



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 of Lent 22nd March 2026

Reflection on the Gospel of John 11:1-45

This Sunday's Gospel presents one of the most powerful and moving moments in all of Scripture: the raising of Lazarus from the dead. It is a story filled with deep human emotion, divine power, and the promise of eternal life. Jesus, who knows what He is about to do, enters into the grief of Martha and Mary. He does not stand apart from their sorrow but weeps with them. In this moment, we see the tenderness of God—One who shares in our suffering and pain.

Martha's encounter with Jesus is especially significant. Even in the midst of her loss, she expresses faith: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Yet Jesus leads her deeper, inviting her to believe not just in His healing power but in His identity as "the resurrection and the life." He calls her, and each of us, to trust that death does not have the final word. When Jesus cries out, "Lazarus, come out!", we witness the voice of the Son of God breaking through the darkness of the tomb. The grave is no match for His life-giving word.

This miracle anticipates Jesus' own death and resurrection. By commanding Lazarus to come forth, Jesus reveals both His divine authority and His compassion. He restores life not only to Lazarus but also to Martha, Mary, and their community, who are renewed in hope. It is also a sign of what He offers to us: release from the tombs of sin, despair, and fear. Every time we turn to Christ in faith, He calls us to emerge from whatever binds us, unwrapping the grave clothes of our past so that we may walk freely in His light.

As we approach Holy Week, this Gospel reminds us that Jesus comes to each of us personally. He stands before every place of death and brokenness in our lives and calls us by name: "Come out." His voice restores, renews, and transforms. Let us respond with trust, knowing that even in our darkest hours, the Lord is present, weeping with us, loving us, and leading us toward the fullness of life.

May our faith in the Resurrection grow firmer this Lent, and may we, like Lazarus, step forward into the light of Christ, alive with hope.

The Funeral of Elizabeth (Betty) Lenthall will take place on 1st April at 12:30pm. Betty, who passed away at the age of 102, was the oldest member of our parish. She was an amazing woman and will be deeply missed by her family and by all in the parish community.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

We invite you to join the children and families of St. John's on Wednesday 25th March @ 2:30pm to complete the last 500m of our Lenten fundraising challenge. Meet on the playground. This will be followed by a Fairtrade Cafe in the school hall

The Roof has finally been finished, with the final painting of the cross now complete. It is designed to point down the High Street, so that it overlooks the town.



The Feast of the Annunciation

No one has access to the Almighty as His Mother has; none has merit such as hers. Her Son will deny her nothing that she asks; and herein lies her power. Meditations and Devotions John Henry Newman

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to Thy protection, implored Thy help, or sought Thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to Thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to Thee do I come; before Thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in Thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 170

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 or via the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173.

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.

SUNDAY TEA & COFFEE. Help is need to serve tea and coffee after 10.30 Mass each week. We are a small team and would like extra people on board. If you are able to offer any help please either pop in to speak to one of us after the Mass or give your name to Fr. Denis. Many thanks.

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 - 2nd April

- Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm

Good Friday - 3rd April

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

Easter Vigil - Saturday 4th April

- Mass at 8.30pm

Easter Sunday - 5th April

- Mass at 8.30am & 10.30am

Divine Mercy Sunday - 12th April

- Holy Hour and confessions at 2.45pm

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 Elizabeth (Betty) Lenthall and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Thomas Mason, Mary Kate Drew, James Creamer, Fr Michael Lee, Joseph Partridge, Christina Philbin, Maria Parisi, Elsie Shepherd, Sadie Dyson, Lilian Cook, Peter Butterly, Henry Davey, Brigid Randall, Gerald Quinn, James McGrath, Helena Solich, Patrick Bowen and Raymond Jones.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 21st	6.30pm	<i>Josie Panayides -healing</i>
Sun 22nd	8.30am 10.30am	<i>Tony Knight - RIP</i> <i>Teresa Mariterseu -RIP</i>
Mon 23rd	10.00am	
Tue 24th	10.00am	
Wed 25th	10.00am	The Annunciation of the Lord
Thu 26th	10.00am	<i>Gerry Quinn - RIP</i>
Fri 27th	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.