



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



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

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 21st September 2025

Prudent Stewards

Scripture Reflection

The steward in today's Gospel confronts the reality that he can't go on living the way he has been. He is under judgment, must give account for what he has done.

The exploiters of the poor in today's First Reading are also about to be pulled down, thrust from their stations. Servants of mammon or money, they're so in love with wealth that they reduce the poor to objects, despise the new moons and Sabbaths—the observances and holy days of God. Their only hope is to follow the steward's path. He is no model of repentance. But he makes a prudent calculation—to use his last hours in charge of his master's property to show mercy to others, to relieve their debts.

He is a child of this world, driven by a purely selfish motive—to make friends and be welcomed into the homes of his master's debtors. Yet his prudence is commended as an example to us, the children of light.

We too must realize, as the steward does, that what we have is not honestly ours, but what in truth belongs to another, our Master.

All the mammon in the world could not have paid the debt we owe our Master. So He paid it for us, gave His life as a ransom for all, as we hear in today's Epistle.

God wants everyone to be saved, even kings and princes, even the lovers of money (see Luke 16:14). But we cannot serve two Masters. By his grace, we should choose to be, as we sing in today's Psalm—"servants of the Lord."

We serve Him by using what He has entrusted us with to give alms, to lift the lowly from the dust and dunghills of this world. By this we will gain what is ours, be welcomed into eternal dwellings, the many mansions of the Father's house.



Our Lady of Walsingham

The feast day of Our Lady of Walsingham is celebrated on the 24th September. Some of our parishioners joined the Diocese Pilgrimage to Walsingham this weekend to mark the occasion.

The Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham

The statue is of course a modern one but has been modelled as closely as possible on the medieval statue. Our Lady is depicted in traditional style seated on a simple chair of state with the Child Jesus on her knee. She wears a Saxon crown in token of her ancient queen-ship and carries the lily of purity.

The statue is not remarkable in itself but the sincere attempt to recreate the form of the old statue when the only available evidence came from circular pilgrim medallion is praiseworthy, and the result is pleasing and devotional.

It is a thought-provoking statue with theological implications so typical of the Middle Ages. The Child seems to dominate. It is not so much a statue of the Mother with the Child as a statue of the Child with the Mother in the background. The Child holds the Book of Gospels with one hand and with the other seems to shield his Mother from attack.

In recent years Our Lady has been depicted frequently as a young girl. Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Fatima stand alone. Our Lady of Walsingham emphasises her Motherhood and her continual effort to present her Son to the world.

Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 140

Baptism Preparation Course: will take place on Saturday 18th October, 25th October and 1st November. Each session runs from 11am-12pm. You are very welcome to bring older children. Please speak to Fr. Denis for more details.

First Holy Communion - Saturday 27th September: for parents to meet with Fr Denis between 10am - 11.30am to complete their child's application form (*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 and the children will make their First Holy Communion in May 2026.

Confirmation Dates: If you are in year 9 or 10, please consider if you wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the parish. The first meeting will take place on Sunday 7th December after the 10.30am Mass for candidates and parents. Subsequent meetings will then take place on a Saturday evening before Mass.

JHN School Open Evening: JHN invites parents of Year 6 pupils to an Open Evening on Thursday 25th September, from 5.30 -8.00pm.

The Signing of Forms for JHN School: Fr. Denis will meet parents on Saturday 27th September at midday in the Parish Rooms

Message for Volunteers Requiring a DBS:
Thank you for all your work within the Parish. Please can we remind you that if you receive an email from the Diocese to renew your DBS you do need to respond ASAP then inform us when your DBS arrives in the post. It is vital that you sign up for the update service as this makes DBS renewal easier. Also, once you have completed the volunteers training, please let us know ASAP to ensure we have an accurate spreadsheet for the Diocese. If you have any issues please do contact us. Patricia Cusack & Colette Murphy (PSRs)

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, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Patrick Hodnett, Peter Burke, Margaret Pringle, Edith Hudston, Anne Hibberd, Phillip Dean, Michael McCarthy, Roy Stone, Edward Chanas.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 20 th	6.30pm	<i>Patsy & Kathleen Heaney</i>
Sun 21 st	8.30am 10.30am	<i>Rosita Sain - RIP Claudia Pater - RIP</i>
Mon 22 nd	10.00am	<i>Philip Dean - RIP</i>
Tue 23 rd	10.00am	<i>Saint Pius of Pietrelcina Margaret Concannon -RIP</i>
Wed 24 th	10.00am	<i>Our Lady of Walsingham Eddie McGuinness - RIP</i>
Thu 25 th	10.00am	<i>Private Intention</i>
Fri 26 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.