

# 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>

**Parochial Administrator: Fr Peter Harris**

**Parish Deacon: Deacon Paul O'Connor**

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

Easter Sunday

31 March 2024

## Mass Times for the Week

commencing 31 March—7 April 2024

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

### Sunday 31 March 2024

Easter Sunday

9.15am: The People of the Parish

11.00am: The People of the Parish

### Saturday 6 April 2024

Vigil Mass Second Sunday of Easter

6.00pm: The People of the Parish

### Sunday 7 April 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

9.15am: The People of the Parish

11.00am: The People of the Parish

12.15pm: First Holy Communion Prep

## REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS

Please join us in the Benson Hall for tea and coffee after the 9.15am Mass on Sunday or come early if you attend the 11am Mass

## TOILETS

We are unable to use the toilets in the car park at the moment as the lock has jammed. If this problem has not been fixed by the weekend, you will be able to use the toilets in Benson Hall instead.

## EASTER CARDS

It was good last weekend to see you so many of you signing cards for our fellow parishioners who are sick and housebound or resident in Layston Grove Care Home. The cards will be delivered on Easter Sunday afternoon

## THANK YOU

We are grateful to Fr Tony Convery for celebrating mass with us this weekend, to all those who helped prepare the church and to those who have helped with reading and singing at each of the services.



Why is everyone running on Easter morning? Mary ran to Simon and the other disciple, who together ran to the tomb. The Easter announcement is an invitation to wake up and run, to go to the empty tomb and believe in the Risen Lord. Faith in the Risen One is an experience that is done together, never on our own.

Suffering, pain, and death are concrete and evident in our lives; the Resurrection, on the other hand, is a matter of faith. Faith is not reasoning; to have faith means trusting that there is a meaning behind all things, especially those incomprehensible to our mind, and our hearts. It's easy to feel close to the crucifix, to feel close to a person who suffers because each of us has experienced the suffering, the death of a person with whom we have woven a piece of life. It is easier to accompany Jesus on the path of pain than on the path of joy because joy and happiness are choices!

If we are here, it is because everything started from that race. It is the race of Mary Magdalene who runs to the Cenacle because she has to go to the disciples. He must tell what she saw. She still doesn't know that this announcement will change the course of history forever.

And then, another run: John and Peter running to the tomb. I imagine Peter and John running under the weight of fear, disappointment, and remorse. Peter, a few days earlier, had presumptuously said that he would give his life for the Lord, but three times he denied the Lord in front of a servant-girl and some bystanders. John, (younger!) arrives before Peter but lets him enter first. It's a race where someone gets there first but has the patience to wait for the other.

The first sign of Easter is an absent body, an empty tomb. God resurrected him so that it would be clear that love is stronger than death, and that a life based on love cannot experience death because, as the Song of Songs says, "Love is as strong as death". It is no coincidence that on Easter morning, those who had experienced the love of Jesus went to the tomb: the women, Mary of Magdala, the beloved disciple. It will be them, who had felt loved, who will be the first to understand that love conquers death.

The Lord is risen! And he is for everyone! He is Risen for those who feel abandoned by everyone, for those who cannot take their life back into their own hands, for those who have been taking care of their sick child for years. He is risen for those who, after months of hesitation, have made an important decision, for those who no longer have a family. He is risen even for those who never seek God. He is risen for you and for me!

HAPPY EASTER!

*Fr Marco Lazzaroni*

A Prayer Offering to the Holy Child.

O 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