The Roman Catholic Parishes of Old Hall Green, Puckeridge & Buntingford

(Established 1793: 2 Farm Ln, SG11 1DT) (Established 1914: 3 Station Rd, SG9 9HT)

website: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/oldhallgreen **website:** https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/buntingford

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The 2nd Sunday of Advent 10 December 2023

Mass Times for the Week commencing
9-17 December 2023
All Masses will take place in the parish church of St Richard of Chichester, Buntingford.

Saturday 9 December
Vigil Mass of the 3rd Sunday of Advent
6.00pm: The People of the Parish

Sunday 10 December
The 2nd Sunday of Advent
9.15am: The People of the Parish
11.00am: The People of the Parish

Saturday 16 December
Vigil Mass of the 4th Sunday of Advent
6.00pm: The People of the Parish

Sunday 17 December
The 1st Sunday of Advent
9.15am: The People of the Parish
11.00am: The People of the Parish

REFRESHMENTS

Parishioners from both Sunday Masses are warmly invited for refreshments in the hall from 10.15am

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

The 17 December will be the last First Holy Communion class until after Christmas when we will start the Eucharist unit. We will start again on Sunday 14 January after 11 am Mass.

SINGING ON CHRISTMAS DAY

If anyone can help accompany the singing at the Christmas Day Mass, please speak to Deacon Paul, or email him at pauloconnor@rcdow.org.uk



A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low.
Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken' (Is 40:3-5).

Today's first reading explains well this Sunday's Gospel. It is in the deserts and in the trials of our lives, that we can find by grace moments for welcoming the consoling, reassuring light of God. On the one hand, we do not see God, on the other hand, we can properly see only through him because he can illuminate (as I was saying last weekend) the eyes of our hearts, he can touch and warm our hearts, opening them to a path towards a fuller life.

But, what are the valleys, the cliffs, the ridges, and the mountains of our lives? These are our spiritual wounds, our trials, our fears. We can fill the valleys and make plain the cliffs only by invoking God, seeking him with our hearts. There is a need for this preparation, this gradual approach. You are on a road where the glory, the mysterious power, of God is gradually manifesting.

The last thing that is thought of and decided for a newspaper article, whether in print or on the web, is the title. If we think about it, when we decide to read an article we do it because the title has somehow struck and attracted us, giving us in a few words the summary of what we are going to read. The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mk 1:1). The first verse in Mark is the title prepared for his entire gospel, a guide for reading what he is about to narrate. With Jesus, a "new creation" has occurred (the same word was used in Gen 1:1, the beginning, archè). This is how the Bible begins: God looks and sees that it is good!

At the beginning of the Gospel, Mark presents the prototype of the righteous man who lives in an evangelical way, John the Baptist. John must prepare the way; John sees God's footprints in the dust of our streets. God comes! Even if you don't notice him, he comes. The world is full of his traces. Look for them!

Fr Marco Lazzaron

A Prayer Offering to the Holy Child.

0 Dear, sweet Infant Jesus. I offer You: my will, that You strengthen it; my mind, that You inspire it; my memory, that You fill it; my wishes and desires, that You cleanse them. I sacrifice to You: my intentions, that You guide them; my trouble and my labour, that You bless them; all my inner and outer activities, that You make them sacred. All I am and all I have Is Yours. Your love for me is my hope and my trust. Hear me and grant that I may never leave You. Amen