

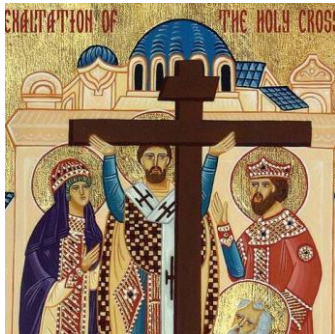


CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross 14th September 2025



† Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Celebrated on September 14th, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross invites us to gaze upon the instrument of Christ's suffering—not with sorrow, but with reverence and awe. The Cross, once a symbol of shame and death, has become the throne of glory and the sign of salvation. Through it, Jesus conquered sin and death, transforming the darkest moment in history into the brightest light of redemption.

This feast commemorates both the historical discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena in the 4th century and its triumphant return to Jerusalem after being seized by the Persians. But more than a historical event, it is a spiritual celebration of love's victory over despair.

The Cross challenges us to rethink strength, power, and love. In a world that often glorifies success and comfort, the Cross stands as a paradox: strength through surrender, life through death, victory through sacrifice. It reminds us that God's love is not abstract—it is cruciform, poured out completely for us.

When we exalt the Cross, we are not glorifying pain, but proclaiming hope. We are saying that no suffering is wasted when united with Christ's. We are declaring that love is stronger than death.

Let us carry our own crosses with courage, knowing that Christ walks with us. And may we look upon the Cross not as a burden, but as a beacon—pointing us toward resurrection, mercy, and eternal life.



☩ Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

Each year on September 15th, the Church commemorates the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, honouring the profound suffering endured by the Blessed Virgin Mary in union with her Son, Jesus Christ. This devotion invites us to contemplate seven key sorrows in Mary's life—from Simeon's prophecy to the burial of Jesus—moments that pierced her heart like swords and revealed the depth of her maternal love and spiritual strength.

Mary's sorrow is not passive grief; it is active compassion. She stands at the foot of the Cross, not as a helpless witness, but as a co-sufferer, offering her pain for the redemption of the world. Her tears are not signs of despair but of deep faith and unwavering hope.

In our own lives, we often encounter suffering that feels isolating or overwhelming. The feast of Our Lady of Sorrows reminds us that sorrow can be sacred. Mary teaches us how to suffer with grace, how to remain faithful in the darkest moments, and how to unite our pain with Christ's for a greater purpose.

Let us turn to Our Lady of Sorrows as a source of comfort and strength. In her, we find a mother who understands grief, and who walks with us through every valley of tears, leading us gently toward resurrection.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention September 2025:

For our relationship with all creation Let us pray that, inspired by St Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect. Amen

Funeral Notices

Margaret Concannon: Tuesday 16th September, 2.30pm Funeral at Holy Trinity, 4.00pm North Herts Crematorium.

Ray Carter: Tuesday 23rd September, 12.00pm Funeral at Holy Trinity and burial at Stotfold Cemetery.

Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 191

Baptism Preparation Course: will be taking 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: 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.

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.

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:

Elizabeth McGarry, Anne Fruithoff, Fr. William Ruhman, Michael Feeney, Mary Hewlett, Beatrice Watkins, Joan Anthony, Mary Hill, Sr Catherine Mulvaney.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 13 th	6.30pm	Peter Comiskey - RIP The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Sun 14 th	8.30am 10.30am	Jesus Sian - RIP Donal Hickey- 2 nd Anniversary The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Mon 15 th	10.00am	Our Lady of Sorrows
Tue 16 th	10.00am	Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
Wed 17 th	10.00am	
Thu 18 th	10.00am	
Fri 19 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.