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

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

Twenty Seven Sunday in Ordinary Time
4th October 2026

The Vineyard Belongs to God

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the landowner who plants a vineyard, carefully prepares it, and entrusts it to tenants. When the time comes for the harvest, the tenants refuse to give what is due. Instead, they reject the servants sent by the owner and ultimately kill his son.

It is a challenging Gospel because the vineyard is clearly an image of God's relationship with his people. The vineyard has been lovingly prepared and entrusted to others, but those who have received this gift begin to act as though it belongs entirely to them.

There is something here for each of us to reflect upon. Everything we have is, ultimately, a gift: our lives, our families, our faith, our abilities, our homes and the communities of which we are part. We are not owners in the absolute sense; we are stewards. The question is not simply, "What do I have?" but "What am I doing with what God has entrusted to me?"

The Gospel also points towards Christ himself, the beloved Son whom the tenants reject. Jesus knows that his mission will lead him to suffering and death, yet he remains faithful to the Father's will. The rejected stone becomes the cornerstone. What appears to be defeat becomes, through God's power, the beginning of something new.

This is at the heart of our Christian hope. God does not abandon his vineyard when it bears imperfect fruit. Instead, he continually calls us back, inviting us to conversion, generosity and faithfulness.

As members of our parish, we too are entrusted with a portion of God's vineyard. Our worship, our welcome to others, our care for those who are struggling, and our willingness to share the Gospel are all ways in which we can offer God the fruits of his harvest. Perhaps this week we might ask ourselves: **What has God entrusted to me, and what fruit am I offering in return?**

May we recognise God's gifts with gratitude, use them generously, and help our parish community become a vineyard where faith, hope and love can flourish.

Parish Mass Book Readings p137

Thank you for supporting CAFOD's Family Fast Day!

Thank you for putting your faith into action this Family Fast Day. Your generous donations will help more children stay in school. Children like Tayla in Zimbabwe, where CAFOD's local partners worked with her community to install a solar-powered water supply. Now Tayla has access to safe water and nutritious food at school, helping her to keep learning and develop her God-given talents.

To find out more about the work that your generosity at Fast Day makes possible visit: cafod.org.uk/parishthankyou

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



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.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer for Peace)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive,it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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.

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.

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.

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: Antonietta Rigone-Pisone, Camilla McCallion, Katherine McKenna, John Chujecki, Margaret Holmes Walker, Jean Barkley, Andrew Kane, Cornelius Morrissey, Joy Smith, Annie Madden, Karoly Hugyecz, Margaret Barrett and Barbara Gunn.

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen

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.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 3rd	6.30pm	Angela Gray RIP
Sun 4th	8.30am 10.30am	Keith Britter RIP Pamela Steele- intention
Mon 5th	No Mass	
Tue 6th	No Mass	
Wed 7th	10.00am	Our Lady of the Rosary
Thu 8th	No Mass	
Fri 9th	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