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**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

11th May 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

On Good Shepherd Sunday, we first hear Saints Paul and Barnabas shepherd both Jews and Gentiles who chose to join the early church, urging them to remain faithful to the grace of God. In the psalm we proclaim that we too are sheep of the Lord's flock. In a vision John sees the Lamb of God shepherding a great multitude to springs of life-giving water. Finally, Jesus tells us in the Gospel that he gives all his sheep eternal life and no one can take that away.

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford

Sunday 11th May	**Fourth Sunday of Easter**	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 13th May		7.30pm
Sunday 18th May	**Fifth Sunday of Easter**	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 11th May	**Fourth Sunday of Easter**	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 15th May		12.30pm
Sunday 18th May	**Fifth Sunday of Easter**	11.00am People of the Parish



Prayer Intentions. During Easter, we are asked to pray for: Europe; New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right use of the Media; The Church; Human Work

For those who are ill: Colin Horgan, **For those who have died recently:** Pamela Gale,
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: Stan Wadge

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £58.92 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford **£115.10; and for your April standing orders £252.00** at Puckeridge and at Buntingford **£698.00,** Online Donations **£210.00**

Funeral. The Funeral Service for the late Pamela Gale will be celebrated on Friday 16th May at 11.30am

Confessions. Fr John will be available for Confessions each week after the Tuesday evening Mass in Buntingford.

Priest Training Fund Collection. Today, is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place this weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood in the Diocese of Westminster. There are currently 50 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 13 of whom are from our own Diocese. 2 of these are deacons for Westminster. We also have 2 seminarians at the Royal English College in Valladolid. Last year 3 deacons who studied at Allen Hall were ordained priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

Rosary. Each Sunday morning during May, please join us to pray one of the Mysteries of the Rosary at 8.45am at Buntingford and at 10.30am at Puckeridge.

The Marian Garden. We want to do some work to improve the area around the statue of Our Lady in the church car park. If you are interested in helping, please speak to Deacon Paul.

St Richard's Feast Day. We plan to celebrate the Feast of St Richard with a picnic at Buntingford on Sunday 22nd June. Please save the date.

Holy Hour. Each Friday the church at St Richard's in Buntingford will be open from 5.00 to 6.00pm. Please pop in to light a candle and say a prayer. The hour will end with Benediction.

Baptism. Please keep in your prayers Jacob and Thomas who will be baptised at St Richard's Buntingford at 12.00pm on Sunday 11th May.

First Holy Communion. Please pray for our twelve children who will celebrating their First Holy Communion at 12.00noon next Saturday, 17th May.

Rehearsal. Please welcome the children to St Richard's this morning where they will be rehearsing for the First Communion Mass.

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.

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.

Jubilee Pilgrimage to St Edmund's College. Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be leading a Diocesan Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to St Edmund's College, Ware on Saturday 12th July.

St Edmund's College, the oldest Catholic College in England, is a continuation on English soil of the famous college that was founded Cardinal William Allen at Douay in Flanders in 1568. It is important to us because it was probably the strongest single agency by which Catholicism was kept from perishing in England. Originally intended as a seminary to prepare priests to work in England to keep the faith alive, it soon also became a Catholic boys' school, debarred as they were by the laws of the land from having such institutions at home. Many of its students, both priests and laymen, returned to England to be put to death under the anti-Catholic laws of the time, and the College has among its alumni 20 canonised and 133 beatified martyrs. The seminary part of the College moved to Allen Hall in Chelsea in 1975, but the school, now co-educational, continues to this day. Buried in its grounds are the bodies of some of the Vicars Apostolic who looked after the Church in the south of this country before the restoration of the Hierarchy in 1850.

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

11am	Pilgrims are invited to arrive and gather. Confessions will be available. There is ample parking
12noon	Solemn Mass for the Jubilee Year celebrated by H.E. Cardinal Nichols in the school grounds – please bring suitable clothing etc in the event of rain.
1.30pm	Picnic lunch (bring your own); tours of the College. Adoration and Confessions in the Chapel during this break.
2.45pm	Procession of the Blessed Sacrament; please gather outside the College Chapel for the procession to the school grounds where Mass was celebrated and where Benediction will now be given.
4pm	Departures.

POPE LEO XIV

Pope Leo was born on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, to Louis Marius Prevost, of French and Italian descent, and Mildred Martínez, of Spanish descent. He has two brothers, Louis Martín and John Joseph.

He spent his childhood and adolescence with his family and studied first at the Minor Seminary of the Augustinian Fathers and then at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, In September 1977, he entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) and in August 1981, he made his solemn vows. He received his theological education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. and then was sent to Rome to study Canon Law. He was ordained a priest on June 19, 1982. He was a missionary in Peru from 1988 to 1999, when he elected as Provincial Prior, and the in 2002 was elected as the Head of the Augustinian Order, and served two terms until 2013. In 2014 he returned to Peru being appointed as a Bishop where he remained until 2023, when he was called to Rome to be the Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, and was made a Cardinal in September of that year.

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