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**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

26th April 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

Today we hear Jesus make a wonderful promise to us and all those who follow him. He promises that we "might have life and have it more abundantly." This is why he came, he tells the crowds. Since we know now that Jesus came to bring salvation to the world, we realize he was speaking of eternal life with God as the more abundant life we can have. Let us listen for the call of the Good Shepherd so we might follow him to the verdant pastures of abundance.

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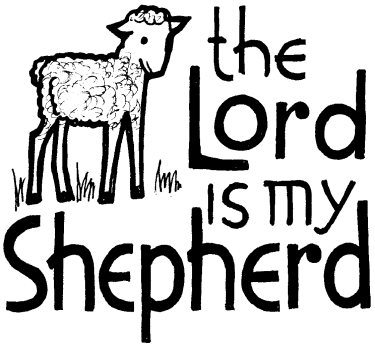
MASS AND SERVICE TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 26th April	Fourth Sunday of Easter	9.15am Elizabeth Jones RIP
Tuesday 28th April		7.30pm
Sunday 3rd May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 26th April	Fourth Sunday of Easter	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 30th April		12.30pm
Sunday 3rd May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	11.00am People of the Parish

Prayer Intentions. During Easter: We are asked to pray for: Europe, New Members of the Church, Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; The Church; Human Work.

For those who are ill: Alan Tan, **For those who have died recently:** Bridie Wadge,
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: Keith Bradly

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's Offertory collection, which came to £55.53 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £147.00; and for your Regular Standing Orders.

Priests Training Fund Today, on Good Shepherd Sunday, there is a second collection for the Priest Training Fund. This fund supports the formation of men who are responding to God's call to serve as priests in our Diocese. Their journey involves years of preparation — human, spiritual, and pastoral — equipping them to serve parish communities in the years ahead. Your support helps make this formation possible. It is a direct way of strengthening the life of the Church and ensuring that future generations will continue to receive the Sacraments and Pastoral Care. If you are able, please give generously in today's collection. You may also donate via rcdow.org.uk/PriestTrainingFund. Please also continue to pray for vocations and for those currently in formation.

Archbishop Richard has asked that the Diocese have a Month of Prayer for Priestly Vocations, starting today, Good Shepherd Sunday, and culminating in the Feast of Pentecost. He asks that people make a Holy Hour each week in the company of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. We know that it is from among his people that God calls his shepherds, and between now and Pentecost the whole Diocese will be united in prayer that more men will respond to that call. Leaflets will be distributed at all the Masses this weekend, and there are further resources available on the Diocesan Website: https://rcdow.org.uk/month-of-prayer-for-priestly-vocations/

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.

Holy Hour. We observe a Holy Hour every Friday between 5.00 and 6.00pm. You are welcome to pop in for just a few minutes to say a prayer, or to pray with us in silence for the whole hour. The Holy Hour ends with Benediction.

Grounds. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help maintain the pots around the church gardens. We would also appreciate some support is setting up the water butt near the garage. We have the water butt and some bricks on which to stand it but would need to get some piping. Please let Deacon Paul know if you can help.

No Mow May. Inspired by the recent Planet in Need event held at Benson Hall, and as part of our response to the Pope's call to care for our common home, we want to help local insect life to flourish by taking part in the national movement to let our lawns grow during the month of May.

Rosary. The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Our Lady and we would like to mark it by saying the rosary before Sunday Mass at 8.45 each week throughout the month. Please let Deacon Paul know if you would be willing to help lead the rosary each week, perhaps on a rota basis.

Understanding children's spirituality in today's society. The Margaret Beaufort Institute is running a course to help participants develop an understanding of Children's Spirituality and consider what supports and what hinders its development. Details of the course are on the poster in the porch.

Volunteers. Please consider offering your time to support the work of our parish in one of the following roles: reader, musician, server, driver, counter, catechist, serving tea and coffee and the maintenance of our building and grounds. Sign up on the sheets at the back of the church.

Sacramental Programmes. From September we will start Preparation for First Communion for children in Year 3 and above, and Confirmation for children in Year 10 and above. Please speak to Fr John or Deacon Paul to collect an Application Form for your children.

Becoming Catholic. Are you considering becoming Catholic and want to find out more? We are starting a Course in September for those who want to explore the Catholic Faith. Please speak to Father John or Deacon Paul to find out more and get an Application Form.

St Thomas of Canterbury School. - Nursery places available for September 2026. St Thomas nursery is a welcoming place for children of all faiths, and they provide a nurturing environment for your little ones to thrive. They are a 30 hour provider which means you can be assured that your child will be looked after throughout the day. If you are interested in securing a place for your child, please contact Mrs Sellers, Office Manager admin@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk or call 01920 821450.

Confident Parenting in a world of screens – 29th April at 8.00pm. Worried about the impact of phones and social media on your teen? A helpful webinar with Kate Duroux from Care for the Family, offering practical advice for supporting teenagers growing up in a digital world.)

Raising Teenagers in a Catholic Family – 2nd June at 8pm. As children enter adolescence, parenting can feel brand new. Mike and Alicia from the Messy Family Project share faith-filled wisdom and practical tools to help parents guide their tweens and teens with patience, modelling, and stronger relationships. To reserve your place, book now by visiting https://www.celebratetrust.org/faith-parenting

Easter Offerings. It has always been the case that people's Offering on Easter Sunday and on Christmas Day are your gift to the Priests, 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.

