



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



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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

25th January 2026

Sunday of the Word of God

Sharing the Word of God at Home. On the popular television program Antiques Roadshow, people from around the country bring their treasures to be appraised by various experts. An antique might be a cherished family heirloom displayed proudly in a prominent place in the home, or a long-forgotten trinket gathering dust on a shelf in the attic. Whatever the item, the owner is usually surprised to hear the expert's comments. The appraiser might put a low-price tag on something the owner thought had great value. And what was originally purchased for a few pounds sometimes turns out to be a prized collector's item now valued at thousands of pounds. Take a look around your home. What is your family's most valued possession? Is it an object, a person, a relationship? How does your family express delight and pride in this treasured possession? The Second Vatican Council teaches that "the treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly so that a richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's Word" Do we consider the Bible a treasure, a special table around which the family gathers? Is the family Bible among your home's most valuable possessions? As we consider practical ways to share the Word of God at home, perhaps we will be surprised to discover that the family Bible, regardless of whether it is prominently displayed or is gathering dust on an attic shelf, is one of the most valuable spiritual treasures in a Christian home. A Living and Effective Word "Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern the reflections and thoughts of the heart," writes the author of the Letter to the Hebrews (4:12). God's Word is "living and effective" because we welcome it, in the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd

ed.), "not as a human word, 'but as what it really is, the word of God". But how is the Word of God to become "living and effective" in our homes, in our families, in our professional and social relationships? Here are a few practical ways to make the treasures of the Bible into a table at which your family is nourished and strengthened for the Christian life.

Reading, Reflecting, Renewing Begin to break open God's Word in your home by dedicating some family time each week for a brief reading of a Scripture passage, perhaps the Sunday Gospel. Given the hectic and stressed pace of life and our typically overworked schedules, making family time for the Bible reminds us of the need to put God first. Gathering around the table of God's Word enriches and strengthens the experience of family as a "domestic Church." Choose a comfortable and quiet place in the home, away from the distractions of television and ringing telephones. Read the passage aloud, and then allow some time for the family to reflect on and share its meaning together.

The Gospel in Action This Sunday, we are reminded of the mission of Jesus: to bring the healing power of God's love to all. As we reflect on the Gospel, let us consider how we can be instruments of God's love and mercy. In our families, communities, and workplaces, there are many opportunities to offer compassion, justice, and hope. Let's commit to following Christ's example by bringing His light to those in need.

Saying for the Week

"The Gospel is not just to be read; it is to be lived." - Pope Francis

This week, let us reflect on how we can embody the message of the Gospel in our daily actions, following the example of Christ who brought light to a darkened world.

Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 127

Prayer for the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lord Jesus, you came to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and to give sight to the blind. As we listen to your words this day, may we open our hearts to your call. Help us to be agents of mercy and justice, reaching out to those who are suffering and marginalized. May we be bearers of hope, peace, and love to the world around us, living out your Gospel every day. Amen.

Online Marriage Programme Does your marriage need some TLC? Need help with communication and trust? **Retrouvaille helps marriages.** It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: Thursday 12th February. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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 29th January - Young@♥ Mass & anointing of the sick, followed by tea, cake and chat: 10.00am

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th February - Cake Sale: Will take place after each weekend Mass.

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

Saturday 9th 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, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Salvatore Tizzano, Eva Burgess, John O'Leary, Boleslaw Kuczynski, Margaret Barkley, Claude Geary, Joseph Craster, Erna Wells, James (Seamus) Duff, Carmela Martin, Matthew Bolton, Daniel Sheehan, Celia Sheehan, Michael Ryan.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 24 th	6.30pm	Rita Fletcher - RIP
Sun 25 th	8.30am 10.30am	Betty & Ray Knight - RIP People of the Parish
Mon 26 th	10.00am	Martin Skingsley - RIP Saints Timothy & Titus
Tue 27 th	10.00am	Carmilina Calcasola - RIP
Wed 28 th	10.00am	Philip Bowes - RIP Saint Thomas Aquinas
Thu 29 th	10.00am	Rita Fletcher - RIP
Fri 30 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.