



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



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

Second Sunday of Advent 7th December 2025



Reflection

The Second Sunday of Advent turns our hearts toward preparation—not the rushed preparation of holiday busyness, but the deep interior readiness that comes from repentance, honesty, and renewed hope. The voice of John the Baptist cries out: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight His paths.” His message is not one of fear but of invitation. God desires to come close, to enter the wilderness places of our lives, and to transform them with His mercy.

This week, the liturgy encourages us to let God smooth what is rough, lift what is low, and straighten what has grown crooked in our hearts. Advent is not passive waiting; it is a sacred cooperation with grace. The more we allow God to work in us, the more we become people capable of receiving Christ with joy.

The saints of this week illuminate this path. St. John Damascene (Dec 4) teaches clarity and fidelity in faith. St. Nicholas (Dec 6) models hidden generosity and compassionate charity. St. Ambrose (Dec 7) shows courage in truth and tenderness toward the poor. The Immaculate Conception of Mary (Dec 8) reminds us that God prepares His dwelling with care and purity. And St. Juan Diego (Dec 9) reveals the humility and trust that allow miracles to unfold.

Their witness helps us approach Advent as a season of conversion: opening our hearts, simplifying our lives, and making room for Jesus to enter fully.

Short Advent Prayers

“Lord Jesus, prepare my heart as You prepared Bethlehem—poor, simple, and ready to receive You.”

“Holy Spirit, straighten the crooked paths within me and make me a vessel of Your peace.”

“Mary Immaculate, St. Nicholas, St. Ambrose, and St. Juan Diego, pray for us.”

Things to Do in Advent

- Make a sincere examination of conscience and go to Confession.
- Practice a hidden act of kindness in honour of St. Nicholas.
- Set aside 10 minutes daily for quiet prayer with Scripture.
- Fast from one distraction to create space for God.

Advent Services

Rotary Advent Carol Service, Thursday 11th December at 7pm - Pam Rhodes, the BBC 'Songs of Praise' presenter will Compere the evening.

Christmas Services

CHRISTMAS EVE - Wednesday 24th 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 25th December

9.30am - Mass

ST STEPHENS DAY - Friday 26th December

10am - Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY - Thursday 1st January

(Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God)

10.am - Mass

Weekend Masses will be at the same times.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December 2025: For Christians in Areas of Conflict.

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

Funeral Notice

Joan Burke: A Requiem Mass will take place for Joan on Wednesday 10th December at 10.00am.

Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 85

Cakes 4 Church A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the cake sale last weekend by either baking or buying cakes. We raised £397.50 for the church roof fund.

Flowers for Christmas We would be very grateful for donations towards the cost of Christmas flowers for our church. Please put any donations, no matter how small, into the black money box at the back of the church near the newsletter tray. Thank you.

Craft & Chat Our next meeting is on Friday 2nd January, 9.30am to 11.00am in the Parish Rooms. All adult crafters are welcome.

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

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:

Florence Robertson, Sr Germana Ryan, Molly Reilly, Andrew O'Neill, Jerzy Kryspinski, Margaret Turner, Margaret Deans, Patrick Kavanagh, James Dunne, Patrick Hussey, Adelaide Murphy, Oliver Lynch, May Jones Alexander, Catherine McCall, Gordon Hackett.



Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 6 th	6.30pm	<i>Robert Austin - RIP</i>
Sun 7 th	8.30am 10.30am	<i>Jean Higgins - RIP</i> <i>Susan Murphy - RIP</i>
Mon 8 th	10.00am	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tue 9 th	10.00am	<i>Scott Steele - Repose Soul</i>
Wed 10 th	10.00am	<i>Joan Burke - RIP</i>
Thu 11 th	No Mass	
Fri 12 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.