The Catholic Parishes of Buntingford and Old Hall Green & Puckeridge

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http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/buntingford **http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/oldhallgreen**

The Second Sunday of Lent 16th 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

Like Advent, Lent is a season of preparation, in this case, for Jesus' ultimate sacrifice and the glory of his resurrection. We prepare our souls through repentance and our bodies through fasting. We prepare our relationship with God through prayer and our relationship with others through almsgiving. In today's reading, in the midst of all our preparation, we are given a preview of Christ's risen glory when he appears transfigured to Peter, John, and James. May the promise of a life transfigured encourage us as we continue to prepare for Easter glory.

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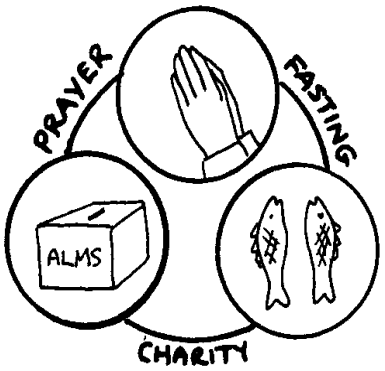
MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford

Sunday 16th March	**The Second Sunday of Lent**	9.15am Barbara Hickford RIP
Tuesday 18th March		7.30pm
Sunday 23rd March	**The Third Sunday of Lent**	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 16th March	**The Second Sunday of Lent**	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 20th March		12.30pm
Sunday 23rd March	**The Third Sunday of Lent**	11.00am People of the Parish



Stations of the Cross. Each Friday at 5.00pm at St Richard's in Buntingford we will pray the Stations of the Cross followed by a time of quiet prayer and adoration

Prayer Intentions. During Lent, we are asked to pray for: Europe; Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers

For those who are ill: Pope Francis, Colin Horgan, **For those who have died recently:** John Wallace,
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: Barbara Hickford

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £48.32 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford **£129.70; and for your regular standing orders.**

Confessions. Fr John will be available for confessions after the evening Mass at St Richard's each Tuesday during Lent.

Pope Francis. Pope Francis is still in hospital recovering from his recent illness. Please keep him in your own personal prayers this week.

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.

A New Sound System for St Thomas' Church in Puckeridge. A number of people have asked about having some a loudspeaker system installed in the Church in Puckeridge, and some have offered to make a donation towards the cost. We have made enquiries, and have received a quotation from a company that has worked on a number of the Churches in the Diocese. The cost of supplying and installing four speakers, a loop system for people who use hearing aids, and the necessary microphones and amplifier will be just over £7,000. (They will have to be very careful to avoid disturbing any of the asbestos). Envelopes (and Gift Aid Forms for those who are tax payers) are available on the table at the back of the Church.

Cleaner Required. We would like to employ someone to clean Benson Hall for half-an-hour once a week. Please speak to Fr John or Deacon Paul for details

Lent Groups. The Lent Groups began last week. One meets on a Wednesday evening in Benson Hall, and the other in the Church in Puckeridge at 6.00pm on a Thursday. They are following a programme called 'We Dare to Hope' which will give us an opportunity to meet other parishioners and learn about our faith.

CAFOD Family Fast Day. CAFOD's Family Fast Day was last Friday. **The collection will be taken up as you leave the Church this weekend.** By praying, eating simply and giving, you'll be supporting local experts to provide simple, effective solutions to the toughest problems facing people around the world. Please collect a CAFOD envelope as you leave church to make a Lent offering. You can scan the QR code or search 'CAFOD envelope' to give online. If you can Gift Aid your donation, you'll add a free 25 per cent to anything you give! Please be a pilgrim of hope with us in the Jubilee Year by supporting communities worldwide to fight poverty and injustice, and so restore their hope.

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

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).

Dates and Times and Places for your Diary - The Easter Triduum

Maundy Thursday	April 17th	St Richard's	6.00pm
Good Friday	April 18th	St Thomas'	10.00am
		St Richard's	3.00pm
Holy Saturday	April 19th	St Richard's	8.00pm
Easter Sunday	April 20th	St Richard's	9.15am
		St Thomas's	11.00am

