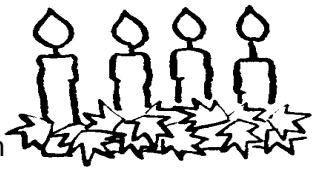
The Catholic Parishes of Buntingford and Old Hall Green & Puckeridge

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**



Fourth Sunday of Advent

21st 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

As we approach the festive day on which we may receive gifts and guests into our homes, we take a moment to recall that during this season of Advent we are called to prepare to receive Jesus into our hearts. Yes, we receive him in a most special way at Christmas, the day we celebrate the world receiving him in the flesh, but we also have the opportunity to receive him each and every day. Let us humbly ask God to prepare our hearts to receive him in the Eucharist here today.

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford

Sunday 21st December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.15am Michael O'Connor RIP
Tuesday 23rd December		7.30pm
Thursday 25th December	**Christmas Day**	10.00am
Sunday 28th December	The Holy Family	9.15am Intentions of John and Isabel Totis

Puckeridge

Sunday 21st December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	11.00am People of the Parish
Wednesday 24th December	**Christmas Eve**	8.45pm
Sunday 28th December	The Holy Family	11.00am People of the Parish

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:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £95.72 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £105.75; and for your Regular standing orders.

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

Carols at Christmas. Please join other local families who will be singing some favourite Christmas carols at St Thomas's Puckeridge 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. There will be no Holy Hour on Friday 26th December and Friday 2nd January. It will start again on Friday 9th 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. Thank you for your generous donations of non-perishable items at both St Richard's Buntingford and St Thomas's Puckeridge. They will be distributed via our local food bank to local families in need.

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.

St Mary's Catholic School is on the Radio. As we approach the season of Christmas, the year 12 Radio Maria England Youth (RMEY) team at St Mary's Catholic School would like to share their Advent 'Growing in Grace' programme with you - 'JOY!'. The programme will air this Friday, 19th of December at 5pm, with a repeat on Sunday 21st December at 8pm. The RMEY team reflect on what joy means and how we experience joy in our faith journey with God. The programme also features an interview with our special guest, John Pridmore, the renowned speaker and author of 'From Gangland to Promised Land'. John talks about his life and how discovering the love of God changed him. You can access the programme on DAB+ radio and on the Radio Maria England app, or simply by typing https://radiomariaengland.uk/ into your browser.

Thank You. We would like to express our thanks to all those who help to build our community in so many different ways, both by their financial support, and by their practical help, whether on a regular basis or for one-off occasions. Thank you to those who decorate our church and prepare it for Mass, who give our supply priests a lift, who plan and lead the music, who do the readings, offertory and collection, who count the collection, who serve us tea and coffee after Mass, and who help us in so many ways it is impossible to list them all here. Thank you to you all. We look forward to working together with you in the New Year and beyond.

