



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



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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 8th February 2026

A New Shepherd for Westminster: Archbishop-Elect Richard Moth



We are delighted to announce that Bishop Richard Moth has been appointed as the new Archbishop of Westminster, succeeding Cardinal Vincent Nichols. His Holiness Pope Leo XIV made the appointment on 19 December 2025, and Archbishop-elect Moth will be installed at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 14 February 2026. Archbishop-elect Moth was born in Zambia in 1958 and grew up in Kent. He was ordained a priest in 1982 for the Archdiocese of Southwark and has since served the Church faithfully in many roles. Before his appointment to Westminster, he was Bishop of Arundel and Brighton (2015-2025), and earlier served as Bishop of the Forces (2009-2015).

Throughout his ministry, Archbishop-elect Moth has been deeply involved in pastoral care and social justice issues, including work on behalf of prisoners, mental health, education, and care for the most vulnerable in society. He has also taken a leading role in the Catholic Bishops' Conference on matters such as dignity and compassion for migrants and refugees.

As the twelfth Archbishop of Westminster, he will take up leadership of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, a role traditionally associated with being President of the Bishops' Conference. We pray for him as he prepares to take on this important responsibility and for Cardinal Nichols as he begins a well-earned retirement after many years of dedicated service.

Gospel Reflection: Matthew 5:13-16

In this week's Gospel, we hear Jesus' powerful words about the role of his followers in the world. He begins with the metaphor of salt, saying, "You are the salt of the earth." Salt, in ancient times, was essential for preserving food and enhancing flavour. Jesus calls us to be like salt—agents of preservation in a world often in need of moral and spiritual renewal.

The second metaphor is light. Jesus declares, "You are the light of the world," calling us to shine brightly, to live out the Gospel in a way that others see God's love and goodness through us. Like a city on a hill, we cannot hide our light; it must shine for all to see, guiding others toward the truth.

This passage challenges us to examine how we live out our faith. Are we making a difference in our families, communities, and workplaces? Do we preserve goodness and justice, or do we blend into the background? Are we lighting the way for others to encounter Christ?

In our daily lives, it can be easy to retreat into the shadows, but Christ calls us to live boldly. We are not to hide our light under a bushel but to let it shine before others, "so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." "As we reflect on this message, let us ask ourselves: How can we be the salt and light that our world so desperately needs?"

Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking:

Heavenly Father, we lift up all those who are suffering under the weight of human trafficking. We ask that You bring them comfort, healing, and freedom. Help us to be agents of change, working for justice and advocating for those who are voiceless and vulnerable. Through the intercession of St. Scholastica, may we find the courage to stand up for those who cannot stand for themselves, and may we always be a light in the darkness. Amen.

Wishing everyone a blessed week ahead! Fr Denis

Ash Wednesday: 18th February - Masses at 10.00am & 7.30pm.

Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 133

Cake Sale in Aid of Marie Curie I'm running the London Marathon on the 26th April & Fr Denis has very kindly let me host a cake sale on weekend 14th & 15th Feb. It is to help me raise vital funds for Marie Curie. I am hoping the parishioners will help me in reaching my target of 2.5k (I'm half way there) If you would like to bake, buy or just donate I'd be more than grateful. Thank you Eilish. *Plates will be handed out this weekend.*

Pancake Day - Celebrate with other families within the parish come along for pancakes, fun and get ideas as to how you can celebrate Lent.



Parish Volunteers with a DBS Please check your emails as a message re updated safeguarding requirements has been sent out. Thank you to those who have already responded and informed us. Colette & Patricia.

2026 Parish Dates for your Diary

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th February - Cake Sale: Will take place after each weekend Mass.
Tuesday 17th February - Pancake Day: 3pm
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.

Your Prayers Are Asked For:

We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish, especially *Fr. Philip Law, 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:
David Eccles, Jacqueline Fielding, Francis Rees, May Tilley, Alessandro Gelmini, Ethel Richer, Anne Cox, Alastair Cumming, Ann (Nancy) Lee, Lucy Lazarus, Stanislaw Grulich, Rose Harold, Maria Nicholson.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 7th	6.30pm	<i>Rita Fletcher - RIP</i>
Sun 8th	8.30am 10.30am	<i>Rita Fletcher - RIP</i> <i>Gabriel Mbeutcha's 9th B'day</i>
Mon 9th	10.00am	
Tue 10th	10.00am	Saint Scholastica
Wed 11th	10.00am	<i>Kim Steele - RIP</i> Our Lady of Lourdes
Thu 12th	10.00am	<i>Chrystal Targett</i>
Fri 13th	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.