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 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 25th 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

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus call his first disciples. "Come after me," he calls out to the first two. "Follow me," he says to two more. We are the ones Jesus calls out to now. Today is the Sunday of the Word of God, the day Pope Francis chose to dedicate to the proclamation, the study, and the celebration of the scriptures. The call of the first disciples also reminds us of Jesus' own words. His words invite us to a deeper commitment, to one like Peter and Andrew and James and John made with him. May the word of God inspire us to enter our discipleship more deeply.
As we begin this final week of January, it does our hearts good to hear that a great light has shone through darkness and gloom. We realize, though, that Isaiah is speaking of the Lord, especially after Matthew writes in the Gospel that Jesus fulfils this passage. He is the light of the world, shining throughout Galilee, preaching repentance, calling disciples, proclaiming the gospel, and healing the sick. We also hear Paul urge the Corinthians to unity. In Christ, we have enlightenment, unity, and salvation. On this Sunday of the Word of God, may God's word light our way.

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford

Sunday 25th January	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.15am Seamus McBrien RIP
Tuesday 27th January		7.30pm
Sunday 1st February	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.15am Simon Phillips RIP

Puckeridge

Sunday 25th January	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	11.00am Caroline Berry RIP
Thursday 29th January		12.30pm Intentions of the Bussmann Family
Sunday 1st February	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	11.00am Ruth Clark 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
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £91.70 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £112.38; 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.

Blessing of Readers. Today is the Sunday of the Word of God and we are commissioning those who read at Mass 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 today at 4.00pm on Sunday 25th January.

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. If you are aware of any men who may be interested in the diaconate or priesthood, please to share this information with them. 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.

Westminster Diocese Justice & Peace Lecture 2026. The second annual Justice and Peace Lecture which will be given by Charles Wookey, formerly CEO of Blueprint for Business, and for the last three decades advisor on social and ethical issues to archbishops of Westminster and at the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. He will speak on the topic ' Living out Catholic Social Teaching in Today's Britain'. A response will be given by the young scholar Dr Charles Bury of the University of Manchester. The lecture will take place at Farm Street Church of the Immaculate Conception, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH, on March 25 2026 at 7pm. Access to the church is from Farm Street or Mount Street. After the lecture in the church all are invited to a buffet reception in the Arrupe Hall. All are welcome. If you would like to attend please reply to justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk by March 1 2026.

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.

St Mary's Catholic School is on the Radio. The Radio Maria England Youth (RMEY) team at St Mary's Catholic School would like to share their 'Growing in Grace' programme with you - **'New Beginnings!'**. The programme will air **this Friday, 23th of January at 5pm**, with a repeat on **Sunday 25th January at 8pm.** The RMEY team reflect on making a new start at the beginning of this New Year. The programme also features an interview with our special guest, Anel Zuniga Daly, a Catholic mother of two and new Governor at St Mary's Catholic school. 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.



