



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



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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 7th September 2025

Scripture Reflection (Luke 14:25-33)

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus turns to the large crowd following Him and delivers a message that's as startling as it is sobering: "Whoever does not hate father and mother... cannot be my disciple." At first glance, these words seem harsh, even contradictory to Jesus' message of love. But He's not advocating hatred—He's calling for radical prioritization. Discipleship demands that our love for Christ surpasses all other attachments, even those most sacred.

Jesus then speaks of carrying one's cross and counting the cost—like a builder planning a tower or a king preparing for war. These images remind us that following Christ is not a casual stroll; it's a deliberate, costly commitment. Faith isn't just about admiration or proximity to Jesus—it's about transformation and surrender.

In our modern lives, this Gospel challenges us to examine what we cling to. Are there relationships, habits, or comforts that we place above our call to follow Christ? Are we willing to carry the cross of inconvenience, sacrifice, or even rejection for the sake of the Gospel?

This passage is not meant to discourage—it's meant to awaken. Jesus doesn't want half-hearted followers. He wants disciples who are all in, who have counted the cost and still say "yes." It's a call to maturity in faith, to move beyond spiritual consumerism and embrace the depth of commitment that true discipleship requires.

As we reflect this Sunday, may we ask ourselves: Have I truly counted the cost of following Jesus? And if not, am I ready to begin?

† *"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."* — Luke 14:27

Let this be a week of recommitment, courage, and clarity in our walk with Christ.

After the Summer Break

Welcome back after the summer break, some of us, were fortunate enough to have been away on summer holidays, and for others, it will have been a stay vacation. It has been quiet around the church, without the children being at school, so it's nice to have you all back this week.

Back to School

As we start a new academic year, we are thinking of those children who are going to secondary schools for the first time, and those younger children starting at our primary school St John's. It can be a bit nerve racking, and so we keep them in our prayers. So, it's back to school, back to work, and back to church with batteries hopefully recharged. Fr. Denis

A word of thanks to Jennifer Blanchfield who is standing down as parish bookkeeper, for all her hard work of these last few years. She will be greatly missed. And a word of welcome to Leanne O Neil who will be taking over as our new parish bookkeeper. She will now join Jo Chrysandreas, who is our parish administrator.

The Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary

This Monday we celebrate the Nativity of Mary. Mary was born to be the mother of the Saviour of the world, the spiritual mother of all people, and the holiest of God's creatures. Because of her Son's infinite merits, she was conceived and born immaculate and full of grace. Through her, Queen of heaven and of earth, all grace is given to everyone. Through her, by the will of the Trinity, the unbelieving receive the gift of faith; the afflicted are tendered the works of mercy; and the members of Christ grow in likeness of their Head. In Mary all human nature is exalted. We rejoice in her birthday as the Church has done from the earliest times. This is one of the three birthdays in the Church Calendar — the Birth of Jesus (December 25), the Birth of John the Baptist (June 24) and the Birthday of Mary. All three were born without original sin, although Mary and Jesus were conceived without sin, and St. John was cleansed of original sin while in the womb at the Visitation of Mary.

The Saint John Henry Newman School Open Evening: JHN warmly invites parents of Year 6 pupils to an Open Evening on Thursday 25th September, from 5.30 -8.00pm. The last tour will be at 7:00pm.

Sunday Readings: Parish Mass Book Page 133

First Holy Communion - 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.

Confirmation 2025-2026: Preparation will begin again in the Autumn term. If you are in year 9 or 10, please consider if you wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the parish. More details will follow. We hope to run the first meeting in December, with candidates and parents, and subsequent meetings will then take place on a Saturday evening before Mass.

Do you have a spare hour or two to listen to children read? St John's are looking for volunteers to listen to small groups. Training will be given. Even if you're unable to make a regular commitment, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school on: 01462 892478.

Children's Liturgy: Will be back on the 14th September and will be held weekly at the 10.30 Sunday Mass. The first Sunday of every month is a Family Mass and the children then will stay with us as we celebrate mass together.

2025 Parish Dates for your Diary

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

Richard Vallance, Daniel Hickey, John Markey, Margaret Dowdall, Fryderyk Wisniowski, Ann Jones, Magda Horvath, Philip Corke.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 6 th	6.30pm	Angela Gray RIP
Sun 7 th	8.30am 10.30am	Betty Knight RIP Claudia Pater RIP
Mon 8 th	No Mass	The Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary
Tue 9 th	No Mass	
Wed 10 th	No Mass	
Thu 11 th	No Mass	
Fri 12 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.