



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



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## The Baptism of the Lord

11<sup>th</sup> January 2026



### A reflection on the baptism of the Lord

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world".

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

### Happy New Year!

Every New Year is a special time, inviting us to look back on the year that has gone and look forward to the year that is to come. The New Year ushers in an exciting sense of renewal, recommitment and new horizons as resolutions are made and new opportunities are considered. It is a time that lends itself to examination, reflection and prayer. It affords us also a wonderful opportunity to renew and re-dedicate our lives to the Lord. The work of the Holy Spirit in the world, in the Church and in our own lives is always focused on renewal, reform and refreshment. God is the God of new things, the God of the unexpected and exciting surprises.

We would like to say thank you to all the people who offer their support and give tirelessly of their time and talents to benefit the parish.

We are growing as a parish, you may ask yourself what can I do to make the church come alive where people feel welcomed, and so the church become a place where we can get to know each other more and grow in faith together.

A men's group continues to run in the parish and has successful these last few years. There will be updates put in the parish newsletter if you would like to join.

This last year the church continues its maintenance. The parish house was retiled and the flat roofs leaded. And the church roof beam and gutters are nearly finished, with the cross being painted gold at some point. The church does need constant ongoing maintenance to keep it in a worthy shape to provide a place where we can worship God.

We had our annual open-air mass and once again, God blessed us with rain from heaven, always a sign of blessing, I have never seen the altar servers leave a mass so quickly as the heavens opened, literally.

The Parish Hall has benefitted from a complete makeover these last few years and is now been used much more than before. We hope to apply for a lottery grant to pay for a new flat roof.

The Children's Liturgy group continues every Sunday bar the family mass at the beginning of the month. A word of thanks to Karen and Ben for all their hard work. Thank you to all our Catechists, to Jo and Caroline who prepare the first communion children. Steph and Joanna who prepare the teenagers for confirmation. John and

Reman who prepare couples for marriage and Nana-Adwoa and Donald who prepare parents for Baptism. Thank you to our church choir who keep us in tune during the masses, and the church organists, George, Veronica, Paul and Mary. Thank you to Eilish and her team of church cleaners, Richard who looks after the church maintenance and to those who keep the gardens in such good shape. We are always on the lookout for more people to help within the Parish!

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

**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.

**Flowers for Christmas Collection** Thank you very much indeed to everyone who donated to the "Flowers for Christmas" collection. The collection raised a total of £131.00 and enabled us to buy extra flowers to help make the church even more beautiful to celebrate the Christmas Masses.

**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 12.00, to which everyone is invited. Tea and coffee will be available after the Service and you are welcome to bring a packed lunch.

**Young@❤️** Our next coffee morning will be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January after the 10am mass & anointing of the sick.

**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:

*Constance Johnson, Constance Young, Nora Clark, Mary Connors, Maria Barker, Mary Anne O'Neill, Maria Davey, Suzanne Burrows, Barbara Robbins, Sidney Lazarus, Mary Tresigneme, Emily Kennedy, Joseph Rurojc, Michael Salisbury, Albert Wallace, Brigid Bousfield, Josephine Cornish, Agata Cheles, Kate McCabe, Bridget Dilley, Sr Theresa Ryan.*

**Mass Times and Intentions**

Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Jennifer Harrison RIP
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Joan Burke RIP Claudia Pater - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	
Fri 16 <sup>th</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 and click on 'Subscribe to Alerts' at the bottom of the page.**