



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



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

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 20th July 2025

Scripture Reflection

As we move through the heart of summer, today's readings offer a timely invitation to slow down, open our hearts, and make space for God's presence. The long, warm days often bring a more relaxed pace—vacations, family gatherings, time in nature. Yet even in this slower rhythm, we can be pulled in many directions. Today, Scripture gently calls us back to what truly matters.

In the first reading from Genesis (18:1-10), Abraham welcomes three mysterious visitors under the oak of Mamre. Though it is the heat of the day, he sets everything aside to offer hospitality. His attentive generosity becomes the setting for a divine revelation—his wife Sarah will bear a son. Abraham's openness reminds us that God often arrives when we least expect, and it is through simple acts of kindness and attention that we encounter the holy.

The Gospel from Luke (10:38-42) continues this theme of presence. Jesus visits the home of Martha and Mary. Martha, like so many of us, is busy with serving—perhaps anxious to offer her best. Mary, however, sits quietly at Jesus' feet, listening. When Martha complains, Jesus responds not with criticism but with compassion: "Mary has chosen the better part." It's not that Martha's work is unimportant, but that attentiveness to Christ must come first.

Summer offers us this same opportunity. With fewer demands and more time outdoors, we are invited to pause and listen—to God, to others, and to ourselves. Whether in quiet prayer, a walk in nature, or a heartfelt conversation, we are called to choose the "better part."

This Sunday, may we receive the season as a gift—not just of rest, but of renewal. Like Abraham and Mary, let us welcome God into our homes and hearts, not through busyness, but through presence, stillness, and love.

A Summer Prayer

Loving God,
As the warmth of summer surrounds us,
we thank You for the beauty of creation—
for long days, blooming flowers, golden fields,
and the gentle rhythm that invites us to rest.

In this season of light and growth,
help us to slow down and see Your hand in all
things. Teach us to listen more deeply—to nature,
to one another, and to Your quiet voice within.
May we find moments of stillness to be renewed
in body, mind, and spirit.

Bless our families, our travels, our gatherings,
and all who seek peace and refreshment in these
summer days. Be close to those who cannot rest—
those who labour, suffer, or feel alone.
Let them know Your comfort and care.

As our parish community journeys through this
season, may we grow in love, faith, and
gratitude, always mindful of Your presence
among us. Amen.

Blessing of the Graves - Sunday 17th August

The Sunday closest to the Feast of the Assumption, Father Denis will lead a small service at Baldock Cemetery at 12.30pm, which is just off The Sycamores, next to The Orange Tree Pub. He will be blessing the graves of all our loved ones.

First Holy Communion 2026 Programme -

Saturday 27th September An opportunity for parents to come and meet with Fr Denis between 10am - 11.30am to complete their child's application form for First Holy Communion (*open to any child in Yr3 or above*). 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.

Funeral

Fr Michael Steward: Friday 8th August, 2pm - Marychurch, 26 Salisbury Square, Hatfield, AL6 5JD.

The Holy Father's Intentions

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. We are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. The month of July is: **For formation in discernment**

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

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. The return is scheduled around 4.30pm from Walsingham. 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.

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, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Dorothy Hutton, Martha Bridgeman, Denis Francis, Daniel Huggins, Norman Biggins, Kathleen East, Thomas Dwyer, Edith Heady, Stefan Smolka, Martin O Leary, John Stredwick, Ann Lynch, Gladys Clare, Arthur Crook, John Casey, Paul Bugil, Mary Light, Kevin Seddon.

TEA AND COFFEE (& BISCUITS) AVAILABLE



AFTER 10.30 MASS EVERY SUNDAY

Mass Times and Intentions

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| Sat 19 th | 6.30pm | <i>Michael McIntyre</i> |
| Sun 20 th | 8.30am 10.30am | <i>Norman & Theresa Biggins RIP For the People of the Parish</i> |
| Mon 21 st | 10.00am | |
| Tue 22 nd | 10.00am | Saint Mary Magdalene |
| Wed 23 rd | 10.00am | Saint Bridget of Sweden |
| Thu 24 th | 10.00am | <i>Jasmine Laver</i> |
| Fri 25 th | No Mass | Saint James, Apostle |

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.