



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



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

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time 26th October 2025

The Gospel Message

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about two men who go to the Temple to pray. One is a Pharisee—a religious man, respected and morally upright. The other is a tax collector—despised, seen as corrupt and a traitor to his people. The Pharisee prays like this: *"I thank you, God, that I am not like other people... I fast... I give tithes..."*

But the tax collector, standing at a distance, won't even raise his eyes. He says only: *"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."*

And Jesus concludes with a surprise: *It was the tax collector, not the Pharisee, who went home justified in God's sight.*

What's the difference?

Both went to pray. Both believed in God. But only one opened his heart.

The Pharisee, although religious, was full of pride. He trusted in himself. His prayer wasn't really a prayer—it was a self-congratulatory speech. There was no room for God because he thought he had everything right already.

The tax collector, aware of his sinfulness, came with nothing to boast about. He brought his brokenness, his need, and simply asked for mercy. And that was enough.

Relevance for Us

We live in a world that rewards comparison and competition. Whether on social media, at work, or in school, it's easy to slip into the Pharisee's mindset: "At least I'm not like them." But Jesus reminds us today: God doesn't want performance—He wants honesty.

God loves the humble, not because they are weak, but because they are open. He can fill what is empty. He can lift up what is bowed down.

A Simple Practice

This week, try praying the tax collector's prayer: **"Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner."**

Not long. Not complicated. Just real.

And when you're tempted to judge someone else, pause and say:

"Lord, show me what needs healing in me."

Month of The Holy Souls

November is the month when we think about the holy souls and especially from our own families, those close to our hearts. There will be a book of remembrance, which will be present at every mass. We will offer a Holy Mass for the deceased. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church with a list of those to be entered into the Book. Please fill out the list provided of your deceased parents, relatives and friends and all you wish to pray for. The Church prays for everyone who has passed on to the next life marked with the sign of faith. Let us remember them, our faith tells us that they are very much alive, and our prayers can help them.

Kid's Night of Light Party - Fri 31st October, 4-

6pm Children are invited to join us for a positive alternative to Halloween, starting with a kid friendly and interactive Holy Hour (feel free to bring colouring/journal/Christian books/fidgets), followed by refreshments, crafts and sparklers! Teens are very welcome too. Parents to please stay. If you'd like to help, email: n.mbeutcha@gmail.com



Gift Aid

Please don't forget that, if you are a tax payer, you can increase the value of your donation through 'Gift Aid'. As an example, a basic rate tax payer donating £100 to the parish could actually be donating £125. How? By completing a Gift Aid declaration allowing the parish to claim the basic rate tax on every £ donated. Pick up a form at the back of the church. Many thanks

The Pope's Prayer Intention for October

For collaboration between different religious traditions: Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 155

Volunteers Needed on Saturday 8th November from 10am we need help to remove the plastic covers from old Mass Book and to cover our new Mass Books in preparation for the beginning of Advent. Tea and coffee will be provided. If you are able to help please let Fr. Denis know.

Mass for Deceased Relatives and Friends Tuesday 11th November 7.30pm

November is the month of Holy Souls, when we pray for our deceased loved ones. In the church we have our book of remembrance, in which we place the names of our family and friends who need our prayers. Following on from our service of the Blessing of the Graves in August, we will celebrate with a special Mass in November. Do come and join us and if you know of anyone who has lost a loved one and would like to join us please do invite them to this Mass.

Repository A wonderful selection of Christmas cards, Advent calendars, candles and other items will be on sale from the weekend of 8/9th November, all at very good prices.

2025 Parish Dates for your Diary

Saturday 1st November - Baptism Preparation Course: 11am-12pm in the Parish Rooms.

Saturday 8th November - Volunteers to cover new Mass Boks: From 10.00am in the Parish Rooms.

Tuesday 11th November - Mass for Deceased Relatives and Friends: 7.30pm

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th November - Cakes 4R Church. More details to follow.

Sunday 7th December - Confirmation Meeting for young people (in Yr9 or 10) and their parents: After the 10.30am Mass in Church.

Please speak to Fr. Denis if you have any questions regarding these events.

Your Prayers Are Asked For:

We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish, especially Tara Ferrissey, and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Sally-Ann Riegel and Kay McKenna and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Louise Burke, John Brennan, Eileen Copps, Alfred Field, Ronald Bromage, Adelina Molloy, Michael Fitzgerald, Margaret Speck, Arthur Joseph Wilkinson, Michael Windebank, Christopher Windebank, Walter Picking, Maria Muria.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 25 th	6.30pm	<i>Daniel Targett</i>
Sun 26 th	8.30am 10.30am	<i>Colin Wiffen - RIP Mary Jane Lods</i>
Mon 27 th	10.00am	
Tue 28 th	10.00am	<i>Richard Porter Saints Simon & Jude</i>
Wed 29 th	10.00am	<i>Tessa Burns Blessed Martyrs of Douai</i>
Thu 30 th	10.00am	
Fri 31 st	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.