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

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

Twenty Four Sunday in Ordinary Time
13th September 2026

Forgiveness: A Gift We Are Called to Share

In this Sunday's Gospel, Peter approaches Jesus with a question that many of us might quietly ask ourselves: "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?" Peter probably thinks he is being generous. But Jesus' answer goes far beyond keeping count: "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Jesus then tells the parable of the unforgiving servant. A servant owes his master an enormous debt, one that he could never hope to repay. Moved with compassion, the master forgives the entire debt. Yet that same servant later refuses to forgive a much smaller debt owed to him by another. Having received mercy, he fails to show mercy.

The message is both simple and challenging. We are people who have been forgiven. Every time we pray the Our Father, we ask God to "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." God's mercy is not something we are meant to receive and then keep for ourselves. It is a gift that should overflow into the way we treat others.

Forgiveness, however, is not always easy. Some hurts run deep, and forgiveness should never be confused with pretending that something harmful did not happen. It does not necessarily mean forgetting, excusing, or immediately restoring trust. Rather, Christian forgiveness is a decision to place our hurt into God's hands and refuse to let resentment have the final word.

Perhaps there is someone we find difficult to forgive. Perhaps we ourselves are carrying guilt or regret and struggle to believe that God can truly forgive us. The Gospel reminds us that God's mercy is greater than our failures and that we are called to extend that same mercy to others.

As we gather around the Eucharist this Sunday, may we become more aware of the countless ways God has forgiven and loved us. And may that awareness soften our hearts, helping us to forgive as we have been forgiven, to show mercy as we have received mercy, and to become people through whom God's compassion is made visible in the world.

Parish Mass Book Readings p128

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



This feast commemorates two significant events, firstly the discovery of the Cross by St Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine in 320AD. Secondly the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem in 335AD, which marks the site of the Crucifixion. The feast is a celebration of the Cross on which Jesus was crucified, symbolizing his victory over death and is promise of eternal life. It is a day to reflect on the love and sacrifice of Jesus and to honour the Cross as a symbol of salvation.

The Sacrament of the sick & the Young@♡

Our next coffee morning will be held on Thursday 24th Sept after the 10am mass. The Sacrament of the sick will be administered during the mass. We provide the tea & cake, so you can come along for the chat. Cake donations also welcome. See you there.

CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED

Would you be willing to help keep our church looking clean and welcoming? We are looking for **a few more volunteers to** join our existing cleaning Rota. The commitment would be just **a few hours, once every 5 weeks**. If you could spare some time to help, we would be very grateful for your support. **To volunteer, please contact Eilish:**hislop_me@hotmail.com

MISSIO RED BOX SCHEME - Please could Red Box holders bring in their boxes for counting and leave them on the small table at the back of the Church. With many thanks.

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

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 place 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.

Extra-Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers Day
There is a change of date for this day; it will now take place on Saturday **7th November** 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; *and* for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently; especially Keith Britter who passed on this week, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Magda Horvath, Philip Corke, Elizabeth McGarry, Anne Fruithoff, Fr. William Ruhman, Michael Feeney, Mary Hewlett, Beatrice Watkins, Joan Anthony and Mary Hill.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 12th	6.30pm	**Donal Hickey 3rd** *Anniversary mass, RIP*
Sun 13th	8.30am 10.30am	**People of the parish** **Sean Stynes RIP**
Mon 14th	10.00am	
Tue 15th	10.00am	
Wed 16th	10.00am	
Thu 17th	10.00am	**Emanuel & Angela Mbeutcha** Mass is in St John's School, all people are most welcome
Fri 18th	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***.

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

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.