



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



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

## Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

16<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Our Lady of Guadalupe



Cardinal Carlos Aguiar Retes, Archbishop of Mexico City, is actively involved in preparations for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe's apparition in 2031. Special 1-to-1 replicas of the Tilma of Juan Diego, which have touched the original, are being distributed as part of this devotion.

#### 1-to-1 Tilma Replicas

- **Authentic replicas:** As part of the devotion, exact-size replicas of the miraculous Tilma of Juan Diego are being distributed.
- **Touched to the original:** These replicas have been physically touched to the original Tilma housed in the Basilica, making them powerful devotional items.
- **Purpose:** They are meant to bring the presence of Our Lady of Guadalupe into homes and parishes, fostering prayer and reverence leading up to the 2031 jubilee.
- **We as a parish** have been blessed to be given a 1-1 replica of the Tilma of Juan Diego, by the Archbishop, which has been touched onto the original Tilma.

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of the most powerful and tender revelations of God's love through Mary. Appearing to Saint Juan Diego in 1531 on Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City, the Blessed Mother came clothed in the symbols of both heaven and earth. Her face is gentle, her kin of mixed tone – neither Spanish nor Indigenous –

showing that she belongs to all people. In her, heaven embraced the New World; God's mother became the mother of a new people, uniting divided races and cultures. The Significance of this apparition led to the conversion of millions and is considered the spiritual birth of Christianity in the Americas.

The image imprinted miraculously on Juan Diego's Tilma speaks a divine language. The stars on her mantle mirror the constellations of that winter night – heaven reflected on earth. The blue-green cloak was a royal colour among the Aztecs, while the rose-coloured gown bears designs like the native flowers of Mexico, symbols of life and renewal. The black sash around Our Lady of Guadalupe's waist is a symbol of pregnancy in Aztec culture, indicating that she is carrying the Christ Child. Because of this symbolism, Our Lady of Guadalupe is honoured as the Patroness of the Unborn.

Her image sends a powerful message about the sanctity of life, and she is often invoked in prayers for unborn children and expectant mothers. Over her womb shines a small sunburst cross, marking her as the bearer of Christ, the true Sun of Justice. She stands on the moon, a sign that the old gods are overcome, and the angel beneath her holds her aloft as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

In her, we see the woman described in Revelation 12: "A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." The Lady of Guadalupe is that radiant sign – the Mother who carries the light of Christ into the darkness of the world. Her mestizo face is a prophecy of communion – that in Christ, all humanity becomes one family. Her eyes, filled with mercy, invite all who are weary and wounded to find peace in her Son. Even today, her gaze continues to heal, to gather, and to remind the world that love – not power, not conquest – is what truly transforms hearts and nations.

**Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 164**

### 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

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

### Volunteers to help count the parish cash

**collection** Are you able to give up an hour of your time to count the offertory money & get it ready for banking? Full training will be given. The cash is counted weekly and so the more volunteers we can get, the less often you will need to count! If you would like to help with this important ministry, please give Fr Denis your contact details and when you would be able to count so that we can arrange a rota.

**Reading at Mass** Would you be interested in reading at a weekend Mass? We are looking for more volunteers to join the rota from January. Please speak to Fr Denis for more information.

**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

### 2025 Parish Dates for your Diary

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November - Cakes 4R Church.** More details to follow.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### Your Prayers Are Asked For:

We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish, especially Tony Galvin, Joan Burke, Tara Ferrissey, Liz McCaul 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:

**Angela Gray, Boleslaw Majowiez, Kazimierz Rozana, David Charles Ronayne, Sr Alberta Kennedy, Alec Brown, Colman Welby.**

### Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	<i>Vincent O'Shea</i>
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	<i>People of the Parish Araba Adjaye birthday</i>
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<i>Angela Gray RIP</i>
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<i>Mary Watkins RIP</i>
Thu 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<i>Terry Gee RIP</i>
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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