



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



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

Christmas 2025



Pope Francis reflection on Christmas

Tonight, the great prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled:
“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given”

To us a son is given. We often hear it said that the greatest joy in life is the birth of a child. It is something extraordinary and it changes everything. That is what Christmas is: the birth of Jesus is the “newness” that enables us to be reborn each year and to find, in him, the strength needed to face every trial. Why? Because his birth is for us - for me, for you, for all of us, for everyone. “*For us is born this day a Saviour*”. For me, for you.

To us a son is given. The Father did not give us a thing, an object; he gave his own only-begotten Son, who is all his joy. Yet if we look at our ingratitude towards God and our injustice towards so many of our brothers and sisters, a doubt can arise. Was the Lord right in giving us so much? Is he right still to trust us? Does he not overestimate us? Of course, he overestimates us, and he does this because he is madly in love with us. He cannot help but love us. That is the way he is, so different from ourselves. God always loves us with a greater love than we have for ourselves. Only the love of Jesus can transform our life, heal our deepest hurts and set us free from the vicious circles of disappointment, anger and constant complaint. The angel proclaims to the shepherds: “This will be a sign *for you*: a baby lying in a manger”. That sign, the Child in the manger, is also a sign for us, to guide us through life.

To us a son is given. Jesus, you are the Child who makes me a child. You love me as I am, not as I imagine myself to be; this I know! In embracing you, the Child of the manger, I once more embrace my life. You, my Saviour, teach me to serve. You who did not leave me alone, help me

to comfort your brothers and sisters, for you know that, from this night forward, all are my brothers and sisters.

Extracts from a homily of His Holiness Pope Francis Midnight Mass, 2020

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve: Wednesday 24th December

4.30pm: Vigil Family Mass of Christmas
8.40pm: Carols and Readings
9.00pm: Nativity of the Lord Mass

Christmas Day: Thursday 25th December

9.30am: Mass

St. Stephens Day: Friday 26th December

10am: Mass

New Year's Day: Thursday 1st January 2026 Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

10am: Mass

Fr. Denis is still celebrating the Vigil Mass online at 6.30 pm every Saturday night & Sunday Mass at 10.30am. All are accessible through the Parish Facebook page: *Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Canterbury*.

Your Prayers Are Asked For:



At this time of year, more than at any other time perhaps, we pray for the sick and housebound in the parish, especially

Muriel Gyde, Catherine Broadbent, Rena Nedic, Joseph Smyth, Stanley Newcombe, Ethel Brown, Jean Blows, Edward Faulkner, Caterina Scarlino, Michael Ruggieri, Maria Cawley, Elspeth Crerar, Gerald Rose, Nora Manson, Agnes Taylor, John Wakeling, John Monnelly, Alexander Manson, Patricia Newsham, Gerald Barrett, John McKee, Aidan Prendergast, Amilcare Moscovita, Graham Morrisroe.

How about **A Christmas Word Search** to start off the celebrations this year? Of course, I hear you say, so have a try at finding these words;

SANTA; REINDEER; HOLLY; CAROLS; SNOWFLAKE; GINGERBREAD; MISTLETOE; PRESENTS; CHIMNEY; FROSTY; CANDLE; WREATH; ELF; SLEIGH.

S N O W F L A K E T R E E
L E I G H S C A N D L E R
E R E I N D E E R O L F O
I P R E S E N T S M R H S
G C H I M N E Y T I E A T
H A R O L S C A R O L S Y
M W R E A T H L O L N L F
I O L H O L L Y E E G E L
S G I N G E R B R E A D A
T F R O S T Y S N O W M S
L E L F T E O T S I M E N
E C A N D L E S A N T A R
T S N O W F L A K E R E I
O P R E S E N T S L E I G
E H O L L Y C H I M N E Y



The Annual End of Year Note

Once again, we will attempt to thank everyone who has supported the Parish in 2025, the year of the scaffold! So, here we go, as usual starting with a prayer that no-one has been forgotten (sorry if we have) followed by thanks to: *The Church Administrator; The Bookkeeper; The Choir; Church Organists; Young at Heart team; Parish Finance Committee; Building Committee; Tea and Coffee after Mass team; Parish Gardeners; Church Cleaners; First Communion & Confirmation Catechists; Children's Liturgy Catechists; Extraordinary Ministers; Mass Readers; Bidding Prayers team; Collection Counters, and you our Parishioners. Oh and of course, the one person we always forget to thank and should probably go at the beginning - Fr Denis.*



Christmas Jokes

- Why did the shepherd get promoted at work? Because he was *outstanding in his field!!*
- What do you call Santa when he takes a break? *Santa Pause!!*

Do You Remember 2025?

There's only one way to find out and that's by taking this tricky little quiz!! Good luck...

1. What major change to voting rights did the Government announce this year?
2. Which natural event caused major disruption across parts of the country on New Years Day?
3. Which global event this year focused on innovation, sustainability, and future cities?
4. Which long-running soap brought back Ross Kemp to mark a major anniversary?
5. Which show featured the twist where eliminated contestants secretly influenced future challenges from a "shadow room"?
6. Which artist's song "Ordinary" became the biggest chart song of 2025?
7. Who did Liverpool beat to secure the Premier League title this year?
8. What was the score?

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



Quiz Answers

1. Lowering the voting age to 16; 2. Heavy Rainfall, leading to over 100 flood warnings; 3. World Expo in Osaka, Japan; 4. Eastenders; 5. The Circle; 6. Alex Warren; 7. Spurs; 8. 5-1