



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



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

Third Sunday of Easter

19th April 2026



Sunday Gospel Reflection (Luke 24:13-35)

The Gospel of the road to Emmaus is one of the most tender resurrection stories, revealing how the risen Christ opens not only the Scriptures, but also the human heart. Two disciples walk away from Jerusalem burdened by disappointment. Their hopes seemed shattered, their understanding incomplete. Yet it is precisely on this road of confusion that Jesus draws near.

At first, they do not recognise him. This is often our experience too. The Lord walks beside us in ordinary moments—our doubts, our conversations, even our sorrows—yet we may fail to see him. What changes everything is not a sudden miracle, but a gradual opening: “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked to us on the road?”

The opening of the heart begins with listening. Jesus patiently explains the Scriptures, helping the disciples see that suffering was not the end, but part of God’s saving plan. Their hearts begin to stir, to awaken. This is the first movement of faith: allowing God’s word to penetrate beyond the mind into the depths of our being.

The second movement comes in the breaking of the bread. It is in this familiar gesture that their eyes are opened. The Eucharist remains for us today the privileged place of recognition. When we gather at Mass, we are not simply remembering Christ—we are encountering him, alive and present.

Finally, their opened hearts lead to action. Though it is late, they return to Jerusalem, transformed into witnesses. A heart touched by Christ cannot remain closed or still; it becomes a heart sent out.

This Gospel invites us to ask: what keeps my heart closed? Fear, disappointment, routine? And how might I allow Christ to walk with me, to speak to me, to stay with me? The risen Lord is always near, ready to set our hearts ablaze again.

Saint George and Saint Mark

Saint George, patron saint of England, is remembered for his courage and unwavering faith. His story reminds us that holiness often requires standing firm in the face of adversity. He calls us to witness boldly to Christ in our daily lives.

Saint Mark, the Evangelist, offers a different but equally vital witness. Through his Gospel, he proclaims the urgency of the Good News and the humanity of Christ. He reminds us that sharing the story of Jesus is itself an act of faith and service.

Together, these saints inspire both courage in action and fidelity in proclamation.

Living the Easter Season

The Easter season is not a single day but a way of living. It is a time to rejoice in the victory of life over death, hope over despair. We celebrate by renewing our awareness of Christ’s presence—especially in the Eucharist, in Scripture, and in one another.

Practically, this means living with joy, even in small ways: offering kindness, practicing gratitude to God, and choosing hope when it is difficult. It means being people of resurrection—carrying light into places of darkness.

Above all, Easter invites us to live with open hearts, ready to recognise the risen Christ walking beside us each day.

A Prayer Before Mass

Our Lord Jesus Christ, I come sick to the doctor of life, unclean to the fountain of mercy, blind to the radiance of eternal light, and poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Lord, in your great generosity, heal my sickness ... May I receive the bread of angels, the King of kings and Lord of lords ... with the purity and faith ... that will help to bring me to salvation. Amen.

Priest Training Fund - Next Weekend: On Good Shepherd Sunday, there will be a second collection for the Priest Training Fund. This fund plays a crucial role in supporting men who are discerning and preparing for the priesthood. Their formation includes academic study, spiritual development, and pastoral training – all of which are essential for their future ministry. As we reflect on Christ as the Good Shepherd, we are reminded that He continues to call shepherds for His Church today. Please keep our seminarians and those considering this calling in your prayers. Next weekend, you will have the opportunity to support this important work. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

RCIA Course: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Programme consists of regular weekly meetings, starting on **Wednesday 6th May** at 7.30 in the Parish Rooms; if you would like to find out more please speak directly to Fr Denis.

2026 Parish Dates for your Diary

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.

Sunday 5th July - Open Air Mass: 10.30am in the church grounds. We will need helpers to set up the Mass and some help with the BBQ after Mass.

Sunday 13th December - Celebrating 50 Years of the New Parish Church. The Archbishop of Westminster Richard Moth, will celebrate Mass with us and bless the foundation stone as we celebrate fifty years of the new church built here in Baldock.

Your Prayers Are Asked For:

We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish, especially **Mary Callaghan, 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:

Wanda Panico, Carlo Gelmini, Marlene Downham, Brian Conway, Bronislaw Kreics, Anna Ciampa, Mary Kate Drew, Vivienne Kingham, Paul Solich, William Currie, Maureen Eccles, Margaret Du Boulay, Elizabeth Dunne.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 18th	8.30pm	Alex Warwick - RIP
Sun 19th	8.30am 10.30am	Elizabeth Lenthall - RIP Maria Pater - RIP
Mon 20 th	No Mass	
Tue 21st	No Mass	
Wed 22nd	No Mass	
Thu 23rd	No Mass	<i>Saint George</i>
Fri 24th	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.