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**

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time 24th August 2025

Parochial Administrator: Fr John Cunningham **Parish Deacon**: Rev Deacon Paul O'Connor

Correspondence Address: 204 High Street, Waltham Cross, Herts, EN8 7DP **Email**: walthamcross@rcdow.org.uk
Waltham Cross Parish Office: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 2.00pm **Phone:** 01992 623156

Anyone who has driven often on highways can recall times in which traffic has slowed to a standstill because of a bottleneck, when multiple lanes of traffic must funnel down to a single open lane. This contemporary phenomenon is analogous to Jesus' words today about getting into heaven. Jesus says people will come from every direction but must pass through a narrow gate to enter. Let us accept this challenge, patiently following that narrow path.
God reveals to Isaiah that people from far and wide will be welcomed to the holy city, Jerusalem. The psalmist also invites people of every nation to glorify God. Centuries later, Jesus affirms that people from every point of the compass will be welcomed into the kingdom of God. That having been said, getting in is not easy and some will be sent away. May we embrace God's discipline, in the spirit in which it is explained in the second reading today, recognizing that it is offered out of God's great love for us.

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford

Sunday 24th August	**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**	9.15am People of the Parish
Sunday 31st August	**Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 24th August	**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**	11.00am People of the Parish
Sunday 31st August	**Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**	11.00am People of the Parish



Prayer Intentions. During Ordinary Time: We are asked to pray for:
A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Human Life; Europe;
Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Seafarers.

For those who are ill: **For those who have died recently:** Ann Parker,
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £87.20 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £75.60; and for your Regular standing orders

Fr John is on holiday until late Tuesday 26th August. Fr Tom will be looking after Waltham Cross Parish while he is away. Fr Tom will come to Buntingford and Puckeridge on both of the Sundays

Come and See. If you would like to find out more about becoming a Catholic, please speak to Deacon Paul and sign up for this course which starts in September.

Baptism. Please speak to Fr John or Deacon Paul after Mass if you would like your child to be Baptised so that we can fill out an Application Form.

Holy Hour. Holy Hour is cancelled during August. It will return in September.

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.

CAFOD: RESPONSE IN GAZA

Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at cafod.org.uk. Thank you for backing our work through holding collections for our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to pray for peace in the Middle East.