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 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 19th 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

Last week's Gospel told of Jesus' baptism, when the Father revealed to all those present that Jesus was the Son of God. Today's Gospel tells of Jesus' first miracle, changing the water to wine at a wedding banquet. John calls his miracles signs, for they reveal Jesus' divinity to everyone who witnesses the event. Here, John immediately points out that his disciples respond with faith. As this was Jesus' first sign, this is when they begin to believe. All these centuries later, may listening to Jesus' wondrous deeds yet again strengthen our faith as well.

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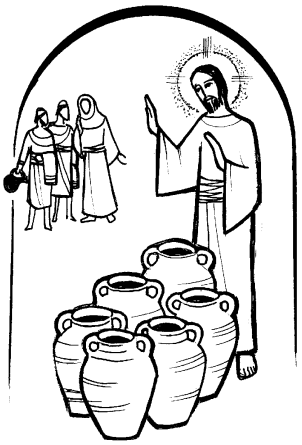
MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 19th January	**The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**	9.15am Margaret Halpin RIP
Tuesday 21st January		7.30pm
Sunday 26th January	**The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 19th January	**The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 23rd January		12.30pm
Sunday 26th January	**The Third 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: Charlie Gallagher, Colin Horgan **For those who have died recently:** Dan O'Mara, Luca Fusi, Margaret Halpin,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £111.02 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford **£77.12; and for your regular standing orders.**

THE LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP GRANT

Since 2001 the Listed Places of Worship Grant (LPWGS) has enabled communities which care for our historic churches and other listed places of worship to reclaim VAT on repair works. Thousands of volunteers across the UK care for our churches – sacred spaces where we celebrate all of life's most important moments, but also places that promise beauty, community, and a variety of increasingly essential services such as homeless shelters and food banks.

St Richard's in Buntingford is a Grade 11 Listed Building, so we were able to reclaim the VAT on the new Boilers which were installed in October. We received a refund of £1,472.67 this month.

The grant scheme comes up for renewal in March. Help to ensure that our most important architectural treasures remain open for future generations by contacting your MP to ask them to attend a debate in Parliament on Wednesday 22 January to support the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. The Bishops of England and Wales are calling on people to write to their MP to alert them to the potential threat of closure of the scheme, and the disastrous impact this would have on historic churches. Without this scheme, many historic and architecturally important buildings will be at risk of closure.

Securing the continuation of the LPWGS will ensure that our churches remain open and accessible for present communities and future generations. They are asking that the government extends the scheme, ensuring a sustainable future for these buildings. The decision whether to renew the LPWGS is now with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and it is likely that a decision will be made soon. A DCMS Minister will respond to the debate on Wednesday 22nd January which is why it is vital that MPs express their support for the LPWGS

In Memoriam. Please welcome the family of Margaret Halpin who are joining us today at St Richard's Buntingford to pay their respects after her death last week.

Baptism. This weekend we welcome the newest member of our community - Brodie Cheddie - who will be baptised at St Richard's Buntingford on Sunday 19th January.

P.T.O.

Lent Groups. Please sign up on the list in the porch if you would be interested in meeting with other parishioners for an hour each Wednesday evening in Lent for a talk about our faith.

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.

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.

