

Young@❤️: Our next coffee morning will be held on Thursday 12th June after the 10am mass. We provide the tea & cake, so you can come along for the chat. Cake donations also welcome. See you there!

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, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Margaret Tschulik, Ann Murphy, Mary Frazer, Edward Valentine Walsh, Rosina Insole, Gill Daniel, Gill Daniel, Elizabeth Miller.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 24 th	8.30pm	Nora Chrisal RIP
Sun 25 th	8.30am 10.30am	Steve Forster RIP Agnes Sian RIP
Mon 26 th	10.00am	Alison Blanchfield RIP Saint Philip Neri
Tue 27 th	10.00am	Saint Augustine of Canterbury
Wed 28 th	10.00am 7.30pm	The Vigil Mass of The Ascension of the Lord
Thu 29 th	10.00am	The Ascension of the Lord
Fri 30 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.