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**

Seventh Sunday of Easter 17th May 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 are God's. In today's Gospel, Jesus prays to the Father while he sits with his disciples, telling the Father that we belong to God. The Father gave the Son to us to redeem us, which Jesus is about to do when he makes this prayer, but the Father has also given us to the Son. We are connected to the Son of God as gifts of the Father. As God's gifts, we gather here together on the Lord's Day to worship and to pray, as the apostles did after Jesus was taken up to heaven. Let us pray that we come to recognize that we are all God's gifts, given by God to be given eternal life by Christ Jesus.

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MASS AND SERVICE TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 17th May	Seventh Sunday of Easter	9.15am Sim Tam RIP
Sunday 24th May	Pentecost	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 17th May	Seventh Sunday of Easter	11.00am People of the Parish
Sunday 24th May	Pentecost	11.00am People of the Parish

Please note: Fr John will be on holiday during May, so there will be no Weekday Mass in Buntingford or Puckeridge until Tuesday, 2nd June in Buntingford, and Thursday, 4th June in Puckeridge

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

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 £104.26 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £163.00; and for your regular Standing Orders

Feast of St Richard. Please save the date for Sunday 14th June and make a special effort to be there as that is the day when we will celebrate the Feast of St Richard with a special brunch after the 9.15 Mass. It will be a great way of commemorating our patron saint and celebrating the community to which we belong.

Centenary Mass. After the 11.00am Mass on Sunday 24th May there will be another short meeting to plan for the 100th Anniversary Mass at St Thomas's Puckeridge which takes place on Sunday 5th July and will be celebrated by Archbishop Richard Moth. Please come along to find out more about what we are planning and how you can help.

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.

Visiting the Sick and Housebound. Please contact the parish office if you know someone who is sick or housebound and would appreciate a visit from the parish. We have volunteers who have been approved for such visits and could take communion to them.

Priests Training Fund. 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 are available at the entrance to the Church, 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 at St Richard's every Friday between 5.00 and 6.00pm and this week at St Thomas' at 11.20am before the Thursday Mass. 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. At St Richard's 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 each week throughout the month - at 8.45 at St Richard's, and at 10.30 at St Thomas'. 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 on the noticeboard.

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School Foundation Governor Required. Voluntary role for practising catholic at our small, rural Catholic Primary School. Help preserve and develop the school's religious character while overseeing strategic direction, financial performance and holding leadership accountable.

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School Nursery Places Available. Government funding scheme available for 15 and 30 hours Flexible attendance options to best suit your family's individual needs. Additional places available in selected year groups. Please contact: 01920 821450; admin@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk.

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

St Edmunds College Sixth Form Open Evening. Come along to St Edmunds Sixth Form open evening on Thursday 11th June, at 6.30pm. Discover their brand-new Sixth Form Centre (opening September) with new subjects and new spaces designed to give their students the best possible experiences. Tel. 01920 824247; email. admissions@stedmundscollege.org.

Marriage Care Relationship Counsellors. Marriage Care is looking for empathetic individuals committed to supporting adult relationships to train on their Certificate in Relationship Counselling and then to volunteer with them to make a real difference to couples and families. There are costs associated with the training, but no one is excluded on the basis of their ability to pay. For more details, visit www.marriagecare.org.uk or email volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk.

