



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



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

## Fourth Sunday of Advent 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025



**Fourth Sunday  
of Advent**

### Come Lord Jesus

The Fourth Sunday of Advent falls during the second part of Advent when there is an increase in pace, intensity and expectation. The use of the O antiphons on the seven days preceding Christmas Eve at the Gospel Acclamation contributes to the heightened sense of waiting. Each of these titles may be used to refer to Jesus and in fact together they form a miniature litany: Wisdom from above, Lord, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Rising Sun, King of nations Emmanuel.

Every year at Christmas the Church waits again through the Liturgy the coming of Christ. The Christ-mass, is the centre of this expectation. Jesus has come once at Bethlehem, and He will come again in glory. In the meantime, he comes to whoever opens their heart to receive him. He is in the joys and sorrows of each day. He is in his Word, in the Eucharist, and in his people. He is in the least of his brothers and sisters. He is in the place where he is least expected. He is there beside the one who is suffering in solitude which comes from the fact that he suffered himself.

He is Emmanuel God with us, which is the last of the O antiphons titles given to him by the prophet Isaiah in today's readings. He is always by our side; but we ask him to come again to each of us, to deepen our faith this Christmas.

*Come, Lord Jesus, come soon. In this time of your coming, support and console us who trust in your love.* Fr Denis

### Pray for the 4<sup>th</sup> week of Advent

*Lord, the sight of the guiding star, brought hope, courage and joy to those who had journeyed to find you. When our journey seems long, when hope seems far away, when our courage is failing fill us with faith and trust; shine your light on our fears, lift our hearts with your joy. Help us to recognise you in our brothers and sisters throughout the world; show us how we can work together so that we may all come to share in the life promised to us by Jesus, the Saviour of us all.*



### Christmas Services

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

4.30pm - Vigil Mass of Christmas, Family Mass  
*(children are invited to dress in Nativity costumes)*

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.*

**Confirmation Preparation 2026** Applicants must have been 13 (Year 9) or over on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025. Enrolment forms are at the back of Church and there is still time to enroll. There has already been a welcome meeting for the confirmation candidates and parents; but there is still time to join before the first meeting on **Saturday 24th January 5pm** in the Parish Rooms. The candidates are asked to stay and help at the 6.30pm mass. Please have a word with Fr. Denis if you are interested.

#### **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.

**Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 90**

**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)

**The Big Christmas Clean** This year's big clean will be on Tuesday 23rd December at 11am. It would be good to try & get as many volunteers as possible to help prepare the church for the Christmas celebrations. If you're not a regular cleaner but would still like to help please come along. Tea/coffee & refreshments will be served.

**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.

**MISSIO - Red Box Holders** - An amount of £515.03 was collected from your Boxes over the past year. Money donated online will be added to this total and the final figure will be given later on. With many thanks for your continued generosity.

**Marriage Preparation** Those couples wishing to be married in our Church should contact Fr Denis 6 months before your planned wedding via the parish office.

#### 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:

*Ellen McGuinness, Andrij Hnatiw, Herbert Rigby, Barbara Maraldo, Patricia Gray, Emma Targett, Catherine Wilson, Tony Ronewicz, Arthur Smith, James McTigue, Rosa Gelmini, Ermelinda Lowrey, Matthias Hofmeister, Shirley Balls, Dora Noonan, Patrick Dowdall, Francis Mckenna, Norina Brever.*

#### Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	<i>Breda &amp; Michael Rock - Intentions</i>
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	<i>Ann Jewell - RIP Joan Burke - RIP</i>
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	<i>Repose Soul of Emma Targett</i>
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	4.30pm 8.30pm	<i>Daniel Huggins - birthday People of the Parish</i>
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	<i>Claudia Pater - RIP</i>
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Saint Stephen

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.