



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



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## Third Sunday of Lent 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026



### Scripture Reflection -The Woman at the Well

In this Sunday's Gospel, we meet Jesus at Jacob's well, tired from his journey yet ready to reveal something profound. His conversation with the Samaritan woman is one of the most intimate and transformative encounters in Scripture. What begins as a simple request for water becomes a moment of deep revelation, healing, and mission. The woman arrives at the well carrying more than an empty jar. She carries isolation, misunderstanding, and the quiet weight of her own story. Yet Jesus meets her without judgement. He speaks to her with dignity, recognising her thirst not only for water but for truth, acceptance, and renewed life. His words reveal a God who does not step back from human weakness but steps towards it.

As the conversation unfolds, Jesus uncovers the truth of her life, not to shame her, but to set her free. In that moment she discovers the "living water" - the grace that restores the soul and awakens hope. Her transformation is immediate. The woman who came alone now runs back to her community, leaving behind her water jar because she has found something greater. She becomes a witness, and through her testimony others come to believe.

This Gospel invites us to recognise our own thirsts - for meaning, forgiveness, peace, and belonging. Jesus meets us in the ordinary moments of our lives, offering the same living water that renewed the Samaritan woman. Lent is a time to pause at the well, to listen, and to allow Christ to speak to the hidden parts of our hearts. May we, like the woman at the well, encounter Christ afresh and become bearers of His life-giving presence to others.

### Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 23rd May 2026 at 2:30pm. The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email). sent to [family@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:family@rcdow.org.uk)

### Lenten Programme

**Reconciliation - Saturday 14th March** - From 10.30-12.30pm a visiting priest and Fr. Denis will be available for confessions. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during this time.

**Stations of the Cross** - will be held after the 10.00am Wednesday Mass and every Friday (except Good Friday) at 7.00pm, during Lent.

**Children's Station of the Cross** - will be held on Good Friday at 10.30am.

**Confession** - every Saturday from 5.45pm-6.15pm or on request.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** - Every Saturday evening from 5.15pm-6.15pm and every Wednesday from 10.30am-11.30am.

### **STABAT MATER CONCERT**

As part of a Lenten devotion, on **Wednesday 18 March at 6.45pm in Westminster Cathedral**, the Cathedral Choir and the Britten Sinfonia will perform a concert of reflection on the ancient Marian hymn, contemplating the sorrow of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the foot of the Cross: **MacMillan's *Stabat Mater***, and Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*. As a way of encouraging parishes across the diocese to benefit from this spiritual preparation to the Holy Week, the Cathedral offers an opportunity to buy tickets at a discount of **50%**. Discounted tickets are available in Sections A, B and N at the following link: <https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F00638BCD835BA6?did=50off> Password: WCSBDO.

## Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

**17th - 24th July 2026** Join Archbishop Moth on this year's Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Registration is now open at: [www.pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk) or via the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173.

### Reflection

There is a thirst in every human heart. Each of us is like that lonely Samaritan woman. We are thirsting for something, something that will satisfy all our longings. But often we search in the wrong places. We draw water from many wells:

**The water of praise** to quench our thirst for self-esteem:

**The water of success** to quench our thirst for importance;

**The water of pleasure** to quench our thirst for you... But we still get thirsty. Only God can give us what we looking for. He alone can cause a spring to well up inside us.

**The water from this spring** will sustain us in our journey to the Promised Land of eternal life.

### The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Are you an adult non-Catholic interested in exploring what the Catholic faith is about? Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic? If your answer is yes then it may be that the RCIA is for you. The RCIA consists of regular weekly meetings, which start on the 6th May at 7.30pm. If you would like to find out more please speak to Fr. Denis.

### 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, especially **Tom & Anne Marie Binns** and **Shelia Battison** and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Sr Christine Bertrand, Albert Hynes, Anna Hacker, Ruth McNally, Stephen Wycochi, Eileen Muscovita, Thomas Keenan, Vincent Lewicki, Audrey King, Grainne Kirke, Joyce Fitzgerald, Irma Skeeles, Mary Dilley, Charles McQuade, Daphne Salisbury, Daisy Kulcullun and Ursula Duffer.

### Lenten Appeal

The priorities of the appeal touch the lives of parishioners every day: families seeking support, young people shaping their future, individuals facing difficult circumstances, and parishes responding with care and compassion. This special Appeal provides a meaningful way for people to contribute to our [www.rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal) envelopes are also available on the back table.

## Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 7th	6.30pm	Tony Gray RIP
Sun 8th	8.30am 10.30am	Emma Sian RIP Irma Skeeles RIP
Mon 9th	10.00am	Grainne Kirke RIP
Tue 10th	10.00am	Joan Burke RIP
Wed 11th	10.00am	
Thu 12th	10.00am	
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](mailto:Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)  
Colette Murphy: [Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

### Our Catholic Schools

**St. John's Catholic Primary School, Baldock**  
T: 01462 892478 W: [stjohns4.herts.sch.uk](http://stjohns4.herts.sch.uk)

**The Saint John Henry Newman School, Stevenage, T: 01438 314643 W: [jhn.herts.sch.uk](http://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](mailto: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.*