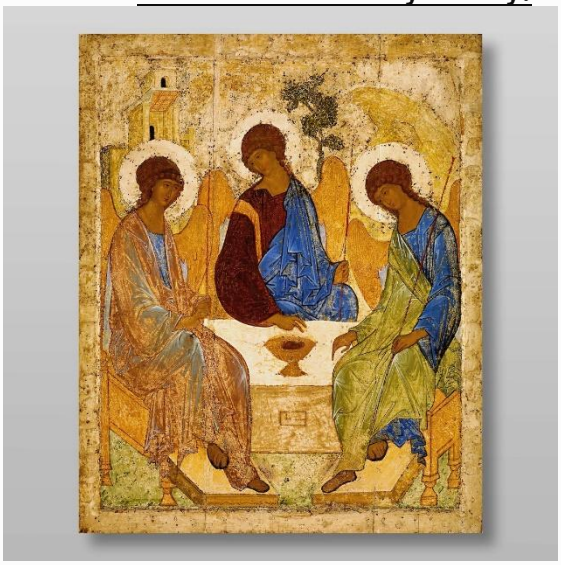
CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary time
15th November 2026

Andrei Rublev's Holy Trinity:



You may have noticed the new icon that we have in the church porch, here is a little information about the Holy Trinity icon.

Andrei Rublev's famous *Holy Trinity* icon, also known as *The Hospitality of Abraham*, was painted in the early fifteenth century, traditionally dated around 1411. It is associated with the Trinity Monastery of St Sergius in Sergiyev Posad, north-east of Moscow. Inspired by Genesis 18:1–15, it depicts Abraham welcoming three mysterious visitors at the Oak of Mamre.

This beautiful Orthodox icon is much more than a depiction of three angels. It is a profound visual expression of the mystery of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three distinct Persons united in one God. Through the colours of their garments, their gestures and their relationship with one another, Rublev communicates the eternal communion of divine love.

The three angels sit around a single table, their faces and gestures turned gently towards one another. Their harmonious arrangement expresses unity, equality and perfect love. The central angel is traditionally interpreted as Jesus Christ. His blue garment represents divinity, while his red garment symbolises humanity, reflecting the mystery of the Incarnation. Behind him stands a tree, traditionally identified as the Oak of Mamre, which can also evoke the wood of the Cross. The Son who visited Abraham would ultimately enter human history and offer himself for our salvation.

The angel on the left represents God the Father. His posture conveys authority without domination, reflecting the Father's loving relationship with the Son and the Holy Spirit. The angel on the right represents the Holy Spirit. His greenish-blue garments suggest life, renewal and spiritual transformation. The mountain behind him can symbolise humanity's spiritual journey towards God.

At the centre of the table is a chalice, perhaps the most significant detail for Catholic contemplation. It recalls Christ's sacrifice and the Eucharist, through which we enter into communion with God. The table becomes an image of the heavenly banquet, where divine love is shared.

Perhaps the most moving feature is the open space at the front of the table. It seems to invite the viewer to take a place among the three figures. We are reminded that God does not remain distant but invites us into his eternal communion of love.

The icon offers a beautiful meditation on the Eucharist. Through Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are drawn into the life of the Trinity. *Ultimately, Rublev reminds us that God's deepest truth is love: Father, Son and Holy Spirit eternally united in perfect communion. And the extraordinary gift is that we are invited to share in that love.*

Second collection – Sick & Retired Priests' Fund

Today's second collection is for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. Please give generously and help ensure our sick and older priests are financially supported, having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. They have baptised us, welcomed us into the church, and offered comfort and prayer at times of sorrow. Now we have a chance to give back and ensure they have peace of mind during their senior years, when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility.

Please give generously using the envelopes in the church. You can make a one-off donation or set up a regular gift and become a **Patron** by completing section 4 on the envelope form. You can also donate online at **rcdow.org.uk/SRP** – the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online.

Parish Mass Book Readings p 155

A Prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Heavenly Father, I humbly pray for the holy souls in Purgatory. May Your infinite mercy bring them comfort, peace, and forgiveness. Cleanse them of all sin and welcome them into the eternal joy of Your heavenly kingdom. May the light of Your love shine upon them, and may they soon rest in Your loving presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BERNIE'S CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Yes, it's that time of year again! Bernie's Christmas Hamper Draw will take place on **Sunday 20th December, after the 10.30am Mass**. Sherry and mince pies will be served in the parish rooms, – remember, you've got to be in it to win it!

Tickets will be available from Sunday 29th November (the First Sunday of Advent), at £1 per strip. Lists for hamper donations can be found at the back of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

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

Sacrament of Confirmation 2026/ 2027

If you are in Year 9 or Year 10, please consider whether you would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the parish.

The first meeting will take place on Sunday 13th December 2026. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with the candidates on Sunday 13th June 2027.

Further meetings will take place on Saturday evenings before Mass. Details of the meeting times and arrangements will be provided at the first meeting.

Celebrating 50 Years of the New Parish Church.

Sunday 13th December.

The Archbishop of Westminster Richard Moth, will celebrate Mass the 10.30 am 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 Lorna Sexton and Keith Britter, and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Anthony Quilty, Gladys Rose, Sarah Hopkins, Carmelina Lewicki, Angela Gray, Boleslaw Majowiez, Kazimierz Rozana, David Charles Ronayne, Sr Alberta Kennedy and Michael Zac.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 14th	6.30pm	Breda & Michael Rock
Sun 15th	8.30am 10.30am	Audrey Kervick RIP Holy Souls of the Parish
Mon 16th	10.00am	**Angela Gray RIP**
Tue 17th	10.00am	Vittorio Calcasola
Wed 18th	10.00am	
Thu 19th	10.00am	Carmel Palao RIP
Fri 20th	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***.

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