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 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2nd March 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

As we approach the penitential season of Lent, we hear a warning from Jesus about sin. Don't focus on the sins of your brother, your sister, or your neighbour; look at your own sins. Every year, Lent affords us the opportunity to recognize our sinfulness and our need for God's forgiveness, which Jesus offers us most dramatically on the cross. Gathered for Mass today on the eve of Lent, let us commit ourselves to recognizing our own faults and failures, repenting of our sins, and resolving to follow the Lord more faithfully.

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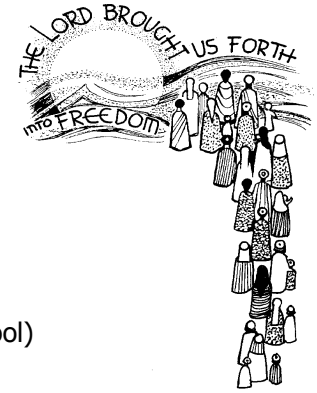
MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 2nd March	**The Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time**	9.15am People of the Parish
Wednesday 5th March	**Ash Wednesday**	6.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 9th March	**The First Sunday of Lent**	9.15am Rene and Dick Philo RIP

Puckeridge

Sunday 2nd March	**The Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time**	11.00am People of the Parish
Wednesday 5th March	**Ash Wednesday**	2.00pm People of the Parish (School)
Sunday 9th March	**The First Sunday of Lent**	11.00am People of the Parish

Stations of the Cross. Each Friday between 5.00 and 6.00pm St Richard's in Buntingford we will pray the Stations of the Cross followed by 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: **For those who have died recently:** John Wallace,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £62.01 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford **£93.80; and for your regular standing orders.**

Pope Francis. At the time of writing Pope Francis remains critically ill in hospital. Please keep him in your own personal prayers this week.

FUNERAL NEXT WEEK

The Funeral Mass for the late John Wallace will be celebrated on Monday 10th March at 2.00pm in St Richard's Buntingford.

Ash Wednesday. To mark the start of Lent there will be a Mass with distribution of the Ashes in Puckeridge at 2.00pm and at St Richard's at 6.30pm on Wednesday 5th March.

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.

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.

Mass for Bereaved Parents. This Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 5th April at 2.00pm.

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 so that we can 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

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

Fr Tony will be doing the Lent Walk for CAFOD this year and would be glad if you could sponsor him. Donations can be made through his fundraising page at https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/fr-tonys-fundraising-page2025

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.

