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 Presentation of the Lord 2nd February 2025

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

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When forty days had passed since Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph brought him to the temple to consecrate him to the Lord, as was required by the Law. While they were there, the Holy Spirit guided the elderly Simeon and Anna to the baby, whom they recognized as Messiah and Saviour. Exultantly they testified to his destiny. Gathered here today by the Holy Spirit, may we too encounter Christ in this place of worship, recognizing him in the breaking of the bread.

It's not every day that we get to hear from three different prophets, let alone three who see the Lord physically present in the temple. For Malachi, it's anticipatory: he foresees the day when the Lord will come to the temple to purify the people of the covenant. In the case of Simeon and Anna, they recognize the Messiah in the temple though he is not even six weeks old. Moved by the Spirit, Simeon testifies that in the baby he sees salvation. Like the prophets, we hope that one day we too will see our Saviour. *From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2023 World Library Publications*

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford		
Sunday 2nd February	**The Presentation Of the Lord**	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 4th February		7.30pm
Sunday 9th February	**The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	9.15am People of the Parish
Puckeridge		
Sunday 2nd February	**The Presentation Of the Lord**	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 6th February		12.30pm
Sunday 9th February	**The Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time**	11.00am People of the Parish



Prayer Intentions. During Ordinary Time, we are asked to pray for: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed.

For those who are ill: **For those who have died recently:** Frances Barron,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £120.75 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford **£92.27; and for your regular standing orders.**

The Crib. Please take the opportunity to pray at the crib this Sunday because, after our celebration today of the Feast of the Presentation, the crib will be taken down until next Christmas.

Lent Groups. If you would be interested in meeting with other parishioners for an hour each Wednesday evening in Lent for a talk about our faith, please sign up on the list at the back of church by Sunday 23rd February.

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 are new to the Parish, or have not done so already, please take one light green form per household from the porch to complete and hand 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 07787 183288.

It has been suggested that the box at the Altar Rail in Puckeridge, which has been used for the Advent Giving Calendar, and the Lights for Ukraine Collections should stay in place as an ongoing drop off point for people who wish to donate items to be passed on to one of the local Food Banks.

P.T.O.

CHRISTMAS ENDS – OFFICIAL!

For most of us, Christmas is now a distant memory, apart from maybe having to pay off the credit card bills! But for the Church it's February 2nd, the Presentation of the Lord, that officially closes the season 40 days after the feast itself.

Jewish parents had to "buy back" their first-born son from the Lord to whom he belonged. This was done on the 40th day after his birth by offering two turtle doves or a pair of pigeons and, by so doing, the mother was ritually purified after giving birth. This is what is being celebrated on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. But when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple they met two elderly people, Anna and Simeon. It was these two characters who publicly confirmed what Mary and Joseph had known in the secret of their hearts: that this child was no ordinary baby but one destined to be a light for the nations, to save many and to be responsible for delivering God's people

The Presentation of the Lord is also known as Candlemas. In the liturgy of the day Christians recognise Jesus as the light that came into the world to enlighten all the nations and guide them on their way to God. It's the epilogue to Christmas and the liturgy invites us to seek that light and be that light for our world today

