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 Epiphany of the Lord

5th January 2025

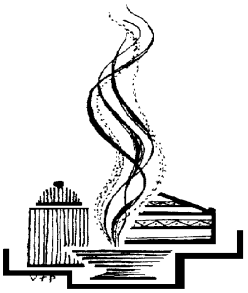
Parochial Administrator: Fr John Cunningham **Parish Deacon**: Rev Deacon Paul O'Connor

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

Following both the bright star in the western sky and centuries of wisdom from their tradition, the magi travelled from distant lands to search for the newborn king. What had been revealed to only a few nearby shepherds had now been made manifest to people from foreign nations. Today, two thousand years later, and here, many thousands of miles from Bethlehem, we celebrate that the Lord's birth had been made known all around the world for all time. O come, let us adore him!

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 5th January	**The Epiphany of the Lord**	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 7th January		7.30pm
Sunday 12th January	**The Baptism of the Lord**	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 5th January	**The Epiphany of the Lord**	11.00am Dan O'Mara RIP
Thursday 9th January		2.00pm **School Mass**
Sunday 12th January	**The Baptism of the Lord**	11.00am Luca Fusi RIP

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 **For those who have died recently:** Dan O'Mara, Luca Fusi,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £35.73 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford **£82.29; and for your regular standing orders.**
Your Christmas Offerings were £291.00 at Puckeridge**; and £458.82** at Buntingford. Thank you very much.

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.

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.

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.

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany means "showing forth" and we commonly use the word to describe a sudden revelation. Our gospel account of the Magi's journey to Bethlehem describes just such a moment when the identity of Jesus is recognised, and God's glory is seen.
There is much in this story to speak to us as we begin the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Pilgrims of Hope*. Like these intrepid travellers we too are called to set out, seeking the sacred and ready to offer our gifts. The wise ones encourage us to journey with hearts full of hope, guided by the light of God.
The Magi find the child, not in a palace, but born into a poor family in an insignificant town in an occupied country. Yet they recognise that they have truly found what they were looking for. Like these pilgrims from the east, may we be open to our own epiphanies – the ways God "shows forth" in our lives, perhaps in unexpected ways.
When the time came, Matthew tells us that the Magi "departed to their country by another way." As we seek to encounter Jesus in this Jubilee Year, may we have the courage to journey by a new path, renewed with a deep trust that God is with us, as we shine the light of hope for our wounded world.