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 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st February 2026

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

Matthew structures his Gospel around five lengthy sermons of Jesus and today we hear the beginning of the first of them, the well-known and oft-quoted Sermon on the Mount. It can be a challenge to hear it as the radical departure from conventional thinking that it was when Jesus first spoke these words from the mountaintop. May we ask God for the grace to realign our ideals and realize the kingdom of heaven.
Zaphaniah prepares us for today's Gospel, instructing us to seek justice and humility. Paul writes that God purposely chose the weak and lowly, for Christ has become our strength and our glory. Jesus teaches the crowds the Beatitudes, telling them that it is those who are meek, merciful, and poor in spirit who are blessed. So today we sing out, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," looking to the Lord to satisfy our every need.

From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2025 World Library Publications

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 1st February	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.15am Simon Phillips RIP
Tuesday 3rd February		7.30pm Catherine Flood RIP
Sunday 8th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.15am Keith Bradley RIP

Puckeridge

Sunday 1st February	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	11.00am Ruth Clark RIP
Thursday 5th February		12.30pm
Sunday 8th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	11.00am John Wallace RIP

Prayer Intentions. During Ordinary Time: Winter: We are asked to pray: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed.

For those who are ill: Alan Tan, **For those who have died recently:** Simon Phillips, Luca Capaldi,
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: John Wallace,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £73.95 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £111.00; and for your Regular standing orders.

Puckeridge Church Centenary. Centenary Working Group. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help prepare for the celebration of the centenary of St Thomas's Puckeridge in July. We will meet in the church after Mass on Sunday 15th February to start planning. More helpers would be very welcome.

Holy Hour. There will be an opportunity for quiet prayer between 5.00 and 6.00pm every Friday. Please come and join us for a few minutes to light a candle and say a prayer.

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.

First Communion. This year we have seven children preparing to receive First Communion on Sunday 21st June. They are meeting each Sunday after Mass in Puckeridge. Please pray for them this week as they prepare to make their First Confession on Saturday 7th February.

Baptism. On Sunday 8th February baby Harry will be baptised during the 11.00am Mass at St Thomas's Puckeridge. Please pray for him and his family as they prepare for him to receive the Sacrament.

Mass for the Sick. On Saturday 7th of February 2026 there will be the annual Mass for the Sick at the Cathedral at 2pm, celebrated by the H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, during which Anointing of the Sick will be offered. Please speak to Fr John or Deacon Paul if you would like to book a ticket. Tickets are in three categories: wheelchair users who require anointing, walking sick who require anointing; those assisting the sick, who do not require anointing.

'Come & See' Vocations Mornings 2026. Sat 28 February, 10am-1.30pm - St Anselm's, Southhall - St Anselm's Rectory, The Green, Southall UB2 4BE Sat 14 March, 12 noon-3.30pm - St Bonaventure's Church Hall - 81 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JF (A short walk from Welwyn Garden City Station.) Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To find out more and to register your attendance at one of the days, please contact: Canon Roger Taylor Vocations Promoter rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Tito Pereira – Assistant Director Permanent Diaconate 07977 599110 or titopereira@rcdow.org.uk.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 23rd May 2026 at 2.30pm. The Archbishop is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email).

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2025 – OLD HALL GREEN & PUCKERIDGE

Income	£	**Expenditure**	£
Offertory	6,750.44	Clergy Salaries	00.00
Tax Refunds	534.00	Travel	894.96
Rent from 77 High Street	137.15	Supply Priests	2,780.00
Catechetics	120.00	Housekeeping	2.62
Candles, Repository & Papers	258.18	Catechetics	461.09
Parish Centre	129.00	Liturgical Expenses	297.10
Christmas, Easter, & Masses	931.50	Candles & Repository	191.97
Specific Donations	10,950.00	Repairs & Maintenance	11,728.41
Third Party Collections	815.85	Heat, Light & Water	2,618.58
Bank Interest	2,657.59	Council Tax & Insurance	5,021.28
	23,283.71	Parish Centre	58.86
		Office & Admin	278.39
		Purchase of Fixed Assets	5,904.00
		Diocesan Assessment	2,876.76
		Deanery Expenses	100.00
		Third Party Collections	734.74
			33,948.76

Balances at 1 January 2024	£77,343
Balances at 31 December 2024	£66,678

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2025 - BUNTINGFORD

Income	£	**Expenditure**	£
Offertory	15,554.23	Clergy Salaries	320.00
Tax Refunds	1,879.00	Non-Clergy Salaries	247.98
Catechetics	540.00	Travel	1,748.24
Candles & Repository	513.26	Supply Priests	3,880.00
Parish Centre	6,522.50	Housekeeping	135.43
Christmas, Easter, & Masses	4,113.45	Catechetics	541.46
Parish Activities	84.37	Liturgical Expenses	1,726.21
Specific Donations	970.93	Candles & Repository	503.93
Sundry Income	1,472.67	Repairs & Maintenance	6,875.91
Third Party Collections	1,064.05	Heat, Light & Water	8,831.05
Bank Interest	1,893.55	Council Tax & Insurance	4,944.52
	34,608.01	Parish Centre	780.44
		Office & Admin	433.06
		Miscellaneous	1,728.29
		Diocesan Assessment	2,405.52
		Deanery Expenses	200.00
		Third Party Collections	1,439.07
			36,741.11

Balances at 1 January 2024	£60,723
Balances at 31 December 2024	£58,590