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

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

Twenty Six Sunday in Ordinary Time
27th September 2026

The Yes That Becomes Action

In this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 21:28–32, Jesus tells the story of two sons. Their father asks both to go and work in the vineyard. The first says, "I will not," but later changes his mind and goes. The second says, "Yes, sir," but never goes. Jesus then asks, "Which of the two did his father's will?"

The parable reminds us that what matters to God is not simply what we say, but how we live. Words can be easy. We can make promises, express good intentions and speak confidently about our faith. Yet the real test of discipleship is found in our actions.

The first son initially refuses, but something changes within him. He reconsiders his decision and eventually does what his father asks. There is hope here for all of us. We may sometimes say "no" to God through our selfishness, weakness, mistakes or reluctance. But our first response does not have to be our final response. We can change direction. We can begin again.

The second son reminds us that saying the right things is not enough. Faith must become visible in the way we treat others, especially those who are vulnerable, lonely or in need. Our "yes" to God is expressed through love, forgiveness, generosity and service.

The vineyard can also remind us of the community to which we belong. Each of us has a part to play. Sometimes that contribution may seem small—a kind word, a listening ear, a prayer for someone, or simply being present when another person needs support. Yet these small acts of love can become powerful signs of God's presence in our world.

As we gather for worship this Sunday, perhaps we can ask ourselves: Where is God inviting me to move from words to action? Is there something I have been putting off? Is there someone I need to forgive, encourage or help?

God does not ask for perfect people. He asks for hearts that are willing to change and lives that are ready to respond. May our "yes" to God be more than words. May it become a way of life, seen in what we do each day.

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

Fairtrade Tea Party:

St. John's Catholic Primary School invite you to



celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight with a tea party on Thursday 1st October @ 3:15pm in the school hall. Fairtrade tea, coffee and cakes served by our Chaplaincy Team. Raising funds for CAFOD.



Jack Philbin, is running the Amsterdam marathon on Sunday 18th October to help support the St. John's School Baldock Parents Association! The money raised will help provide play equipment & storage facilities, essential for the growth of the school's new Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) initiative.

Holidays

Fr. Denis will away on holidays, from the 28th September till the 17th October. Fr Stephen will be covering the weekend masses; while there will be a midweek mass every Wednesday.

Harvest Family Fast Day 2026

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030.

Parish Mass Book Readings p134

Pope's Prayer Intention for October:
This month, Pope Leo invites us to pray for those involved in mental health ministry.
Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.
Let us keep this intention in our prayers throughout October.

2026 Parish Dates for your Diary

RCIA 2026 – 2027

Are you an adult non-Catholic interested in exploring what Christianity and the Catholic faith are about? Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic? If your answer is yes, then the Holy Trinity RCIA programme (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) may be for you. The course consists of regular weekly meetings **in the Holy Family room**; the first meeting will be on Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm, if you would like to find out more please speak directly to Fr. Denis or phone the parish office on 01462 893127.

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 on 6th December 2026. Subsequent meetings will then take place on a Saturday evening before Mass.

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.

Celebrating 50 Years of the New Parish Church.

Sunday 13th December.

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, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Roy Stone, Edward Chanas,
Frederick Bridgman, Sr Aloyse Woodcock, Florence Ager, Eileen Fox, William Piper, Leo Ennis, Nora Mc Comish, Ita Brimyard and Mary Frances Lee.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 26th	6.30pm	
Sun 27th	8.30am 10.30am	
Mon 28th	No Mass	
Tue 29th	No Mass	SS. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael
Wed 30th	10.00am	St Jerome
Thu 1st	No Mass	
Fri 2nd	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.