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

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

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
6th September 2026

The Gospel Matthew 18:15-20, - invites us to rediscover the meaning of **fraternal correction, forgiveness, and reconciliation**. The readings remind us that Christian life is never lived in isolation. We belong to one another, and therefore we have a responsibility for the spiritual and human well-being of our brothers and sisters.

Jesus teaches us to approach someone who has hurt or offended us—not with anger, humiliation, or condemnation, but privately and with the desire to restore communion. This is a demanding form of love. Saint Paul reminds us that love fulfils the law: true love seeks the good of the other, even when this requires courage and difficult conversations.

The prophet Ezekiel presents the image of the **watchman**. A watchman does not remain silent when danger approaches. In the same way, Christians are called to speak the truth when necessary, but always with humility and charity. Our purpose should never be to win an argument or prove that another person is wrong; it should be to help a brother or sister find the path of life.

Pope Leo XIV has repeatedly encouraged Christians to allow the Gospel to shape their choices and relationships, rather than simply continuing old habits. In his recent reflection on discipleship, he emphasized the need to ask what the Lord is asking of us today.

The promise of Jesus is especially consoling: **"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."** Christ is present when we gather, pray, listen, forgive, and seek reconciliation.

May this Sunday teach us to become instruments of peace—people courageous enough to speak truth, humble enough to listen, and loving enough to forgive.

This week's appeal is given by the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) Founded in 1703, are a Roman Catholic Religious Congregation dedicated to sharing hope and love worldwide. For over 300 years, our mission has been clear: to evangelize the poor and the needy, pursue justice, foster peace, care for creation, inspired by **Luke 4:18** and advance God's kingdom here on earth. Today, more than 3,000 Spiritans from all continents bring this mission to life in over 60 countries, serving where the need is greatest—hospitals, parishes, prisons, schools, and refugee communities. We also support integral development for young people and work for justice globally. As Pope Francis reminded us in May 2023, we serve "in simplicity of life, respecting peoples and cultures," embracing the most abandoned with fraternity and prayer. **Your support and prayers keep our mission alive. Together, we carry the Spiritan light to the world's darkest corners.**

The Birth of Mary

On Our Lady's birthday 8th September, the Church celebrates the first dawning of redemption with the appearance in the world of the Savior's mother, Mary. The Blessed Virgin occupies a unique place in the history of salvation, and she has the highest mission ever commended to any creature. We rejoice that the Mother of God is our Mother too. Let us often call upon the Blessed Virgin as "Cause of our joy", one of the most beautiful titles in her litany. The 8th September, comes at the end of summer and the beginning of Autumn, this day has many thanksgiving celebrations and customs attached to it. In the older form of the *Roman Ritual* there is a blessing of the summer harvest and Autumn planting seeds on this day. The winegrowers in France called this feast "Our Lady of the Grape Harvest." The best grapes are brought to the local church to be blessed and then some bunches are attached to hands of the statue of Mary. A festive meal which includes the new grapes is part of this day.



A Prayer to Mary on her Birthday

Impart to your servants, we pray, O Lord, the gift of heavenly grace, that the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin may bring deeper peace to those for whom the birth of her Son was the dawning of salvation Amen.

Pope's Prayer Intention for September:

This month, Pope Leo invites us to pray for the care of water — that this precious gift, essential to all life, may be managed wisely and sustainably, and that everyone, especially the poorest, may have fair access to clean water. Let us keep this intention in our prayers throughout September.

Parish Mass Book Readings p125

2026 Parish Dates for your Diary

First Holy Communion 2027 Programme
(open to any child in Year 3 or above)
On Saturday 19th September, between 10am and 11am, a parent's drop in at the Parish Rooms. During this time, you will meet with Fr. Denis and complete your child's application form for First Holy Communion. If your child was not Baptised in Baldock please bring their Baptism Certificate with you. The sessions will commence in November 2026 and the children will make their First Holy Communion in May 2027. If you have any questions please contact Fr. Denis

Confirmation 2027 If you are in year 9 or 10, please consider if you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the parish. The first meeting will take in December 2026. Subsequent meetings will then take place on a Saturday evening before Mass.

Diocesan Walsingham Pilgrimage If you wish to join the pilgrimage on 19th September 2026, please contact the parish office at letchworth@rcdow.org.uk for more details.

The Saint John Henry Newman School
Warmly invites parents of Year 6 pupils to an Open Evening on Thursday 24th September, from 5.30 – 8.00pm. Prospectuses and Application Forms will be available on the evening. The last tour will be at 7:00pm and the school will close to visitors once the final Headteacher's address starts at 7.30pm.

The Signing of Forms for JHN School Fr. Denis will meet parents on Saturday 26th September at 10am in the Parish Rooms.

24th October Extra-Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers Day Will now take place on Saturday from 10am till 12.30pm, followed by lunch.

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, Irene Schooling*** 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: *Francis McHugh, Richard Vallance, Donal Hickey, John Markey, Margaret Dowdall, Fryderyk Wisniowski, Ann Jones.*

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 5th	6.30pm	Angela Gray RIP
Sun 6th	8.30am 10.30am	Betty knight RIP Robert Pater RIP
Mon 7th	10.00am	*Bernard Gray RIP*
Tue 8th	10.00am	*The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
Wed 9th	10.00am	
Thu 10th	10.00am	Sienna ……..
Fri 11th	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.

GLUTEN FREE ALTAR BREADS.
Are you aware that we have gluten free altar breads? If you require these please make yourself known to Father Denis before each Mass that you attend.