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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Bishop's Stortford Parish Office: Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm ☎ 01279 654063

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 28 January 2024

Mass Times for the Week commencing 27 January – 4 February 2024

All Masses will take place in the parish church of St Richard of Chichester, Buntingford.

Saturday 27 January 2024
Vigil Mass Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
6.00pm: The People of the Parish

Sunday 28 January 2024
The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.15am: The People of the Parish
11.00am: The People of the Parish

Saturday 3 February 2024
Vigil Mass of the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
6.00pm: The People of the Parish

Sunday 4 February 2024
The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.15am: The People of the Parish
11.00am: The People of the Parish

READERS WANTED
Please consider joining the 9-15am Sunday Mass Readers' rota.
Speak to Ged Giblin after Mass if you are interested or email him at gerard.giblin@btinternet.com
Thank you

NOTICES

There is a second collection after each Mass this weekend for the Catholic Parish in Gaza.

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This week we welcome Baby James who will be baptised on Sunday afternoon.

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Please pray for Anna White RIP whose funeral took place on Wednesday.



Jesus, a faithful and practicing Jew, attends the synagogue on the Sabbath where Sacred Scriptures are read, and where God is praised and worshipped. But for Jesus, the synagogue is also the place for teaching those gathered there. His word appears to the ears of his listeners as a word rich in authority, different from that of those who, as "scribes" were responsible for the teaching of the people. The evangelist Mark, in fact, writes: "And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who has authority, and not as the scribes". The word reveals the person and, in the long run, is felt when the word comes out of the heart and when it is only a fiction. The word of Jesus is a prophetic word, it is a word that shakes, it is a word different from all others because it is a word that comes from God.

However, Jesus' teaching is not only made up of words but is also expressed through authoritative actions and gestures. For this reason, the evangelist recounts a miracle of healing and precisely the liberation of a person from the devil. According to the Gospel, the devil is not a symbol, but a very real person who is freely oriented against God. Even today, the existence of the devil can be perceived by many clues, from many absurd forms of slavery, into which man falls, destroying his own dignity. We think, for example, of money, power, and success: sometimes we are willing to hit everything and everyone to achieve our goal! Unfortunately, many say that the devil does not exist. In some ways, it's convenient to think that it doesn't exist. But the Gospel is clear: the devil does exist. In this regard, Pope St. Paul VI said: "Those who do not believe in the existence of the devil should know that even those who do not believe in illness can become sick!" The account narrated by Mark points out that the man possessed by the devil attended the synagogue. No place can automatically make a person good or bad: goodness or badness depends on the heart, on the conscience, on the works. Let us not consider ourselves good just because we attend church: goodness is not acquired by breathing the air of the church, but by living the Gospel we hear in the church.

In this context, which is the drama of human life, the Gospel proclaims Christ as the victor over the devil. By his word alone, he takes away from Satan an indisputable power over man. Christ's coming, especially his death and resurrection, broke Satan's lordship over the world.

In the Lord's Prayer, we say: "and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil". We can be freed from the evil one only if we have faith in Christ Jesus, only if we listen to and put into practice his Word, and if we are nourished by His Most Holy Body and Blood. St. John Chrysostom said: "The Christian who returns from the Eucharistic table resembles a lion that emits flames of fire from its mouth; the sight of him is unbearable to the devil" who, as we read in the First Letter of Peter: "goes about looking for someone to devour". So, then, dear Readers, let us "stand firm in the faith" (cf. 1Pt 5:8-9)

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 ls Yours. Your love for me is my hope and my trust. Hear me and grant that I may never leave You. Amen