The Catholic Parishes of Buntingford and Old Hall Green & Puckeridge

3 Station Road SG9 9HT **2 Farm Lane SG11 1DT** **77 High Street SG11 1RX**

http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/buntingford **http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/oldhallgreen**

The Sixteenth Sunday of the Year 21st July 2024

Parochial Administrator: Fr John Cunningham **Parish Deacon**: Rev Deacon Paul O'Connor

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Waltham Cross Parish Office: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 2.00pm **Phone:** 01992 623156

Today we hear Jesus invite his disciples, who have just returned from their mission, to travel with him to a deserted place to rest a while. Sounds like the perfect thing for us to do at this time of year! Even Jesus realized the need to rest and recharge. But then Jesus sees the crowds that sought him out, so he changes his plans and begins to teach them, for they were "sheep without a shepherd." May it comfort us to know that Jesus always has time for us. We need never feel lost or forsaken.

Most of our selections from the Scriptures for today speak of sheep and shepherds. Jeremiah denounces the shepherds of Israel, who have driven the faithful away. He prophesies that the Lord will raise up a successor to David who will shepherd wisely and justly. We believe that this prophecy points to none other than Jesus, who takes on that role in today's Gospel.

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For the time being, we will suspend the celebration of the 6.00pm Vigil Mass on a Saturday evening.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday 21st July	**Sixteenth Sunday of the Year**	9.15am People of the Parish
		11:00am People of the Parish
Sunday 28th July		9.15am People of the Parish
		11.00am People of the Parish

All Masses will be celebrated in the Church of St Richard of Chichester, Buntingford

Prayer Intentions. At this time of the year we are asked to pray for: A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; Human Life; Those who suffer Persecution, Oppression and denial of Human Rights; Europe; Seafarers.

For those who are ill: Sim Tan, Marilyn Haughton,
For those who have died recently: Robert Keating, Robert Denham
And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for your last week's Offertory collection which came to £147.33, and for your Regular Standing Orders.

Sacraments. If you, or your children, would like to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation, or if you yourself would like to become a Catholic, please speak to Deacon Paul after Mass today to collect an Application Form.

Parishioners Details Forms. We are collecting the details of our parishioners so that we can keep in contact with you. Please take one light blue form per household from the porch to complete and return next week.

Mass Intentions. If you would like a Mass offered for an Intention, please write the details on an envelope along with your offering and hand it in at the Sacristy after Mass. Deacon Paul will be able to arrange a suitable date for you.

Refreshments after Mass. There will be refreshments after the 9.15am Mass this Sunday morning as usual. If you attend the 11.00 Mass, you are invited to come early so that you can join us before Mass. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sea Sunday. Thank you for giving to Sea Sunday. Our parish raised £195.20. Your generous gifts will ensure that Stella Maris chaplains can continue to be a friend for seafarers and fishers in times of need. To find out more about how your support helps those who live and work at sea please visit www.setllamaris.org.uk.

CAFOD – Take them on a Journey. Could you inspire the next generation and gain valuable experience of presenting to young people at the same time? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, is looking for volunteers to visit local schools to present assemblies and workshops. Full training and support provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or contact Westminster's CAFOD representative Chris Driscoll, at, westminsterschools@cafod.org.uk or call 07776 493162.

Counting and Cleaning. Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help count the collection and clean the Church. Rotas and times have been arranged, but there is still room for more to join. Many hands make light work. If you are able to help, please see Deacon Paul after Mass.