



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



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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary

Time

27th July 2025

Reflection on the Sunday Readings

This Sunday's readings invite us to pause and reflect on the fleeting nature of earthly possessions and the enduring value of spiritual richness. In Ecclesiastes, we hear the lament of Qoheleth: "Vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!"—a stark reminder that toil and material gain, without purpose rooted in God, ultimately leave us empty.

The Psalm echoes this theme, urging us to "number our days aright" so we may gain wisdom of heart. It's a call to live intentionally, recognising each day as a gift and an opportunity to grow in grace.

St. Paul's letter to the Colossians shifts our gaze heavenward: "Seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God." He challenges us to shed the old self—marked by greed, impurity, and falsehood—and embrace the new self, renewed in the image of our Creator.

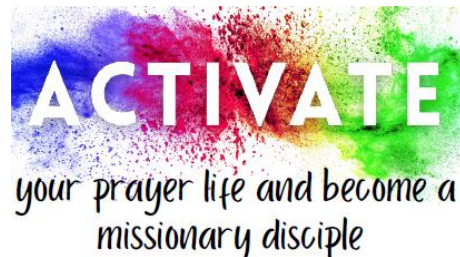
In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool, who stores up wealth only to lose his life that very night. "You fool," God says, "this night your life will be demanded of you." The man's error wasn't his success, but his failure to be "rich in what matters to God".

🌿 In North Hertfordshire, where community and countryside meet, these readings speak powerfully. They remind us that true wealth lies not in barns or bank accounts, but in compassion, generosity, and our relationship with Christ. As we enjoy the blessings of summer, may we also cultivate hearts that are rich in mercy and love.

Let us ask ourselves: Are we building bigger barns, or deeper faith? May this Sunday's message inspire us to live with purpose, share with joy, and seek the treasures that do not fade.

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.



Are you seeking to develop a dynamic, personal relationship with God through prayer? Prayer is the foundation of Spirit-filled missionary discipleship – yet many have never been truly activated in personal prayer. Mission Matters in collaboration with Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) are offering Activate courses, where your community can discover how to: Build a consistent and life-giving prayer routine; Recognize how God is speaking to them personally; and Discern how they are being called to witness and serve others Whether you're just beginning your journey or looking to go deeper, activate will equip you to live your faith with clarity, conviction, and courage. Either scan to book, or if you want to find out more, before signing up to the course, join one of the online webinars to find out more - <https://cco.ca/activatehome/ministryleader/>



Marriage enrichment weekend:
27th - 28th September.

St George's Sudbury
(non-residential).

A time to refresh, enrich and deepen your couple relationship. Our MFL Coordinator and his wife are part of the presenting team.



The Holy Father's Intention for July - 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.

Sunday Readings: Parish Mass Book Page 114

Craft & Chat Our next meeting is on Friday 1st August, 9.30 to 11am. This group welcomes any adults who enjoy sewing, knitting etc, Tuition can also be given to any adult who would like to learn how to knit/ crochet. We charge £2 per session which goes towards the parish building fund.

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.

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. Please **email** Jo in the Parish Office to book your place.

Sunday Tea & Coffee The team are taking a break during August so there will be no teas & coffees served after 10.30 Mass, except for Sunday 17th August before the Blessing of the graves. The usual Sunday refreshments will resume on September 7th.

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:

Sr Brigid Maher, Ray Knight, William O'Mahony, Barry Huber, Stanley Bain, Annie Davey, Lucia Hawkins, Beryl Smyth, Margaret Velickovic, Paul Howitt

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 26 th	6.30pm	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Sun 27 th	8.30am 10.30am	<i>Ray Knight RIP Barry Huber RIP</i>
Mon 28 th	10.00am	
Tue 29 th	10.00am	Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Wed 30 th	10.00am	
Thu 31 st	10.00am	Saint Ignatius of Loyola
Fri 1 st	No Mass	Saint Alphonsus Liguori

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.