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**

Saints Peter and Paul

28th June 2026

Parochial Administrator: Fr John Cunningham

Parish Deacon: Rev Deacon Paul O'Connor

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Peter's confession in today's Gospel Reading, while a testament to his own faith, is only secondarily about Peter – it is first about the identity of Christ and his desired relationship with each of us. Jesus' twofold question invites Peter beyond the guesses of others and into his own heart, where God is at work. This confession marks a pivotal point in Matthew's Gospel from this moment on, Jesus's ministry points towards Jerusalem as he predicts his own passion and resurrection. The authority of binding and loosing will only make sense in light of this future reality – through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the church will exercise the ministry of forgiveness.

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 28th June	Saints Peter and Paul	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 30th June		7.30pm
Sunday 5th July	Fourteenth Sunday of the Year	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 28th June	Saints Peter and Paul	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 2nd July		12.30pm
Sunday 5th July	Fourteenth Sunday of the Year	11.00am People of the Parish

Prayer Intentions. During Ordinary Time: We are asked to pray: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Human Life; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Seafarers.

For those who are ill: Alan Tan, **For those who have died recently:**
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: Danuta Brzozowska

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's Offertory collection, which came to £94.30 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £135.60; and for your Regular Standing Orders

St Thomas's Centenary. Thank you to all those who have helped in so many different ways to help us prepare for the visit of Archbishop Richard Moth on Sunday 5th July. There will be one more planning meeting for thirty minutes after the Mass in Puckeridge today, Sunday 28th June to make final arrangements. Parishioners from St Richard's are invited to attend the Centenary Mass at Puckeridge. Please speak to Deacon Paul to get a ticket or email pauloconnor@rcdow.org.uk
There is a sign-up sheet at the back of St Thomas's for you to sign to secure your tickets for the Centenary Mass. Please sign your name and indicate how many tickets you will need for your family.

Fr Peter Harris's Retirement. Our local Dean, Fr Peter, was a great help to our parish when we were left without a priest in November 2023. There are two events in Bishop's Stortford parish grounds to mark his retirement: a hog roast for adults only at 7.30pm on Saturday 11 July, and a family afternoon tea party at 3.00pm on Sunday 12 July. Tickets may be obtained from the Bishop's Stortford parish office.

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, sacristan, cleaner, fire marshall, 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. **The deadline for Applications is today, Sunday, 28th June.**

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. **The deadline for Applications is today, Sunday, 28th June.**

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.

Baptism. Please speak to Fr John or Deacon Paul after Mass if you would like your child to be baptised.

Holy Hour. We observe a Holy Hour at St Richard's every Friday between 5.00 and 6.00pm and at St Thomas' at 11.50am before the Thursday midday 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.

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.

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.

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.

More Human. Pope Leo has just published a new encyclical ***Magnifica Humanitas***. It speaks about what it means to be human in our time, especially with in the age of AI.
There will be three short workshops to introduce and explore aspects of this timely document with input, as well as reflection and prayer. They will take place in St Aloysius Parish Hall, Phoenix Rd, London NW1 1TA, Mondays 13th July, 21st September, 23rd November, 7.30-8.45pm. All Welcome! Register to attend on https://tinyurl.com/MoreHuman26
These workshops will also be online, email info@fcjecojustice.co.uk for more information.

Ebola Epidemic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The National Bishops' Conference of the Congo has written to the Archbishops and Bishops of England and Wales, requesting prayers for the people in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo, who are affected by an ongoing Ebola Epidemic. Please keep those affected in your prayers. CAFOD are delivering vital support to communities affected and their work can be supported here: https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/ebola-outbreak-in-drc

We Believe Festival. Friday 24 – Monday 27 July 2026, St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham We Believe Festival brings the Church together in England and Wales. It is an unmissable opportunity to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to experience the joy of community, and to encounter personally the Lord Jesus, our salvation. Book your tickets at webelievefestival.com.

Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life. All are welcome to join the annual Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life on Saturday 1 August 2026, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. More details, including information on coach transport, can be found on the poster (attached) and the website: https://prolifepilgrimage.org/. If you cannot join in person, please consider uniting with the pilgrims in prayer.

We use the word martyr in a different way from the way it was thought of in gospel times. For us, martyrdom means suffering. And when we hear of the death of various holy people we call it martyrdom. But in fact the word martyr doesn't necessarily involve suffering or dying.
The word martyr means a witness. If you are a martyr to the cause, then you are a good advert for the cause, a good example or a witness to what the cause is all about.
In fact, although Sts Peter and Paul were both killed for their faith, they are really martyrs because they both witnessed to it. In an obvious way we can say that dying in order to witness to your faith is the ultimate martyrdom.
Yet what's important about Peter and Paul isn't that they died but that they spent their lives passing on the message of Jesus Christ. The ancient Preface prayer for today's feast speaks of "Peter, our leader in the faith, and Paul, its fearless preacher."
If we want to emulate the two saints of today's feast then we don't have to seek out death before our time; we have to be martyrs by witnessing and passing on what we have been taught and believe. In fact that's how Christian faith survives. Faith, they say, is not taught but caught. We catch it at our mother's knee, at the feet of good teachers, from the lips of holy people we come to meet in life.
It's easy to bypass our job of transmitting the faith by saying that this is the task of others, of clergy and catechists, of teachers and preachers. But the truth is that the only reason why we can celebrate today's feast is because of generations of mothers, fathers, grandparents, uncles and aunts who accepted the responsibility of handing on their faith to their own families and friends.
Peter and Paul would be happy to accept praise for their martyrdom, for the way they transmitted their faith, but they'd probably be even happier if they thought we were also joining the martyrs' queue ourselves.