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**

Fifteenth Sunday of the Year

12th July 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

The setting of today's Gospel, may remind us of a warm midsummer day maybe like today. Jesus comes outside and walks down to the sea. So many people gather along the shoreline that Jesus decides to go out in a boat and speak to the entire crowd from there. Imagine yourself sitting on a beach on a beautiful day with hundreds of others, listening to the Lord teaching in parables. Through the power of imagination, we have that opportunity today.

From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2026 World Library Publications

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 12th July	Fifteenth Sunday of the Year	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 14th July		7.30pm
Sunday 19th July	Sixteenth Sunday of the Year	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 12th July	Fifteenth Sunday of the Year	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 16th July		12.30pm
Sunday 19th July	Sixteenth 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: **For those who have died recently:** Angela Girandola,
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's Offertory collection, which came to £189.40 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £109.90; and for your June Standing Orders £1,132.00; Online Donations £260.00 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford £485.00; Online Donations £235.00.

Centenary of St Thomas's Puckeridge. Thank you to all those who helped organise last Sunday's wonderful celebration of 100 years of the church in Puckeridge. It was good to be able to welcome so many of you, some of the priests who have served the parish in recent years, the representatives of our local schools, and Archbishop Richard Moth.

The Photos of the event taken by the Diocese' Photographer can be viewed at:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/catholicwestminster/albums/72177720334550711

Baptism. At 12.00pm today, at St Richard's Buntingford we celebrate the baptism of baby Margot. Please pray for her as she joins the family of the Church, and for her parents and godparents as they take on the great joy and responsibility of bringing her up in the practice of the faith.

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.

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.

Sea Sunday. Stella Maris is the largest ship-visiting network in the world, and the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church. Seafarers often have to work away from their families and local communities for nine to 12 months at a time. Across the world, Stella Maris aims to provide a 'friend in every port' and stand alongside seafarers and fishers to ensure their rights are upheld. For 100 years they have been extending the hand of friendship and welcoming seafarers and fishers to our shores. Their network of chaplains and volunteers makes more than 70,000 ship visits each year and supports hundreds of thousands of seafarers and fishermen in times of need. They listen and chat, they arrange Mass on board ships, they offer practical help on a crisis and bring free Wi-Fi onboard so that seafarers can call home. Often, these simplest practical kindnesses make the greatest difference.
Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is Sunday 12th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue their important work, so please give generously. There will be a second collection after all the Masses this weekend. Thank you.

