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 after the Nativity — 4th January 2026

Parochial Administrator: Fr John Cunningham **Parish Deacon**: Rev Deacon Paul O'Connor

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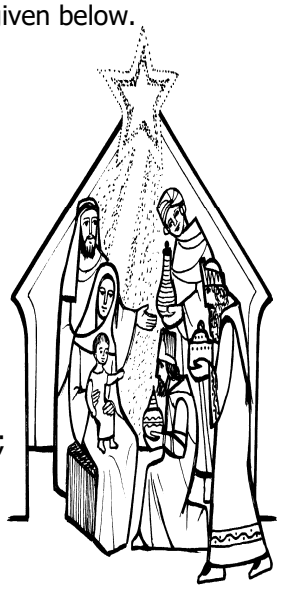
Waltham Cross Parish Office: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 2.00pm **Phone:** 01992 623156

We are still in the festive season of Christmas and are still being reminded of aspects of the Christ-event. The Second Reading reminds us that we have been blessed with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. We have been chosen in Christ.
In the First reading. Divine wisdom is personified here, and glories in herself. By God's command Israel is wisdom's special dwelling place. A privileged people, wisdom has taken root in them.
The Ephesians, both Jew and Gentile, were pre-destined to become God's adopted sons and daughters through Jesus Christ. The prologue of John's Gospel presents to us the figure of Jesus – the eternal Word make flesh, who calls on us to accept him as the way, the truth and the life.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

This Tuesday is the Epiphany of the Lord. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass times are given below.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 4th January	Second Sunday after the Nativity	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 6th January	The Epiphany of the Lord	6.30pm
Sunday 11th January	Baptism of the Lord	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 4th January	Second Sunday after the Nativity	11.00am People of the Parish
Tuesday 6th January	The Epiphany of the Lord	11.30am
Thursday 8th January		12.30pm
Sunday 11th January	Baptism of the Lord	11.00am People of the Parish

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

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 £54.35 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £53.89; and for your December standing orders, £232.00 at Puckeridge and at Buntingford £505.00; Online Donations £210.00. Christmas Offerings at Puckeridge £280.98; and at Buntingford £652.40.

Thank you very much for your very generous Christmas offerings and your many cards and gifts. I hope that you have a Happy and Peaceful New Year. Fr John

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. From Friday 9th January we will once again offer 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.

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.

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.

Foundation Governors needed at St Mary's Catholic School. St Mary's Catholic School, our local Catholic secondary school for the Lea Valley deanery, is seeking practising Catholics to serve as Foundation Governors. This voluntary role offers an opportunity to contribute to the strategic leadership of the school and to support the Headteacher and staff in ensuring that the Catholic life and mission of the school remain central to all that they do. Training and support are provided, and governors come from a variety of backgrounds—no prior experience in education is required, only a commitment to our faith and to the future of Catholic education. If you would like to know more or express an interest, please contact Deirdre McHugh Head teacher at d.mchugh@stmarys.net or 01279 654 901 ext 232.

