



# 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 in Ordinary Time 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### A Perfect Offering

Jesus speaks through the prophet Isaiah in today's First Reading. He tells us of the mission given to Him by the Father from the womb: "You are My servant,' He said to Me."

Servant and Son, our Lord was sent to lead a new exodus –to raise up the exiled tribes of Israel, to gather and restore them to God. More than that, He was to be a light to the nations, that God's salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Before the first exodus, a lamb was offered in sacrifice and its blood painted on the Israelites' door posts. The blood of the lamb identified their homes and the Lord "passed over" these in executing judgment on the Egyptians.

In the new exodus, Jesus is the "Lamb of God," as John beholds Him in the Gospel. Our Lord sings of this in today's Psalm. He has come, He says, to offer His body to do the will of God.

The sacrifices, oblations, holocausts, and sin-offerings given after the first exodus had no power to take away sins. They were meant not to save but to teach. In offering these sacrifices, the people were to learn self-sacrifice—that they were made for worship, to offer themselves freely to God and to delight in His will.

Only Jesus could make that perfect offering of himself. And through His sacrifice, He has given us ears open to obedience, made it possible for us to hear the Father's call to holiness, as Paul says in today's Epistle. He has made us children of God, baptized in the blood of the Lamb. And we are to join our sacrifice to His, to offer our bodies—our lives—as living sacrifices in the spiritual worship of the Mass.

**Funeral Notice:** Rita Fletcher: A Requiem Mass will take place for Rita on Tuesday 20th January at 11am at St Hugh of Lincoln, Letchworth.

## Reflection by Cardinal Vincent Nichols - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25<sup>th</sup> January

### **1. First Love: Loving God**

Cardinal Nichols emphasises that the first part of Jesus' command – "Love the Lord your God" – invites Christians into a deep prayerful relationship with God.

- This love helps us recognise that we are created and sustained by God.
- True love of God frees us from idolatry – putting other things before God or making them the centre of our lives.
- Recognising ourselves as God's beloved allows us to respond to Him whole-heartedly.

### **2. Loving Our Neighbour**

From loving God flows the second part of the command – "Love your neighbour as yourself."

- When we see ourselves rightly as God's beloved, we can also see others in that light – as people loved by God and clothed with mercy.
- This insight helps Christians respond to the needs of others and be attentive to the cry of the world.

### **3. Unity, Service, and Hope**

Christian unity isn't just about theological agreement – but about living out love through service. This unity lived in love and service gives Christians hope for the future and sustains them in uncertain times.

#### **Prayer from Cardinal Nichols' Reflection**

Lord God, we thank you for the gift of Christian hope. It enables us to live through the uncertainties of this time with a certain hope for the future. We thank you for giving flesh to the hope that you give us in the person of Jesus. He leads us to adore you and be moved to serve all your children in his name who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen

**Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 125**

**Churches Together in Baldock** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18-25 January and this year a United Service will be held at St Mary's Church in Baldock on Thursday 22 January at 12 noon, to which everyone is invited. A light lunch and tea and coffee will be available after the Service.

**Confirmation Preparation 2026** Applicants must have been 13 (Year 9) or over on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025. 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.

**NEW - we now accept donations by Contactless Card** we can now accept card payments for general donations. It is very easy to use. If you need help please do ask. There is a small charge for the use of the card, as with all these machines.

#### 2026 Parish Dates for your Diary

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January - Young@♥ Mass & anointing of the sick, followed by tea, cake and chat: 10.00am**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Cake Sale:** Will take place after each weekend Mass.

**Fundraiser for Marie Curie:** more details and date to follow.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May - First Holy Communion Mass:** 11.00am.

**Sunday 31st May - Confirmation Mass:** Bishop Paul McAleenan will confirm the candidates at the 10.30am Mass.

*Please speak to Fr. Denis if you have any questions regarding these events.*

#### Your Prayers Are Asked For:

We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish, especially **Fr. Philip, Tony Galvin, Mairead Kirk, Liz McCaul** and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, especially **Rita Fletcher** and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

*Francis Foley, John Labrum, Mary Casey, Christine Hawes, Honora Doyle, James McNally, Trevor Flood, Simon Campion, Elizabeth Horohan, Ethel Gaynor, George Kerrison, James Griffin, Alberto Cheles, Bridget Lynch, Frances Scully, Osythe Corry, Timothy Madden, Penelope Gardener, Timothy Scully.*

#### Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Christine Walsh - RIP Albert & Agata Cheles - RIP
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Sister Mary Ann Hoopoe
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	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](http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/baldock) and click on 'Subscribe to Alerts' at the bottom of the page.*