



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



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All Saints 2nd November 2025

ALL SAINTS DAY

Today we celebrate the feast of All Saints Day. Also known as All Hallows, and called Hallowmas by Shakespeare, it is thought that it was originally celebrated in its first form in Antioch in the 4th Century. It appears to have been celebrated on the Sunday after Pentecost. Pope Gregory III moved the date to 1st November, when it was confined to Rome, and Pope Gregory IV extended the feast to the whole of the church around a century later.

“We celebrate today the solemnity of All Saints. This invites us to turn our gaze to the immense multitude of those who have already reached the blessed land, and points us on the path that will lead us to that destination.” *Pope St. John Paul II, All Saints' Day 2003*

The Feast of all saints, is a remembering of all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. In the book of revelation we see a vision of heaven of all the saints around God's throne; while St. Paul calls all God's people saints. The modern term is used for those who have been raised up as canonised saints are put before us as role models.

Halloween - hallow the old word for saints and All Hallows is the eve of All Saints, now the meaning has changed; the modern understanding of this feast is something quite different. The church originally created this feast to counteract paganism. Halloween used to be a great pagan festival in the old Celtic calendar, it was the last night of summer, and pagans used to light bonfires to help the sun through the winter.

It was predominantly a night of fear when many demons and spirits, good and bad roamed the earth. And we are regressing in our society; the saints have been dislodged by images of Freddie Krueger and green painted witches and demonic images of one form or another. On Saturday we look to the saints who are resplendent in glory, those who gaze on the face of God in heaven.

November is a bitter sweet time when we remember also those of our family and friends who have passed on. The book of remembrance will be available throughout this month; if you would like to remember your friends and relatives they will be included in the prayers of the mass.

Scripture Reflection

The first reading focuses us for today's solemnity. In the Book of Revelation, St. John reports “a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue.”

This is Good News. Salvation has come not only for Israel, but for the Gentiles as well. Here is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, that by his seed all the nations of the world would bless themselves (see Genesis 22:18).

The Church celebrates many famous Christians on their individual memorials, but today she praises God for all His “holy ones,” His saints. That is the title St. Paul preferred when he addressed his congregations.

St. John says that we have unfinished business to tend. We are already God's children, but “what we shall be has not yet been revealed.” Thus we work out our salvation: “Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure”

We do this as we share the life of Christ, who defined earthly beatitude for us. We are “blessed,” He says, when we are poor, when we mourn, when we are persecuted for His sake. It is then we should “Rejoice and be glad, for [our] reward will be great in heaven”.

Church Teaching on Purgatory

The Catholic Church dedicates the entire month of November to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. During this entire month we pray for the souls of the faithful departed, especially those whom we have known and loved. All Souls Day, also known as the Day of the Dead.

The souls in purgatory died in the mercy of God, this is why they are called holy; however, because they still had attachment to sin at the time of their death, they must undergo a spiritual purification of their souls before they are able to fully love God with their whole heart, mind, and soul for all eternity.

Those in purgatory cannot pray for themselves, they must rely entirely on others to pray and make sacrifices on their behalf. As they are nevertheless part of the Communion of Saints, they depend upon us to help ease their suffering and quickly advance them through their purification so that they can join the saints in heaven. Prayers for the faithful departed please God, who makes use of our prayers to help purify these souls that He loves.

Craft & Chat Our next meeting is this coming Friday 7th November at 9.30 to 11am in the parish rooms.

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**

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 8/9th November, all at very good prices.

Missio Red Box Scheme Just a reminder for Red Box holders to bring in their boxes, and place them on the table at the back of the Church, for counting.

2025 Parish Dates for your Diary

Saturday 8th November - Volunteers to cover new Mass Books: From 10.00am in 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.

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:

Luigi Scarlino, Carolina Scarinzi, Irene Hunder, Antoni Bonja, Maura McMahon, William Thomas Crone, John Allum, Richard Hill, Ida O'Leary, Margaret Doyle, Josephine Woodruff, Elizabeth Richardson, Bridget Labrum, Florence McHugh.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 1 st	6.30pm	<i>Maria Pater - RIP</i>
Sun 2 nd	8.30am 10.30am	<i>Gwen Keech - RIP Claudia Pater - RIP</i>
Mon 3 rd	10.00am	<i>Ronald Mitchell - RIP All Souls' Day</i>
Tue 4 th	10.00am	Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Wed 5 th	10.00am	
Thu 6 th	10.00am	<i>Eileen Gourd - RIP</i>
Fri 7 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.