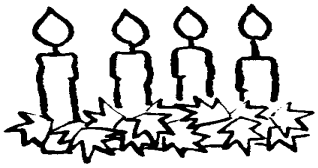
The Catholic Parishes of Buntingford and Old Hall Green & Puckeridge

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent 22nd December 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

Christmas is so close now that we can nearly taste it! Children can hardly contain their excitement while adults panic about all they still need to do. But for now, let us consider Mary and Joseph, just days before she would give birth, struggling to make their way up an unfamiliar and dangerous road, hoping to make it to a warm, comfortable place to stay in the city of David. As we well know, nice warm places were no longer available, but it all worked out, even if not exactly as they had hoped. May we keep that in mind during these final days of preparing our hearts and our homes for Jesus' birth.

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 22nd December	**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**	9.15am Michael O'Connor RIP
Wednesday 25th December	**Christmas Day**	10.00am Patrick Kennedy RIP
Sunday 29th December	**The Holy Family**	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 22nd December	**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**	11.00am Michael O'Connor RIP
Tuesday 24th December	**Christmas Eve**	3.00pm
Wednesday 25th December	**Christmas Day**	10.00am
Sunday 29th December	**The Holy Family**	11.00am People of the Parish

Prayer Intentions. During Advent and Christmas, we are asked to pray for:
Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers

For those who are ill: Charlie Gallagher, Colin Horgan

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £77.95 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford **£91.04; and for your regular standing orders.**

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Puckeridge – 3.00pm There will be Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 3.00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. If any young person wishes to take a more active role in this celebration, please see Deacon Paul.
Christmas Day - Puckeridge – 10.00am
Christmas Day - Buntingford – 10.00am

Christmas Offerings. The Offering on Christmas Day and on Easter Sunday are your gift to the Clergy, and not a donation to the Parish as such. For those people who normally donate by Standing Order, there are Christmas Envelopes available at the entrances to the Church.

SVP Vinnie Packs. The SVP are distributing over 10,000 homeless packs (Vinnie Packs) during the extreme cold weather. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237**. Thank you so much for your support.

An Advent Calendar with a difference. Thank you for all the gifts you have brought and put in the hamper at the back of church which will be shared with the local food bank.

Church Decoration. If you would like to help decorate the church in Buntingford for Christmas, please stay after the 9.15 Mass today. Any help will be greatly appreciated.
In Puckeridge, the preparation will be after the 11.00am Mass this morning. Offerings of Greenery and Flowers/Plants are more than welcomed.

Epiphany. To celebrate this great feast (a day early) please join us for a Bring and Share Brunch in Benson Hall after the 9.15 Mass at St Richard's on Sunday 5th January.

LIGHTS FOR UKRAINE APPEAL – DO YOU HAVE LEFTOVER CANDLES?

The Ukrainian community based in Waltham Cross, are actively supporting a local Rotary Club campaign "Lights for Ukraine" to supply candles to families in Ukraine from mid January 2025 to cover the 2nd half of the winter when they will be needed most. They are collecting both used and new candles, which will provide light and heat during the power cuts. The Rotary Club has an arrangement with local candle makers to melt down partly used candles to make new ones, if you have any new, or partially used candles you do not need, please bring them in and put them in the boxes we used for the Advent Giving Calendar.

PTO

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

Parishioners Details Forms. If you have not done so already, please take one light green form per household from the porch to complete and hand it in to Deacon Paul.

Holy Hour. Each Friday between 5.00pm and 6.00pm St Richard's in Buntingford will be open for a time of quiet prayer and adoration. Please feel free to join us for the whole hour or to pop in for just a few minutes.

Refreshments after Mass. There will be refreshments in Benson Hall after the 9.15am Mass as usual. We look forward to seeing you there. You are especially welcome if you are visiting this parish this weekend.

BASH. This local group of volunteers offer lifts to local people who need help getting to medical or dental appointments. If you would like to help, please contact Val on 07733 091731.

