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 Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 21st 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

"You cannot serve both God and mammon," we hear Jesus tell his disciples in today's Gospel. He challenges us to decide where our priorities lie. Which do we spend more time and energy building up: our faith or our wealth? It is difficult to ignore the need for money, if only to have enough to get by, let alone pursuing more so that we can live a comfortable life. But we believe our treasure can be found in the kingdom of God, in which money is irrelevant. May today's liturgy remind us of that truth.

Today's first reading, responsorial psalm, and Gospel speak to the pursuit and use of wealth. Amos decries the merchants who cheat the poor, promising that God will not overlook their selfishness. The psalmist promises that the Lord will lift up the poor and lowly. Jesus teaches his disciples to be trustworthy in handling worldly wealth so that they can be trusted with the true wealth that comes from God. Listening to today's selections from scripture, let us consider our relationship to material wealth.

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford

Sunday 21st September	**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 23rd September		7.30pm
Sunday 28th September	**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 21st September	**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 25th September		12.30pm
Sunday 28th September	**Twenty-Sixth 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 £44.10 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £137.87; and for your Regular standing orders

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

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.

Baptism. Baby Helen was baptised on Monday 15 September. We welcome her to our parish community and ask your prayers for her and her family. Please speak to Fr John or Deacon Paul after Mass if you would like your child to be baptised.

Come and See. Last week we began our exploration of the Catholic faith with three non-Catholics who are considering joining the Church, and one Catholic who is asking for adult Confirmation. Please pray for them as they begin a programme which will continue with regular sessions from now until next Easter.

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.

Marian Garden. A special thank you to Dave Hawkridge who, with Cavan Kinsella, has worked hard to build the Marian Garden in front of the statue of Our Lady in the car park. The first stage of the work has now been completed and we will be adding pots at a later date.

Counting the Congregation. Starting this weekend, and for the following three Sundays, we will be carrying out our annual count of those attending Mass. The average attendance over those four weeks will be reported to the Diocese for the collection of parish statistics they carry out every year.

Apple Fest. St Elizabeth's School in Ware 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. For more details see the poster in the porch.

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.

St Mary's Catholic School Open Evening. Wednesday 24th September 2025, at 6.00pm – 8.30pm. Headteacher's talk at 6.30pm and 7.30pm. Please see the noticeboards for further information and to book tickets.

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.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal ths Harvest. Family Fast Day will be on Friday 3rd October. On that day we are asked to deny ourselves some of our luxuries, so that others in the world can have access to essentials. Please donate to CAFOD's Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Ware's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. Use the CAFOD envelope which will be available in church, or donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030.

