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**

Palm Sunday 29th March 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 begin today's liturgy in joy. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, he did so in triumph, as a hero would when returning from a victorious battle. What the crowds did not truly realize, but we do today, is that Jesus' battle was just beginning. More importantly, the battle would look to be lost when he dies on the cross, when instead this was his victory over sin and death. Therefore, as we hold these branches high and sing hosannas to acclaim our king, we do so not only with heaviness in our hearts for Jesus' suffering and death, but with joy as well, for it is on the cross that Jesus redeems us from our sins. *From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2025 World Library Publications*

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford

Sunday 29th March	Palm Sunday	9.15am Intentions of Peter Oliver
Tuesday 31st March		7.30pm
Thursday 2nd April	Maundy Thursday	6.00pm **The Mass of the Lord's Supper**
Friday 3rd April	Good Friday	3.00pm **The Celebration of the Lord's Passion**
Saturday 4th April	Holy Saturday	8.00pm **The Easter Vigil**
Sunday 5th April	Easter Sunday	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 29th March	Palm Sunday	11.00am People of the Parish
Sunday 5th April	Easter Sunday	11.00am People of the Parish

Good Friday is a Day of Fast and Abstinence.
There will be a Collection for the Upkeep of the Holy Places at the end of the -Service on Good Friday

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:** Bridie Wadge,
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: Barbara Hickford, Maria Brzozowski,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's offertory collection, which came to £121.80 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £116.10; and for your Regular standing orders.

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.

Centenary Group Meeting. To prepare for our celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the church in Puckeridge, there will be a meeting at St Thomas's after 11.00 Mass today. All are invited to take part in the conversation and find out how they can help.

Passover Supper. Please join members of the other Christian communities in Buntingford as we start Holy Week with a special Passover Supper led by Rabbi Irit Shillor to help us understand the Jewish background to Easter. Please bring a meal to share - vegetarian or fish - and join us at 6.30pm in Benson Hall, on Monday 30th March.

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.

Walk of Witness. The Christian communities in Buntingford will walk through the streets of the town on Good Friday 3rd April to bear witness to the Crucifixion of Our Lord. We will visit the three churches in town for a short service at each, starting from St Richard's at 10.00am and ending at St Peter's.

Easter Flowers. You are invited to come and help our team to prepare the churches for the Easter services. Our team at St Richard's will be meeting at 9.00am on Saturday 4th April to clean the church and decorate it with flowers so it is ready for the service that evening.

Welcome. Please pray for Faye Andrews as she prepares to be received into the Catholic Church. After a year-long period of prayer and preparation she will be Baptised and Confirmed, and celebrate her First Communion at the Easter Vigil at St Richard's on Saturday 4th April.

Easter Offerings. It has always been the case that people's Offering on Easter Sunday and on Christmas Day are your gift to the Clergy, and not a donation to the Parish as such. For those people who normally donate by Standing Order, there are Easter Envelopes available at the entrances to the Church.

Daffodils. We would like to thank our parishioners Maurice and Mary Henchey who kindly donated the daffodils that were given out on Mother's Day. Many of you will remember them and we ask you to keep them in your prayers.

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).



