



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



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

Palm Sunday

29th March 2026

Covering Statues and Sacred Images

Catholics cover statues and images in churches during the final part of Lent—as a way to deepen the sense of solemnity and focus on the approaching Passion of Christ. This practice is sometimes called “veiling.”

The coverings, usually purple cloths, create a visual absence. By temporarily hiding sacred images, the Church encourages the faithful to reflect more inwardly rather than relying on external visuals. It mirrors the spiritual tone of Lent, which emphasizes penance, sacrifice, and preparation for Easter.

There is also a symbolic connection to the Gospel readings of this period. In one passage, Jesus “hid himself” from the people, and the veiled images echo this sense of withdrawal and growing tension leading up to Good Friday.

Additionally, the coverings heighten the impact of Easter. When the veils are removed during the Easter Vigil, the sudden reappearance of statues and images reflects the joy and triumph of the Resurrection.

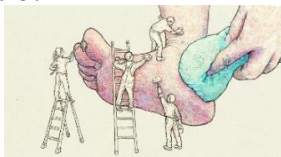
Good Friday Fast Day

Fasting means that we eat less than usual: typically, one main meal and up to two smaller meals, which together do not equal a full meal. In addition, Catholics aged 14 and over are asked to abstain from eating meat on this day. This practice is not about punishment, but about drawing closer to Christ. By going without certain comforts, we are reminded of His suffering and are invited to unite our small sacrifices with His great sacrifice.

Above all, Good Friday fasting is a quiet, personal act of love and remembrance, helping us to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Cross.

Washing of the Feet on Maundy Thursday

Please sign up if you would like your feet washed during the Maundy Thursday Mass. The list is on the notice board.



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

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.

Financial Report

As advised last week, the year-end Financial Report is available for Parishioners. You can find copies at the back of the church, please feel free to take one.

As was mentioned, we are not in a bad position financially at all, and we have recently seen improvements made to both the Church and Parish house as a result of the continuing generosity of Parishioners.

The Financial Reports show that our day to day expenditure has continued to increase faster than the increase in income received so we need to consider how to keep up with these greater costs, whilst we also look at what other improvements are needed within the Parish. These include how we improve the condition of the Parish Hall. So, please reflect on how you can support the Parish, whether by the amount or type of financial contribution, or by giving of your time. All of these will support and grow our Parish. A member of the Finance Committee will be available after each Mass. Thank you all for reading and thinking about the support you are able to give. *The Parish Finance Committee and Fr Denis.*

Sunday Reading: Parish Mass Page 176

Gift Aid & Planned Giving Envelopes

The new Gift Aid and Planned Giving envelopes are now ready for collection. If you are part of our Planned Giving scheme, please pick up your named box of envelopes from the back of the church after mass this week.

Your regular giving is a vital support to our parish and makes a real difference.

For those who are able to Gift Aid their donations, your contributions go even further—allowing the parish to reclaim an additional **25p for every £1 you give**, at no extra cost to you.

If you would like to start giving regularly, join the Gift Aid scheme, or have any questions about your envelopes, please speak to Leanne our bookkeeper baldockbk@rcdow.org.uk

Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

Baptism Course

We are holding a baptism course on the following Saturdays at 11am to 12 noon in the Parish Rooms: the dates are as follows: 30th May, 6th June & 13th June. If you are thinking of having your child baptised please do have a word with Fr. Denis after mass.

The Big Easter Clean

This year's Easter clean will be on Thursday 2nd April at 9am. It would be good to try & get as many volunteers as possible to help prepare the church for the Easter celebrations. If you're not a regular cleaner but would still like to help please come along. Tea/coffee & refreshments will be served.

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

Leon Grudulis, Josef Jarosz, Patrick Heffernan, Patricia Worbey, Agnes Wilson, Marguerite Wilson, John Campbell, Doris Bartram, Sean Duggan, Vera Holmes-Walker, Francesca Walsh, Marie McAlister, Geoff Rota, Brian Sutton.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 28th	6.30pm	Palm Sunday
Sun 29th	8.30am 10.30am	Palm Sunday <i>Malcom Greaves RIP</i>
Mon 30th	10.00am	
Tue 31st	No Mass - The Chrism Mass at Westminster Cathedral at Midday	
Wed 1st	10.00am	
Thu 2nd	7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Fri 3rd	3.00pm	Good Friday

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.