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 Exaltation of the Holy Cross 14th September 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

By his crucifixion, Jesus transformed the cross from a profane instrument of execution to a symbol of triumph. Jesus sanctified the cross, making it holy, by sacrificing his life to win our salvation. We exalt the holy cross in a special way today, but we also exalt it every time we make the sign of the cross to express and bear witness to our faith. May the cross be a sign for us of Christ's power to overcome death and give a new life.
In today's first reading, God has Moses make a bronze serpent, mount it on a pole, and lift it up so that those who were bitten by venomous snakes could look upon it and live. Centuries later, Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be lifted up in a similar way so that all who look upon him as their salvation will live. On this feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, let us consider that what Jesus did for us on the cross to save our immortal souls recalls what God had Moses do in the desert to save the Chosen People's mortal lives.

From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2025 World Library Publications

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford

Sunday 14th September	**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 16th September		7.30pm
Sunday 21st September	**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 14th September	**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 18th September		12.30pm
Sunday 21st September	**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	11.00am People of the Parish

Prayer Intentions. During Ordinary Time - Autumn: We are asked to pray for: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; The Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.

For those who are ill: Alan Tan **For those who have died recently:**
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £42.50 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £99.21; and for your August standing orders £257.00 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £548.00, Online Donations £210.00

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

Baptism. We welcome baby Grace who is being baptised at 12.00 on Sunday 14th September. Please offer prayers for baby Grace and her parents, Steven and Kelly. Please speak to Fr John or Deacon Paul after Mass if you would like your child to be baptised. We would be pleased to make the necessary arrangements.

Holy Hour. The Holy Hour starts again in September. 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 usually end with Benediction.

Sacramental Programmes. We will soon start our Sacramental Programmes for children in Year 3 and above who would like to receive First Communion, and children in Year 10 and above who would like to be Confirmed. Please speak to Fr John or Deacon Paul after Mass to collect an Application Form.

Counting the Congregation. Starting next Sunday, 21st September, and continuing for four weeks, we will be carrying out the annual count of those attending Mass each week

Apple Fest. St Elizabeth's School in Much Hadham are holding their annual Apple Fest on Saturday 27th September. There will be apple-picking and tasting, refreshments and a barbecue, and local live musicians.

Hymn Books. We have some hymn books that do not have a dedication in the front. If you would like to add a dedication asking for prayers for you or a member of your family at no cost, please write the details down and place in the basket in the porch.

Harvest Festival. At all Masses on Sunday 5th October we will be asking you to donate non-perishable food items for the local food banks. If you would like to help set up the harvest display at St Richard's, please join us at 9.00am on Saturday 4th October.

Refreshments after Mass. There will be refreshments in Benson Hall after the 9.15am Mass at St Richard's today. 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.

Quiz Night. St Peter's Church are holding their Annual Quiz Night at Benson Hall from 7.00pm on Saturday 20th September. Tickets are available on their Facebook page.

Sponsored Hike and Bike. Thank you to all those who supported our parish by keeping the doors open to visitors on Saturday 13 September so that they could visit our beautiful church and get their sponsorship form signed. The money that the hikers and bikers raise will go to support the maintenance of historic churches like our own.

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.

