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

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

8th November 2026

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



What is Remembrance Day? The second Sunday of November is Remembrance Sunday, also known as Remembrance Day. At 11am, men, women and children across Britain hold a two-minute silence to remember the millions who died in war. The silence is usually observed at war memorials, cenotaphs and religious services and shopping centres throughout the country.

Members of the Wedding

According to marriage customs of Jesus' day, a bride was first "betrothed" to her husband but continued for a time to live with her family. Then, at the appointed hour, some months later, the groom would come to claim her, leading her family and bridal party to the wedding feast that would celebrate and inaugurate their new life together. This is the background to the parable of the last judgment we hear in today's Gospel.
In the parable's symbolism, Jesus is the Bridegroom. In this, He fulfils God's ancient promise to join himself forever to His chosen people as a husband cleaves to his bride. The virgins of the bridal party represent u the members of the Church. We were "betrothed" to Jesus in Baptism and are called to lives of holiness and devotion until He comes again to lead us to the heavenly wedding feast at the end of time. Paul warns in today's 2nd reading, Jesus is coming again, though we know not the day nor the hour.
We need to keep vigil throughout the dark night of this time in which our Bridegroom seems long delayed. We need to keep our souls' lamps filled with the oil of perseverance and desire for God-virtues that are extolled in today's First Reading and Psalm. We are to seek Him in love, meditating upon His kindness, calling upon His name, striving to be ever worthier of Him, to be found without spot or blemish when He comes. If we do this, we will be counted as wise and the oil for our lamps will not run dry. We will perceive the Bridegroom, the Wisdom of God, hastening toward us, beckoning us to the table He has prepared, the rich banquet that will satisfy our souls.

Church Teaching on Purgatory

The Catholic Church dedicates the entire month of November to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. During this entire month we pray for the souls of the faithful departed, especially those whom we have known and loved. All Souls Day, also known as the Day of the Dead.
The souls in purgatory died in the mercy of God, this is why they are called holy; however, because they still had attachment to sin at the time of their death, they must undergo a spiritual purification of their souls before they are able to fully love God with their whole heart, mind, and soul for all eternity.
Those in purgatory cannot pray for themselves, they must rely entirely on others to pray and make sacrifices on their behalf. As they are nevertheless part of the Communion of Saints, they depend upon us to help ease their suffering and quickly advance them through their purification so that they can join the saints in heaven. Prayers for the faithful departed please God, who makes use of our prayers to help purify these souls that He loves.

Collection for sick and retired priests of the Diocese

Next weekend is the annual collection for sick and retired priests in the Diocese of Westminster. The number of our priests over the age of 75 is steadily increasing, and caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. Whilst we work with the NHS and local authorities to ensure funding gaps are met, we still rely heavily on the generosity of parishioners who contribute to this worthy fund each year. Therefore, I would like to ask for your help once again as we draw close to this year's annual appeal for our Sick & Retired Priests.

Parish Mass Book Readings p 152

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.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! Christmas cards, Advent candles and calendars will be on sale from the weekend 14th/15th November here in the church. All are very reasonably priced. Contactless payments and cash are both accepted now for all goods.

2026 Parish Dates for your Diary

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.

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.

MISSIO RED BOX SCHEME - Please could Red Box Holders claim their empty, counted Red Boxes from the table at the back of the Church. The amount collected this year from two collections is £488.67 and this does not include the donations made by Parishioners on line. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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 Lorna Sexton and Keith Britter, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Florence McHugh, Zena Garrod, Paul Miller, Colin Goddard, Sean Walsh, Ellen Gannon, Alexander Zybulska, Cecil Copping, Robert Byrne,Patrick Rodgers, Daisy Lyons, Margaret Cannon. John Walsh, Guiseppe Ciampa and Agnes Welland.

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 7th	6.30pm	Edward Hickey – sick
Sun 8th	8.30am 10.30am	Amanda Robinson RIP
Mon 9th	10.00am	**Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**
Tue 10th	10.00am	St Leo the Great, Pope
Wed 11th	10.00am	**St Martin of Tours** Grace Mbeutcha-Birthday
Thu 12th	10.00am	St Josaphat
Fri 13th	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