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

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

Twenty Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time
11th October 2026

The Invitation to the Wedding Feast
In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of a king who prepares a wedding feast for his son. The invitation is generous and joyful, yet many of those invited refuse to come. Others are eventually gathered in from the roads, and the feast is filled with guests.
At the heart of this parable is an invitation. God continually invites us into a relationship of love with him. The wedding feast points towards the Kingdom of God — a place of communion, joy and belonging. The remarkable thing is that the invitation is offered freely. We do not earn our place at the table; God reaches out to us first.
Yet the Gospel also challenges us. The first guests are so occupied with their own concerns that they ignore the invitation. It is easy for us to do the same. Our lives can become so busy with work, family responsibilities, worries and plans that we leave little room to hear God's voice. Sometimes God's invitation comes quietly through prayer, through another person, through the needs of our community, or through an unexpected opportunity to show love.
The man who arrives without a wedding garment offers another important challenge. Accepting God's invitation is not simply about turning up; it calls for a response. Our encounter with Christ should gradually change the way we live. The "wedding garment" can remind us of a life shaped by faith, charity, mercy and love.
Perhaps, then, this Gospel asks us two simple questions: **Am I listening to God's invitation? And how am I responding to it?**
Every Eucharist is, in a beautiful sense, an invitation to the Lord's table. We come with all that we are — our joys, struggles, hopes and failures — trusting in God's mercy. And from that table we are sent out to become signs of Christ's love in the world.
May we never become so distracted that we miss God's invitation. And may our lives show that we have truly accepted it, by becoming people of welcome, compassion and generous love.
Lord, help us to hear your invitation, to accept your grace, and to share the joy of your Kingdom with others. Amen.

Prisoner's Sunday
Today marks the **National Day of Prayer** and action for prisoners and their dependents by the Catholic Church and across the Christian denominations. It is a day to direct our thoughts and prayers to prisoners, their families and children. Prisoners' Sunday is the time to reflect on how we as individuals, as a Church and as a community are serving those affected by imprisonment. Prisoners' families, prisoners and people with previous convictions often find themselves on the margins of society due to the social stigma associated with imprisonment. They are often forgotten or come lower down on the list of causes to 'hold a hand out to'. But the gospel reminds us of our duties towards them, 'I was naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me; (Matthew 25:36).

Prayer for Prison Week

For prisoners:
We pray for those who are prisoners. Through reflection and understanding, may they be able to go beyond their sentence and see hope for a future without crime. Let us follow Christ's message and reach out so that his presence be known by those who seek him.



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.

World Mission Sunday
Next weekend there will be a collection for World Mission Sunday.

Parish Mass Book Readings p140

2026 Parish Dates for your Diary
MASS FOR THE HOLY SOULS

All Souls Day 2nd November 7.30pm:
November is the month of Holy Souls, when we pray for our deceased loved ones and those who we remember in our book of remembrance, in which we place the names of our family and friends who need our prayers.
As we have our service of blessing the graves in August, I thought that it might be a nice idea to celebrate a special mass in November this year. Do come and join us and if you know of anyone who has lost a loved one and would like to join us please do invite them to the Mass.

Confirmation 2026-2027
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.

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.

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: Elizabeth Arnold, Sr John Ryan, Sally-Ann Riegel, Cecilia Saunders, Lilian Tingey, Christine Wright, Marguerite O'Leary, William Darby, Johanna Rimmer, Kathleen Allen, Elizabeth Keane and Ian Piper.

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 10th	6.30pm	Victoria Hendren RIP
Sun 11th	8.30am 10.30am	Katherine Raven RIP Andrew Pater – Sick
Mon 12th	No Mass	
Tue 13th	No Mass	St Edward the Confessor
Wed 14th	10.00am	
Thu 15th	No Mass	St Teresa of Jesus
Fri 16th	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