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**



Second Sunday of Advent

7th December 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

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" So proclaimed John the Baptist as he prepared the world for the coming of the Messiah. We may not be preparing for Jesus Christ's arrival in the flesh or plunging into the Jordan River, but John's words apply just as much today as they did then. We must recognize and repent of our sins in order to be prepared for the Lord's arrival in our lives in any way. And the kingdom of heaven is still at hand, glimpsed when we are reconciled with God and our neighbour. May we hear John's words as if they were directed to us here and now.

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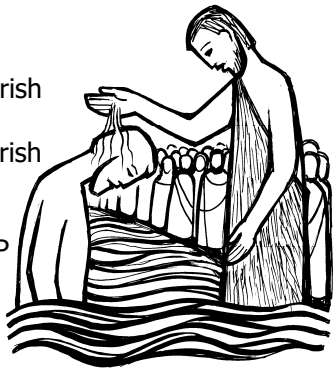
MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 7th December	Second Sunday of Advent	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 9th December		7.30pm
Sunday 14th December	Third Sunday of Advent	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 7th December	Second Sunday of Advent	11.00am Eddie Griffin RIP
Thursday 11th December		12.30pm
Sunday 14th December	Third Sunday of Advent	11.00am David King RIP

Prayer Intentions. During Advent: We are asked to pray for: Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.

For those who are ill: Alan Tan, **For those who have died recently:** Aoife Bird
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: David King,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £68.00 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £123.30; and for your November standing orders £242.00; at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford £505.00; Online Donations £210.00.

Christmas Mass Times. At Puckeridge – Christmas Eve at 8.45pm; and at Buntingford – Christmas Day 10.00am.

Puckeridge Church Centenary. The Church of St Thomas of Canterbury in Puckeridge was opened on 18th July 1926. To celebrate the Anniversary, the Cardinal, or his successor, will be coming to celebrate the 11.00am Mass on Sunday 12th July 2026. There will be a Reception in St Thomas' School afterwards. We need to gather a group of Parishioners to organise the event. If you are able to offer help, please speak to Fr John or Deacon Paul.

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

Holy Hour. Please note - there will be no Holy Hour on Friday 12th December because of preparations for the Celebration of Christmas in the church that evening.

Baptism. Please speak to Fr John or Deacon Paul after Mass if you would like your child to be baptised.

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.

Lister Hospital. John O'Neil is the Roman Catholic Chaplain at the Lister Hospital in Stevenage. He can be contacted on the following numbers: Mobile: 07876 526935 or Telephone: 01438 285518.

Celebration of Christmas. There will be a Christmas Carol Concert at St Richard's at 7.00pm on Friday 12th December with readings and reflections. After the concert there will be mince pies and mulled wine in Benson Hall. Tickets will cost £3.00 and will be available from Buntingford Live. All money raised will go to support the work of Home Start.

Christmas Offerings. It has always been the case that people's Offering on Christmas Day and on Easter Sunday are your gift to the Clergy, and not a donation to the Parish as such. For those people who normally donate by Standing Order, there will be Christmas Envelopes available at the entrances to the Church.

The Parish Library. We have refreshed the parish library in St Richard's near the font at the back of church with some more up to date texts about the Catholic faith. Please feel free to borrow and return books. If you wish to donate religious books to the library, please speak to Deacon Paul first.

Buntingford Food Support. As they did last year, our local food bank are asking us to donate a Christmas Dinner for a local family. Please see the list of items in the porch at St Richard's and bring your donation along next week.

Decorating the Church. We would love to have your help to decorate St Richard's for Christmas. Please join us at 9.30am on Saturday 20 December to prepare the crib, set up the sanctuary, and put out the flowers to create a truly festive feel.

Layston Grove. As you know, there is a small number of Catholics in Layston Grove Care Home in Buntingford to whom we regularly take communion. They are part of our parish and appreciate our prayers and support. Please sign the Christmas card for them which is near the font at the back of St Richard's

Christian Art App. Christian Art's mission is to offer a pathway to grow closer to God through the beauty of art and the Gospel. They offer a unique approach to daily Gospel readings. Each day, they select a work of art relevant to the day's scripture passage and offer a short reflection on the two. With over 70,000 subscribers, their goal is to bridge the gap between the art world and the Catholic Church to facilitate a magnificent pairing of art and the Christian Faith. Please subscribe at CHRISTIAN ART | Daily Gospel Reading & Art Reflection

SVP. The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of socks, flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237**. Thank you so much for your support.

