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 Fifth Sunday of Lent

6th April 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

This Jubilee year reminds us that we are pilgrims of hope. Our lives are a pilgrimage and the season of Lent is a concentration of that journey. This time of penitence, of sacrifice, and of suffering is our pilgrimage to the cross, the scene and sign of Jesus' greatest sacrifice. But our faith tells us that neither the cross nor death is the end. Therefore, we can be pilgrims of hope, confident that our journeys through Lent and through life will not end in death, but in new life. May our hope for salvation encourage us as we approach the holiest week of the year.

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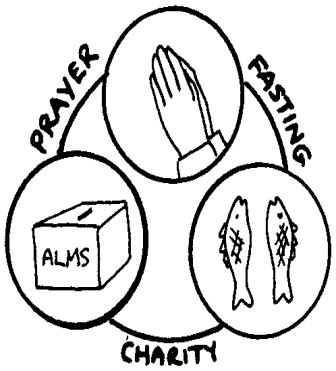
MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 6th April	**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 8th April		7.30pm
Sunday 13th April	**Palm Sunday**	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 6th April	**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 10th April		12.30pm
Sunday 13th April	**Palm Sunday**	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. Please join us at least once during Lent.

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: Colin Horgan, Pamela Gale, **For those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Marian Brzozowski,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £63.76 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford **£101.80; and for your March standing orders** at Puckeridge **£252.00** and at Buntingford **£808.00**; Online Donations **£210.00.**

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

Pope Francis. At this time of writing, Pope Francis has returned to the Vatican to recover from his recent illness. Please keep him in your own personal prayers this week.

Hymn Books. We are close to our target of £800 to cover the cost a set of new hymn books. Donations are still welcome along with details of those to whom you wish the hymn book dedicated.

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.

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.

Lent Groups. The Lent Groups will continue. 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.

Maundy Thursday. We will include the washing of the feet in this Mass and need 12 volunteers. Please volunteer to have your feet washed by signing the list at the back of church. Perhaps we could see it as another way of imitating the humility of Jesus.

Flowers. If you would like to help with the Easter flowers, please let us know and join us on Holy Saturday 19th April at 9.00 am. You will be especially welcome if you have knowledge and experience to share.

Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion by, and for, Yong People, Children and Families. There will be an adapted Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St Thomas' Church in Puckeridge at 10.00am on Good Friday morning. It will be led by the younger elements of our Parishes. There will be an adapted Way of the Cross followed by an adapted version of the Solemn Intercessions, and then the Veneration of the Cross. The Liturgy will conclude with the traditional Collection for the Upkeep of the Holy Places. – The Christian Shrines in the Holy Land.
We need volunteers from among our younger people to help with the Readings and to lead the Prayers and the Veneration.

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.

Assist us to live, not to die Please encourage our MP (Chris Hinchliff) to attend Parliament and vote against the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill at Third Reading. There are post cards at the entrance to the Church, please take one and fill it in and post it to your MP at the House of Commons.

The Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group will meet in Holy Week on Wednesday April 16 from 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. to discuss Dilexit nos by Pope Francis. Please read chapter 2. Refreshments available and all welcome. We meet in the Hinsley room, Morpeth Terrace.

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).

CAFOD Big Lent Walk. Fr Tony is 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

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

Maundy Thursday	The Mass of the Lord's Supper	St Richard's	6.00pm
Good Friday	Celebration of the Lord's Passion for Children	St Thomas'	10.00am
	The Celebration of the Lord's Passion	St Richard's	3.00pm
Holy Saturday	The Easter Vigil	St Richard's	8.00pm
Easter Sunday	Mass	St Richard's	9.15am
	Mass	St Thomas's	11.00am

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SCHOOL

St Thomas of Canterbury School have places available for Nursery from September 2025. We have an "outstanding" Early Years provision (Ofsted Inspection February 2023) and a judgement grade of "outstanding" for Catholic Life and Mission (Diocesan Inspection February 2024).
We are a nurturing, half form entry Catholic Primary School in rural Puckeridge, East Hertfordshire. We strive to provide the best possible education in a caring, Christian environment.
"Pupils enjoy being part of this close-knit school community. They are proud of their school. Pupils have positive attitudes towards learning and towards each other." (Ofsted Inspection February 2023)
We offer 30 hours Nursery provision, Monday to Friday (08:45 - 15:15) term time only.
Please contact the School for further details for an application form or see the school website for further details: www.stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk

