



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



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

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 6th July 2025

Annual Open-Air Mass & Parish BBQ

Today is our Annual Parish Open-Air Mass. Thank you to everyone who have helped to bring about this wonderful occasion. We must thank ticket sellers, caterers, shifters - (furniture movers), and especially the scouts who have loaned and helped to erect the tents and gazebos. This is a great occasion when those of us who tend to go to the same Mass every week, get to know our fellow parishioners. Do stay for tea and biscuits if you aren't coming to the BBQ.

The history of the Catholic church in Baldock

This weekend we celebrate 112 years of the construction of the first parish church in Baldock in 1913, it's good to celebrate who we are; the parish community here and now, and remembering those in the parish who have gone before us.

We are one of many other Christian denominations in Baldock. When the first parish priest came here in 1913 relationships between the churches were not as good as they are now. The first mass was celebrated in the George and Dragon pub which later became The George. It had been 354 years since the last catholic mass had been celebrated by a catholic parish priest. When Fr Basil Barton came here on the 27th January 1913 there was no church, no school and no parish house. His main task was to get a church built. The name of the church, Holy Trinity came from one of the benefactresses, and as it was St Augustine who was sent to England to convert the English to Christianity, Cardinal Bourne added the dedication to St Augustine of Canterbury And so we were named the Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Canterbury
The first church opened on July 2nd 1913, Fr. Basil said that: 'it was a happy day but what pleased me most were two things, before mass', he said: '*I lit the sanctuary lamp, a simple act but with profound meaning*', and the other was the blessed sacrament being placed in the tabernacle; After being without the Blessed Sacrament while he was living in the hotel. We have a great gift here to have the Blessed Sacrament in our midst. Fr Barton left Baldock in 1919. His achievement had been to establish a

catholic community here in Baldock and create good links with the local community which made the work for his successors and future generations of Catholics much easier than it might have been. Fr. Basil Barton did a great deal of good which would only be seen after his death. Looking back, we can see that he laid the foundations for the future life of the parish here in Baldock. A lot of what we do in the church takes time for the seeds we plant to grow, and the Lord gives the water to enable us to grow. We give thanks to God for the gift of this parish and for those who laid the foundations.

First Holy Communion 2026 Programme (Open to any child in Year 3 or above)

Saturday 27th September between 10.00am - 11.30am: for parents to meet with Fr. Denis and complete their child's application form for First Holy Communion. If your child was not Baptised in Baldock please bring their Baptism certificate with you. The sessions commence in November 2025 and the children will make their First Holy Communion in May 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Denis.

Fr Michael Stewart RIP

I heard recently of the sad news of the death of Fr Michael Stewart. Fr Michael supplied here as a supply priest for many years, He died peacefully at St Anne's Care Home in Stoke Newington where he had recently taken up residence. Fr Michael was born in Newport, south Wales on 28 April 1935. Considered to be a 'late vocation' he studied for the priesthood at Allen Hall for a year before going to the Beda in Rome. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Westminster on 3 July 1982.

Condolences are extended to Fr Michael's family, friends and colleagues and to the parishioners of the parishes where he served in this Diocese and, briefly, in the Diocese of Brentwood and to the Sisters, staff and residents at St Anne's Care Home.

Congratulations to Father Denis who on Wednesday 6th July, will celebrate the 23rd Anniversary of his ordination!!

Sunday Readings: Parish Mass Book Page 105



Mary's Meals You have until **Sunday 13th July** to return your envelopes with all your foreign coins/notes in it. Mary's Meals currently feeds over 2.4 million children one good meal every school day and we want to reach many more.

The funeral of Peter Comiskey, will take place on Tuesday 15th July at 12.30pm, his family invite you to join them to celebrate Peter at a Requiem Mass. Followed by a cremation at North Herts Crematorium.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham - Saturday 20th September A wonderful opportunity to be part of this year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham. Ticket options: adult £35; child 6 to 12year old £15; child 0 to 5year old, free. The ticket is inclusive of travel by coach and the pilgrim's levy. The coach will be leaving from St. Hugh, Letchworth at 8am. We expect tickets to sell fast due to it being the Jubilee year, so please **email** Jo in the Parish Office now to book your place to avoid disappointment.

2025 Parish Dates for your Diary

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

Saturday 13th September - Extra-Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers' Day: 10.00am - 12.30pm, followed by lunch.

Saturday 20th September - Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham: 8am, leaving from Letchworth.

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, Ray Carter, Sally-Ann Riegel and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Peter Comiskey, Fr. Michael Steward and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Maria Averti, James Cairns, George Rathnow, Fr Terence Wardle, Thomas Barr, Norina D'Addario, Dorothy Osborne, Philomena McTigue, Anna Ohtani, Monica Byrne, Hugh Kirke.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 5 th	No Mass	
Sun 6 th	10.30am	Gary Roberts - Hospital
Mon 7 th	10.00am	Patrick & Nellie Fitzpatrick
Tue 8 th	10.00am	People of the Parish
Wed 9 th	10.00am	Michael Connors - RIP
Thu 10 th	10.00am	Pamela Steele - Birthday
Fri 11 th	No Mass	Saint Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe

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.