



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



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

## First Sunday of Advent 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025



### Advent

The season of advent is upon us. The word 'advent' means 'arrival' or 'coming' and with this season the Church begins another new year. There is a threefold coming of the Jesus to which the Church draws our attention to in this season. First, Jesus coming as a human being at Bethlehem; second, his daily coming into the lives of those who open their heart to receive him and third, his glorious coming at the end of time. The use of purple vestments underlines the special character of this season.

The season of advent may be seen as a time of preparation for the great season of Christmas similar to the way in which Lent is a time of preparation for the Easter season. During Advent we hear some of the high points of the Old Testament read, especially from the prophet Isaiah.

### Advent reflection on Reconciliation

As we wait in joyful anticipation of Christ's coming, going to confession during Advent gives us an opportunity to truly prepare the way to welcome the king of kings into our hearts this Christmas.

God loves each of us unconditionally and calls us his children. In the light of his love for us, the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* offers the opportunity for us to recognise our sins, and be renewed by his loving mercy and forgiveness.

It allows us to place the broken areas in our lives into the healing hands of the gentle, merciful and compassionate God who wants to free us from anxiety, fear, and the many other burdens we may be carrying. Confession cleanses our souls so that we are at peace with God. God completely forgives us all of our sins and offers us his healing grace 'Go in peace'. The second after absolution is like having a shower after playing sports or like

waking up on a sunlit summer morning. God cleanses us through his forgiveness and anoints us with his healing; giving us renewed strength to continue on our walk of faith.

There is no need to have any fear of going to Confession or of approaching a priest, even if it is a long time since our last confession. The sacrament of penance is above all an act of God's love. God will always forgive us. The priests represent the person of God; they are not there to judge, but they lovingly administer his forgiveness. Before going to Confession, it is a good idea to pray, asking God to help us make a good confession. Making a good examination of conscience can help us see how we have sinned since our last confession and it can help us identify the areas of our lives where need God's forgiveness.

### Advent Services

#### Crouches Memorial Service, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

December at 7pm - we welcome the families and friends who have lost a loved one's this last year

#### Reconciliation, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December between

10.30am - 12.30pm - Fr Denis and a visiting priest will be available to hear confessions.

#### Rotary Advent Carol Service, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>

December at 7pm - Pam Rhodes, the BBC 'Songs of Praise' presenter will Compere the evening.

### Christmas Services

#### CHRISTMAS EVE - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

4.30pm - Vigil Mass of Christmas, Family Mass

8.40pm - Carols and Readings

9pm - The Mass of the Nativity of the Lord

#### CHRISTMAS DAY - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am - Mass

#### ST STEPHENS DAY - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December

10am - Mass

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January

(Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God)

10.am - Mass

*Weekend Masses will be at the same times.*

**Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 82**

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November

**2025:** For the prevention of suicide. Let us pray that those who are tempted to commit suicide might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life. Amen

### Funeral Notice

**Joan Burke:** A Requiem Mass will take place for Joan on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am.

**Young@❤️** Our next coffee morning will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December after the 10am mass & anointing of the sick. We provide the tea & cake, so you can come along for the chat. Cake donations also welcome. If you know of anything who is housebound please do bring them along. See you there.

**Craft & Chat** Our next two meetings are on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 9.30am to 11.00am in the Parish Rooms. All adult crafters are welcome.

**Confirmation Meeting** There will be a meeting for young people (in Yr9 or Yr10) and their parents on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December after the 10.30am Mass in Church.

**Repository** A wonderful selection of Christmas cards, Advent calendars, candles and other items are now on sale, all at very good prices.

**The Letchworth Foodbank** Are in urgent need of the following items:

Tinned ham and salmon, Selection box of chocolates, Small and medium Christmas cakes, Festive biscuits, UHT Milk, Long life fruit juice, Size 6 nappies, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant. For more details and where to drop off your donations, please look at their website: [letchworth.foodbank.org.uk](http://letchworth.foodbank.org.uk)

### Your Prayers Are Asked For:

We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish, especially Fr. Philip, Rita Fletcher, Tony Galvin, Tara Ferrissey, Liz McCaul and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially Joan Burke and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

*John Monaghan, Kenneth Pound, Giuseppe Gelmini, Doris Smale, Ann Gentle, Michael Hill, Robert Austin, Anne Smith, Betty Knight.*

### Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	<i>Carlos Alberto</i>
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	<i>Betty Knight - RIP</i> <i>Maria Valsecchi - RIP</i>
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	<i>Kathleen Sarsfield - RIP</i>
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	<i>John Long - RIP</i>
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	St. Francis Xavier
Thu 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<i>Stewart Anthony - RIP</i>
Fri 5 <sup>th</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.*