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 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 23rd February 2025

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

Correspondence Address: 204 High Street, Waltham Cross, Herts, EN8 7DP **Email**: walthamcross@rcdow.org.uk
Waltham Cross Parish Office: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 2.00pm **Phone:** 01992 623156

In our world today, you don't have to look far to see a lack of respect for human life. War, mass shootings, abortion, and capital punishment make a mockery of what should be a basic principle for us all: every life is precious. Let us keep in mind what Saint Paul teaches the Corinthians in the portion of his letter that we hear today: we shall bear the image of Christ in heaven. Every human life is precious if only because every life holds the promise of resurrection and the heavenly image of Christ. We come together today to thank God for all human life and the promise of eternal life.

Love your enemies, Jesus teaches his disciples. Bless them when they curse you, give more to them when they take from you, turn the other cheek when they strike you. Luke doesn't tell us how the disciples react, but this is a radical teaching. However, we get to see mercy practiced in the first reading, when David chooses to spare his enemy, Saul, when given the chance to slay him. Listening to today's reading, let us consider why we should choose mercy over getting even.

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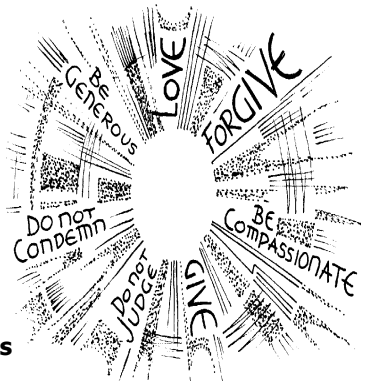
MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford

Sunday 23rd February	**The Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time**	9.15am People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd March	**The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 23rd February	**The Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time**	11.00am People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd March	**The Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time**	11.00am People of the Parish



There will be no weekday Masses for the next two weeks

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.

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: Dick Kelly, Christine Welch **For those who have died recently:** John Wallace,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £41.45 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford **£87.46; and for your regular standing orders.**

Hymn Books. We would like to raise £800 to buy a new set of hymn books for St Richard's Buntingford to replace the current ones which are worn and outdated. Each copy of the hymn book costs £8.00 and parishioners are invited to make a donation to cover the cost of one or more of them. You will have the opportunity to dedicate each copy of the hymn book to one of your prayer intentions, which could be for your family, or for a friend or relative, or for some other intention. If you would like to donate, please put your donation into an envelope marked 'Hymn Books' with your name and the details of the person or persons to whom you would like the hymn book dedicated. Please collect an envelope from the porch and hand it in next week.

Lent Groups. Today is your last chance to sign up for the Lent Groups on the lists at the back of the church. We will be following a programme called 'We Dare to Hope' which will give us an opportunity to meet other parishioners and learn about our faith.

A Day With Mary. Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 1st March 2025 (9.45am to 5.00pm). For further information visit https://www.adaywithmary.org/ or https://eventcatholic.com/

First Holy Communion. The Preparation Sessions for children will resume at St Thomas's Puckeridge after 11.00 Mass on Sunday 2nd March. There will be a session for parents in the church at the same time. There is a fascinating documentary on BBC iPlayer about children preparing for First Holy Communion which I would recommend that everyone should watch.

Ash Wednesday. To mark the start of Lent there will be a Mass with distribution of the Ashes at St Richard's at 6.30pm on Wednesday 5th March.

P.T.O

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 our parish this weekend.

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.

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.

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.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Matrimony. The Cardinal invites couples in the Diocese celebrating in 2025 their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and any year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage. The Mass is on Saturday 17th May at 2.30pm in the Cathedral. Please give your parish these details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email (or phone number, if no email). Details of attendees are then sent by the parish to family@rcdow.org.uk

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER PREPARED BY THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN IN THE COOK ISLANDS

Friday 7th March 2025 - 'I made you wonderful' based on Psalm 139 - St Augustine's C of E, Churchfields, Broxbourne EN10 7AU. Service at 11.00am followed by coffee & lunch and at Hoddesdon Baptist, Old Essex Road, EN11 8HX **-** 7:30 for 8.00pm Service.

VOCATIONS: 'COME AND SEE' – 2025

If you know any men who may be interested in exploring the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate, please invite them to come along to one of our 'Come & See' Vocations Mornings onVocations: 'Come and See' - 2025

If you know any men who may be interested in exploring the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate, please invite them to come along to one of our 'Come & See' Vocations Mornings on: **Saturday, 1st March, 10am-2pm at Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Joseph Parish Hall, 1 King Edward's Road, Ware SG12 7EJ.**

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To find out more and to register your attendance at one of the days, please contact: Canon Roger Taylor - Vocations Promoter rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Tito Pereira – Assistant Director Permanent Diaconate 07977 599110. We look forward to hearing from you.