



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



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## Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 28th September 2025



### Celebrating 175 Years of the Archdiocese of Westminster

This September marks a remarkable milestone: 175 years since the Archdiocese of Westminster was formally established by Blessed Pius IX in 1850. It was a bold and hopeful moment for English Catholics, newly freed from centuries of legal restrictions and eager to take their place in public life. The appointment of Nicholas Wiseman as the first Archbishop sparked controversy—Queen Victoria herself reportedly questioned the move—but Wiseman's impassioned defence of Catholic rights helped pave the way for a renewed Church presence in England.

Though the diocese was officially new, its roots ran deep. Catholic life in London had been sustained for centuries by missionary bishops and hidden chapels, often tucked inside foreign embassies. By 1850, religious orders like the Jesuits and Oratorians were already active, and institutions such as St Edmund's Seminary in Hertfordshire were preparing future priests. The new diocese accelerated growth: 45 churches were built in Wiseman's lifetime alone, and the expansion of London's suburbs brought fresh opportunities for schools and parishes.

Education was always a priority. In fact, Westminster Cathedral wasn't opened until 1903—decades after the diocese's founding—because resources were focused on schools first. Temporary churches often preceded permanent ones, and communities made great sacrifices to ensure their children received a Catholic education.

The story of Westminster is not just about buildings and bishops—it's about people. Teachers, nurses, catechists, parish secretaries, and countless volunteers have quietly built up the Church over generations. Some names stand out: Sir George Bowyer, who championed Catholic causes in Parliament; Charles Pagliano, who founded the first St Vincent de Paul Conferences

in London; and Frances Margaret Taylor, whose work with the poor led to the founding of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God. But many more remain known only to God.

The clergy of Westminster have been equally diverse and inspiring. Mgr Robert Hugh Benson, son of an Archbishop of Canterbury, wrote novels still read today. Fr Adrian Fortescue, liturgical scholar and founder of Letchworth parish, famously called his church "the most magnificent one west of Constantinople." Mgr Ronald Knox, a gifted preacher, also pioneered detective fiction. Fr Henry Hardy, a tireless horseback missionary, founded multiple churches across Hertfordshire.

Tragedy has touched the diocese too. Fr Thomas Byles, Rector of Ongar, died aboard the Titanic ministering to passengers. Fr Basil Maturin perished on the Lusitania. A cause for beatification has been opened for Fr Byles.

Through two world wars, the diocese endured. Cardinal Hinsley became a beloved wartime broadcaster, and many churches were damaged or destroyed. Yet the post-war years saw continued growth, with 36 new parishes established between 1945 and 1970.

Today, Westminster Cathedral stands proudly in the heart of London, having hosted an International Eucharistic Congress, two papal visits, and even a royal funeral. Leaders like Cardinal Basil Hume earned national respect, and the diocese has been home to saints—John Henry Newman and Carlo Acutis were both baptised here.

In 2025, the Archdiocese of Westminster is a vibrant, global community of 207 parishes. Agencies like Caritas respond to modern challenges, from poverty to human trafficking. The Church continues to evolve, embracing safeguarding and regulatory responsibilities, while remaining rooted in Christ.

As we celebrate this anniversary, we give thanks for all who have laboured in the Lord's vineyard—known and unknown—and pray for the grace to continue walking forward in faith, hope, and love. — **Fr Nicholas Schofield, Diocesan Archivist**

**Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 143**



**Fairtrade Tea Party:** St. John's Catholic Primary School invite you to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight with a tea party on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October @ 3:15pm in the school hall. Fairtrade tea, coffee and cakes served by our Chaplaincy Team. Raising funds for CAFOD.

**Craft & Chat:** Our next meeting is on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 9.30-11am. This group welcomes any adults who enjoy sewing, knitting, embroidery etc. Tuition can also be given to any adult who would like to learn how to knit/crochet. £2 per session which goes towards the parish building fund.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**October:** Next weekend, please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or use the QR code.



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

**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 7<sup>th</sup> December after the 10.30am Mass for candidates and parents. Subsequent meetings will then take place on a Saturday evening before Mass.

**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:

*Frederick Bridgman, Sr Aloyse Woodcock, Florence Ager, Eileen Fox, William Piper, Leo Ennis, Nora McComish, Ita Brimyard, Mary Frances Lee, Antonietta Rigone-Pisone*

**Mass Times and Intentions**

Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Julian Ciaux Polillo - RIP
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	All deceased Sisters of Providence & of the Immaculate Conception of Baldock
	10.30am	Claudia Pater - RIP
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Saint Michael, Gabriel & Raphael
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Saint Jerome Gil Ross - RIP
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Saint Therese
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	No Mass	Holy Guardian Angels Angela Gray - RIP
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	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](mailto:Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

Colette Murphy: [Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Our Catholic Schools**

**St. John's Catholic Primary School, Baldock**

T: 01462 892478 W: [stjohns4.herts.sch.uk](http://stjohns4.herts.sch.uk)

**The Saint John Henry Newman School,**

Stevenage, T: 01438 314643 W: [jhn.herts.sch.uk](http://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](mailto:enquiries@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk)

To receive an email copy of the Newsletter, please visit our website:

[parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock) and click on 'Subscribe to Alerts' at the bottom of the page.