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**

Third Sunday of Lent

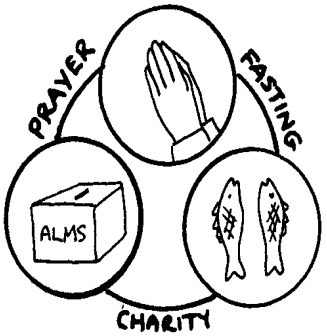
8th March 2026

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

Water plays a pivotal role in today's liturgy. In the Liturgy of the Word, we hear Moses bring forth water in the desert when the Chosen People feared dying of thirst. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals himself as the source of living water, telling the woman at the well that whoever drinks of this water will never thirst again. Today we also celebrate the first scrutiny rite with those who are preparing for baptism, where they will receive the water of new life. Whether we have been baptized for many years or are preparing for baptism in just a few weeks, we thirst for the life-giving water that only our Lord, "the one called the Christ," can provide. *From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2025 World Library Publications*

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 8th March	Third Sunday of Lent	9.15am Dennis Murphy RIP
Tuesday 10th March		7.30pm
Sunday 15th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent	9.15am Barbara Hickford RIP

Puckeridge

Sunday 8th March	Third Sunday of Lent	11.00am The People of the Parish
Thursday 12th March		12.30pm
Sunday 15th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent	11.00am The People of the Parish

Prayer Intentions. During Lent: We are asked to pray: Europe, Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

For those who are ill: Alan Tan, **For those who have died recently:**
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: John Wallace, Barbara Hickford,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £136.44 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £108.81; and for your February standing orders £232.00 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £460.00; Online Donations £210.00

The Welcoming of Archbishop Richard. Archbishop Richard, is inviting us all to attend one of six Masses of Welcome that are being arranged across the diocese in the first few weeks of his ministry as Archbishop of Westminster. The Mass for our Deanery will be on Wednesday 11th March at Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, Woodhall Lane. Welwyn Garden City AL7 3TP at 6.30pm.

MISSION APPEAL – THE SPIRITANS 15th MARCH 2026

Founded in 1703, The Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) are a Roman Catholic Religious Congregation dedicated to sharing hope and love worldwide. For over 300 years, our mission has been clear: to evangelize the poor and the needy, pursue justice, foster peace, care for creation, inspired by Luke 4:18 and advance God's kingdom here on earth. Today, more than 3,000 Spiritans from all continents bring this mission to life in over 60 countries, serving where the need is greatest – hospitals, parishes, prisons, schools, and refugee communities. We also support integral development for young people and work for justice globally. As Pope Francis reminded us in May 2023, we serve "in simplicity of life, respecting peoples and cultures," embracing the most abandoned with fraternity and prayer. Your support and prayers keep our mission alive. Together, we carry the Spiritan light to the world's darkest corners. There will be a second collection after all the Mass next weekend.

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.

Stations of the Cross. During Lent our celebration of the Stations of the Cross will take the place of the Holy Hour each Friday from 5.00pm for about 40 minutes. Please join us as part of your efforts to mark the season of Lent.

A Day with Mary. A day of instruction, devotion, and intercession based on the message given at Fatima in 1917 will take place from 10.00am to 5.30pm at Our Lady and St Michael Garston on Saturday 21 March. There are more details on the poster on the noticeboards.

'Come & See' Vocations Mornings 2026. For those who are interested in the permanent Diaconate or priesthood, there are information mornings on: 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.

Seeds of Hope Day. Saturday 21 March, Potters Bar. Come and be renewed in faith, prayer and mission. Join us for a day of inspiration, reflection and encouragement, as we rediscover the joy of sharing Christ's love. Grow in confidence to share your faith with those in our lives. To find out more please visit: rcdow.org.uk/evangelisation/seeds-of-hope/

Learn to Pray. Faith Series Online starting on Tuesday 31 March. Would you like to grow in confidence and consistency in daily prayer? Our Learn to Pray course offers practical guidance to deepen your relationship with Jesus. Journey with others as you build simple, sustainable habits of prayer. All are welcome. This is series is particularly good for new Catholics and those rekindling their faith. To find out more please visit: rcdow.org.uk/evangelisation/learn-to-pray

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).

St Thomas School – Foundation Governor Needed. St Thomas Catholic School is seeking practising Catholics to serve as a Foundation Governor. If you are interested please contact St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, High Street, Puckeridge, Herts SG11 1RZ, Tel: 01920 821450.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk: Fr Tony will be doing the Lent Walk for CAFOD this year and would be glad if you could sponsor him. Donations can be made through his fundraising page at https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/fr-tonys-fundraising-page2026

