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



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

Thirty Sunday in Ordinary Time
25th October 2026

Pope Leo on the Catholic Sacrament of Marriage

Pope Leo XIV has spoken warmly and clearly about the beauty and importance of the Catholic sacrament of Marriage, presenting it as a divine gift at the heart of family life and human society. During the Jubilee of Families in Rome in June 2025, he described marriage as "not an ideal but the measure of true love between a man and a woman," emphasizing that authentic married love is total, faithful, and fruitful.

According to Pope Leo, marriage is much more than a legal contract or a private arrangement between two people. It is a sacred covenant established by God, through which a man and a woman become one flesh and cooperate with the Creator in giving and nurturing life. Referring to the Church's teaching, he highlighted that conjugal love reflects God's own love, a love that is faithful, self-giving, and life-giving.

The Holy Father teaches that the family founded on marriage is the "cradle of the future of humanity." Children learn love, trust, forgiveness, and faith within the family. For this reason, Christian marriage is not merely for the happiness of the spouses but also serves the good of the Church and society. Through their witness of lifelong commitment, married couples reveal God's steadfast love to the world.

Pope Leo has also pointed to holy married couples and families as examples for Catholics today. He recalled the witness of Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, the parents of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, whose love and faith endured even in the face of persecution and death. These examples show that holiness is not limited to priests and religious but is also found in ordinary family life lived with extraordinary love.

In continuity with the Church's long tradition, including the teaching of Pope Leo XIII in *Arcanum*, marriage is understood as a lifelong and faithful union, raised by Christ to the dignity of a sacrament. Through this sacrament, husband and wife receive grace to support one another, to remain faithful to their vows, and to build a home rooted in Christian values.

For Pope Leo, the message is clear: Christian marriage is a vocation of love. In a world often marked by division and uncertainty, faithful marriages and strong families remain powerful signs of hope, unity, and God's enduring presence among His people.

Month of The Holy Souls

November is the month when we think about the holy souls and especially from our own families, those close to our hearts. There will be a book of remembrance, which will be present at every mass. We will offer a Holy Mass for the deceased. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church with a list of those to be entered into the Book. Please fill out the list provided of your deceased parents, relatives and friends and all you wish to pray for. The Church prays for everyone who has passed on to the next life marked with the sign of faith. Let us remember them, our faith tells us that they are very much alive, and our prayers can help them.

CHURCH FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We urgently need more people to join the flower arranging team as at the moment we are a very small group. If we have a few more volunteers it would mean that we would be able to keep our church looking beautiful all the time. The commitment would be **one hour or so every five or six weeks**. You might like to work with a friend as a pair, which would make the job quicker. If you would like to help please contact Veronica on 01462 892640 or email: Baldock@rcdow.org.uk

Prayer of St. Ignatius Loyola

Dearest Lord,
teach me to be generous;
teach me to serve You as You deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for reward
save that of knowing I am doing Your Will.

Parish Mass Book Readings p146

2026 Parish Dates for your Diary

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: Rose Holloway, *Louise Burke, John Brennan, Eileen Copps, Alfred Field, Ronald Bromage, Adelina Molloy, Michael Fitzgerald, Margaret Speck, Arthur Joseph Wilkinson, Michael Windebank, Christopher Windebank,*

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 24th	6.30pm	Daniel Targett
Sun 25th	8.30am 10.30am	Keith Britter RIP Andrew Pater sick
Mon 26th	10.00am	Sylvanus Rundare RIP
Tue 27th	No mass	
Wed 28th	10.00am	Saints Simon & Jude Apostles
Thu 29th	No mass	
Fri 30th	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