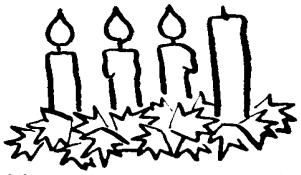
The Catholic Parishes of Buntingford and Old Hall Green & Puckeridge

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**



Third Sunday of Advent

14th 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

On Gaudete Sunday we rejoice, for we know that the Lord is near. With eyes of faith, we can sense his presence even as we prepare for the celebration of his coming to us as a newborn infant. With eyes of faith, we can see his coming as well as the prophet Isaiah or the New Testament prophet John the Baptist, who each prepared his people for God's transformative presence. With eyes of faith, let us glory in Jesus' presence right here, right now: in God's Word, in the Eucharist, and in those around us. *From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2025 World Library Publications*

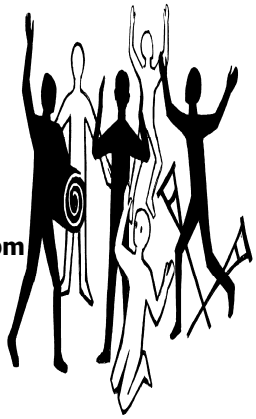
MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford

Sunday 14th December	Third Sunday of Advent	9.15am Intentions of Gilbert & Nancy Jones
Tuesday 16th December		7.30pm
Sunday 21st December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.15am Michael O'Connor RIP

Puckeridge

Sunday 14th December	Third Sunday of Advent	11.00am David King RIP
Thursday 18th December		**2.00pm**
Sunday 21st December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	11.00am People of the Parish



Please note that the Mass at Puckeridge on Thursday this week will be at 2.00pm

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 £108.00 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £86.57; and for your Regular standing orders.

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

Carols. Please join other families from Puckeridge to sing a selection of Christmas carols at St Thomas's from 4.00pm on Sunday 21st December.

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.

Holy Hour. The Holy Hour will take place as usual on Friday 19th December but there will be no Holy Hour on Friday 26th December and Friday 2nd January.

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

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.

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 non-perishable items in the porch at St Richard's, and on the Board at St Thomas', and bring your donation along next week.

Decorating the Churches for Christmas. 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.
Details for decorating St Thomas' will be announced soon.

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.

Lights for Ukraine Appeal – Do you have leftover candles? The Ukrainian community based in Waltham Cross, are actively supporting a local Rotary Club campaign "Lights for Ukraine" to supply candles to families in Ukraine from mid-January 2026 to cover the 2nd half of the winter when they will be needed most. They are collecting both used and new candles, which will provide light and heat during the power cuts. The Rotary Club has an arrangement with local candle makers to melt down partly used candles to make new ones, if you have any new, or partially used candles you do not need, please bring them in and put them in the box on the Lady Altar.

