



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



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Divine Mercy Sunday

12th April 2026

Divine Mercy Sunday

Today, on this beautiful feast of Divine Mercy Sunday, we gather in joy and trust in the boundless mercy of God. Instituted in the Jubilee Year 2000, this feast was a profound gift to the Church, rooted in the visions of Saint Faustina Kowalska, a humble Polish nun who received private revelations of Christ's immense mercy in the early twentieth century. Through her diary, she recorded Jesus' message that humanity would not find peace until it turned with trust to His mercy. The image of Divine Mercy, with rays of red and pale light streaming from Christ's heart, reminds us of the blood and water poured out for our salvation.

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, drawing us deeper into the mystery of the Resurrection. It is not separate from Easter, but rather an extension of its meaning: that through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has opened the floodgates of mercy for all.

In today's Gospel, we hear the familiar account of the Risen Lord appearing to His disciples. They are gathered behind locked doors, fearful and uncertain. Yet Jesus comes among them, offering peace and showing them His wounds. These wounds, far from being signs of defeat, are now the very source of healing and mercy. He breathes on them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven." Here we see the foundation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a powerful channel of Divine Mercy in our lives.

The figure of Thomas is especially striking. Often remembered for his doubt, he is also a model of honesty and eventual faith. When he encounters Christ and touches His wounds,

he proclaims, "My Lord and my God!" His journey reminds us that doubt can lead to deeper faith when we bring it before the Lord. Jesus' response—"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe"—is a blessing extended to each of us.

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles shows the early Church living in the power of the Resurrection. Signs and wonders abound, and people are drawn to the apostles because they witness something extraordinary: a community transformed by mercy, unity, and faith. Likewise, in the Book of Revelation, we see John's vision of the glorified Christ, who declares, "Do not be afraid." These words echo through all the readings today, reminding us that mercy casts out fear.

As we reflect on these scriptures, we are invited to trust more deeply in God's mercy and to become instruments of that mercy in the world. This means forgiving others, showing compassion, and reaching out to those in need. It also means turning to God ourselves, especially in moments of weakness, knowing that His mercy is greater than any sin.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, let us open our hearts to the grace being offered. Let us approach the Lord with confidence, repeating the simple prayer given to Saint Faustina: "Jesus, I trust in You." May this trust shape our lives and bring us ever closer to the heart of Christ. Fr Denis

Divine Mercy Sunday - Sunday 12th April Holy Hour and Confessions at 2.45pm - 4.00pm

The Feast of Divine Mercy is celebrated on the Octave of Easter (the Sunday after Easter). There will be a holy hour in honour of Divine Mercy here in the church on the Sunday. There is a Novena which begins on Good Friday and ends on Divine Mercy Sunday. **Priests will be available to hear confessions during holy hour.**

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.

Planned Giving Envelopes: The Planned Giving Envelopes for the new tax year will be available at the back of the church. Thank you for your continued support.

Sunday Tea & Coffee: Help is needed 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.

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.

Please speak to Fr. Denis if you have any questions regarding these events.

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: **Ivy Cesvette, Patrick Hearne, Concetta Lanni, Arthur Dilley, Abina Taylor, Mary Knowd, Mary Richardson, Mary Rose Walsh, James Barkley, Annie Brooks.**

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 11th	8.30pm	Concetta Lanni - RIP
Sun 12th	8.30am	Margaret Lee & dead members of Lee family
	10.30am	Claudia Pater - RIP
Mon 13 th	10.00am	
Tue 14 th	10.00am	The MacDonald Family
Wed 15th	10.00am	
Thu 16th	10.00am	Mass in School - all welcome
Fri 17th	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.