



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



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## Fourth Sunday of Lent

15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Eyesight to the Blind

God's ways of seeing are not our ways, we hear in today's First Reading. Jesus illustrates this in the Gospel—as the blind man comes to see and the Pharisees are made blind.

The blind man stands for all humanity. According to Jewish understanding, he is "Born totally in sin," he is made a new creation by the saving power of Christ.

As God fashioned the first man from the clay of the earth, Jesus gives the blind man new life by anointing his eyes with clay. As God breathed the spirit of life into the first man, the blind man is not healed until he washes in the waters of Siloam, a name that means "Sent." Jesus is the One "sent" by the Father to do the Father's will. He is the new source of life-giving water—the Holy Spirit who rushes upon us in Baptism.

This is the Spirit that rushes upon God's chosen king David in today's First Reading. A shepherd like Moses before him, David is also a sign pointing to the good shepherd and king to come—Jesus.

The Lord is our shepherd, as we sing in today's Psalm. By his death and Resurrection, He has made a path for us through the dark valley of sin and death, leading us to the verdant pastures of the kingdom of life, the Church.

In the restful waters of Baptism, He has refreshed our souls. He has anointed our heads with the oil of Confirmation and spread the Eucharistic table before us, filling our cups to overflowing.

### A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, we thank you for mothers - for all they mean, or have meant, for the love they have shown and the care they have given.

**Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 164**

## Laetare Sunday/Mothering Sunday



This is a day of celebration within the austere period of Lent, when Easter is at last within sight. Traditionally rose-coloured vestments are worn on this day. It is also known as Mothering Sunday and is celebrated on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent. On this day historically, Christians returned to their mother church (home parish) and left an offering at the altar. Gradually this became a feast day for mothers. Children who were away from home would return to visit their mother with a gift. Let us show love and kindness towards all mothers today, perhaps offering to do the washing up with a smile!

### Lenten Programme

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

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

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

### Services for Holy Week

**Holy Thursday - 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

- Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm

**Good Friday - 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

- Children's Stations of the Cross at 10.30am
- Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm

**Easter Vigil - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

- Mass at 8.30pm

**Easter Sunday - 5<sup>th</sup> April**

- Mass at 8.30am & 10.30am

**Divine Mercy Sunday - 12<sup>th</sup> April**

- Holy Hour and confessions at 2.45pm

### 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.

### 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.

### The Government's Crime and Policing Bill

the House of Lords is currently debating an extreme amendment to this Bill, which would allow women to self-induce their own abortions for any reason, and at any gestation. The last chance to remove this amendment will be at the Report Stage, expected on the 11<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> March. Please act now to stop this proposal. Find out more and use SPUC's tool to write to members of the House of Lords by going to: [spuc.org.uk/campaign/abortion-decriminalisation/](http://spuc.org.uk/campaign/abortion-decriminalisation/)

**MISSIO Red Box Scheme** Could Red Box Holders please bring in their boxes for counting and leave them on the table at the back of the church. With many thanks. Pam and Janani.

**Repository** Easter cards are now on sale. You can pay with cash or contactless card but If you are paying by card would you please make a note of the amount and the date in the notebook provided next to the card machine, many thanks.

#### 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 and Anne Marie Binns** and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

**Michael Collins, Michael McGinley, Sylvia Kelly, Cornelius McDine, Marie Brennan, James Ginnelly, Hannah Blows, Sidney Wells, Michael Burgess, Sean O'Flatterty, Frederick Hawkins, Mary Wrighton, Dorothy Kaciniel, Cecilia Parisi, Dominic Manson, Mary Anne Doughty.**

### Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 14th	6.30pm	<i>Scott B Steel - RIP</i>
Sun 15th	8.30am 10.30am	<i>Martin Gratte - RIP Ann Sharp - RIP</i>
Mon 16th	10.00am	
Tue 17th	10.00am	Saint Patrick
Wed 18th	10.00am	
Thu 19th	10.00am	Saint Joseph
Fri 20th	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.*