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**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

18th 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

Spring can be a delight for our senses. We see trees starting to bud, flowers poking their heads out of the ground, and grass turning a lovely shade of green. We hear migrating birds and feel the warm sun on our faces. God's words in Revelation seem especially apt: "Behold, I make all things new." Much as we can behold spring making all things new, when God raised Jesus, freeing our lives from sin and death, we too were made brand new. Let us give thanks to God for continually renewing our world and our lives.
In the readings today Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment: love one another. As his disciples now, we are commanded to do the same. May listening to God's word – of Paul and Barnabas making disciples all over Asia Minor, of John's vision of God dwelling with the human race, and of Jesus word to his disciples – strengthen our spirts as we live out that command.

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 18th May	**Fifth Sunday of Easter**	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 20th May		7.30pm
Sunday 25th May	**Sixth Sunday of Easter**	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 18th May	**Fifth Sunday of Easter**	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 22nd May		12.30pm
Sunday 25th May	**Sixth 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:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £68.74 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford £122.55; and also for your donations to The Priest Training Fund: £140.00 at Puckeridge and £98.50 at Buntingford, and for your Regular standing orders

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

Priest Training Fund Collection. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. The response of prayer for vocations, love and concern for the clergy, and for the current seminarians, was heart-warming. If you still wish to make your donation, you will find envelopes at the back of the church or you can use the QR code on the envelope or poster to make your donation online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations through the Diocesan website. The formation of priests is of top priority, it is our future. May God Bless you for your generosity.

Bring Flowers of the Rarest. We will begin Mass at St Richard's next Sunday with prayers at the statue of Our Lady in the car park. Please bring flowers to offer to Our Lady.

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.

First Holy Communion. Please pray for the twelve children who received Holy Communion for the first time at St Richard's on Saturday, 17th May.

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.

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

