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 Baptism of the Lord

11th January 2026

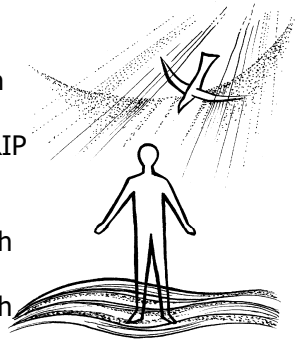
Parochial Administrator: Fr John Cunningham **Parish Deacon**: Rev Deacon Paul O'Connor

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

On this final day of the Christmas season we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We hear in dramatic fashion of Jesus rising from the waters of the River Jordan, the heavens opening before him, the Holy Spirit descending like a dove, and a voice from the heavens proclaiming, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Though not as visibly, we too have risen from the waters of baptism and received the Holy Spirit. As beloved children of God, we pray that God is also well pleased with us.
Isaiah's words may be echoing in our heads now, as we have heard them nearly every Sunday throughout Advent and Christmas. Isaiah foresaw the Messiah, God's chosen one, who, filled with God's spirit, would open the eyes of the blind, rescue those imprisoned in darkness, and establish justice on the earth. Peter attests that Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power, and Matthew tells of how the Holy Spirit appeared as a dove descending from the heavens when Jesus was baptized. Filled with the Holy Spirit in baptism, let us allow the words of scripture to move us with their power.

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 11th January	Baptism of the Lord	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 13th January		7.30pm
Sunday 18th January	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.15am Herbert O'Connor RIP

Puckeridge

Sunday 11th January	Baptism of the Lord	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 15th January		12.30pm
Sunday 18th January	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	11.00am People of the Parish

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:**
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £72.42 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £98.30; and for your Regular standing orders.

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.

Baptism. During the 11.00 Mass at St Thomas's this Sunday we are celebrating the baptism of Connie and Ellis. Please pray for them and their families as they are welcomed into the family of the Church.

Peace Sunday. On Sunday 18th January we celebrate Peace Sunday by reflecting on Pope Leo's call for an 'unarmed and disarming peace'. There will be an opportunity to make a donation to support the work of Pax Christi.

Blessing of Readers. Sunday 25th January is the Sunday of the Word of God and we would invite all those who read the scriptures for us at Mass to come along to be commissioned for their service in the year ahead with a special blessing.

Christians Together. We mark the week of prayer for Christian unity with a prayer service at the URC church in Buntingford at 4.00pm on Sunday 25th January.

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.

