



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



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

26th April 2026



Sunday Gospel Reflection (John 10: 1-10)

Today is traditionally known as “Good Shepherd Sunday” (although the title “the Good Shepherd” only comes in the verse immediately after the text of today’s Gospel Reading). Amongst other themes it is also known as “Vocations Sunday”. As always, when Jesus gives a parable or performs a miracle in this Gospel he is misunderstood and has to offer an explanation in the form of a long discourse. Today we are given the parable and the opening lines of the discourse, which can be confusing with talk of sheep, gates, sheepfolds, gatekeepers, a shepherd and people going in and out. Perhaps the best way to understand what Jesus is driving at, not only in this parable but in ALL his actions in this Gospel, is to focus on the final verse of today’s extract, “I came that they may live and have it abundantly.” (Jn.10:10) This is actually the middle verse of St John’s Gospel, its heart, if you like. It acts as a kind of pivot around which the whole of this Gospel develops. “Life”, “abundance of life” is what Jesus offers throughout his ministry, in both his words and actions.

How might we live this out in the coming week?

Perhaps we can begin with *listening*. Set aside a few quiet minutes each day—before the day begins or as it ends—to consciously place yourself in the presence of Christ. Read a short line of the Gospel and ask: *What is the Shepherd saying to me today?*

We can also practise *recognising his voice in action*. When faced with a decision, pause and

ask: *Which choice leads toward greater love, patience, or truth?* That is often where Christ is leading.

Another way is through *shepherding others*. A kind word, a listening ear, or a small act of care can reflect the Shepherd’s presence. In families, workplaces, and parish life, we are called not only to follow Christ, but to echo his voice for others.

Finally, this week is a fitting time to *pray for vocations*—that those called to serve the Church may have the courage to respond, and that all of us may recognise our own calling to serve in whatever way God invites us.

“I came so that they may have life, and have it to the full.” As we continue through the Easter season, may we learn to recognise that life more clearly, trust the voice that calls us by name, and follow with confidence and hope in the days ahead.

Lord, Shepherd of your sheep, guard us as we live amid the dangers and temptations of this life. Help us to be aware of your loving and always forgiving presence.
Amen.

Priest Training Fund - Supporting Future Priests

Today, on Good Shepherd Sunday, there is a second collection for the Priest Training Fund. This fund supports the formation of men who are responding to God’s call to serve as priests in our diocese. Their journey involves years of preparation – human, spiritual, and pastoral – equipping them to serve parish communities in the years ahead. Your support helps make this formation possible. It is a direct way of strengthening the life of the Church and ensuring that future generations will continue to receive the sacraments and pastoral care. If you are able, please give generously in today’s collection. You may also donate via rcdow.org.uk/PriestTrainingFund Please also continue to pray for vocations and for those currently in formation.

Parish Mass Book Readings p262

Thank You: Fr Stephen Coker for covering the Masses this weekend. Fr. Denis will be back next weekend.

Craft & Chat: Our next meeting is this coming **Friday 1st May**, 9.30 to 11am. This group is for any adults who enjoy any form of handicraft such as knitting, crochet, embroidery etc. Tuition can also be given to any adults who wish to learn how to knit or crochet.

MISSIO Red Box Scheme: In 2025 Baldock parishioners raised £909.03 - this includes those giving on line. With many thanks - this is much appreciated.

Baptism Course: Will take place 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 speak to Fr. Denis.

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 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:

Pasquale Mansi, June Mason, Charles Canty, Peter Dejkalo, Pamela Prior, Peter King, Eliza Impey, Elizabeth McClennan, Martin Conway, Margaret Hesse, Mary Haywood, William Lee.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 25th	8.30pm	Eleanor Sian - RIP
Sun 26th	8.30am 10.30am	Katherine Raven - RIP Monique Mbeutcha - 12 th Birthday
Mon 27 th	No Mass	
Tue 28th	No Mass	
Wed 29th	No Mass	Saint Catherine of Siena
Thu 30th	No Mass	
Fri 1st	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.