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**

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year 20th September 2026

Parochial Administrator: Fr John Cunningham **Parish Deacon**: Rev Deacon Paul O'Connor

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This Sunday we begin a series of three Gospels set in vineyards. Today's Gospel tells of a generous landowner, willing to pay a full daily wage even to those who worked only the final hour of the day. They are very happy, of course, but the folks who laboured all day in the hot sun resent the owner's extreme generosity. This, Jesus tells his disciples, can be compared to the kingdom of heaven, where "the last will be first, and the first will be last." Let us praise and thank God for inviting us all first, last and in between to the joyful kingdom.

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MASS AND SERVICE TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 20th September	Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year	9.15am Adam Potter RIP
Tuesday 22nd September		7.00pm
Sunday 27th September	Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year	9.15am People of the Parish

Puckeridge

Sunday 20th September	Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year	11.00am People of the Parish
Thursday 24th September		12.30pm
Sunday 27th September	Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year	11.00am Patrick Kennedy RIP

Prayer Intentions. During Ordinary Time: Autumn: We are asked to pray: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; The Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their families.

For those who are ill: Alan Tan, **For those who have died recently:** Bob Jackson, Adam Potter, Nancy Jones, Pauline Ginn, Denise Rogers,
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's Offertory collection, which came to £124.44 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £124.75; and for your Regular Standing Orders

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

Flowers. Please leave only fresh flowers or real plants at the statue of Mary in the car park. Remove all plastic wrapping and place them in the water from the water butt near the garage. When the flowers are dead, please remove them and put them in the bin provided.

Baptism. We look forward to welcoming baby Arthur into our Catholic community when he is baptised at St Richard's Buntingford at 12.00pm today. Please pray for him and his family as they prepare for one of the most important days in young Arthur's life.

Wedding. Saturday 26th September, at 12 noon. Emily Middleditch & Adam Cooper.

Home Mission Sunday. Today we pray for the work of evangelisation and to support this vital work in our diocese through a second collection. We all share in this work and should look for ways in which we can do our part in sharing the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ in our homes, in our work, and in our friendships.

RCIA. The Rite of Christian Initiation is a course for those who wish to explore the Catholic faith with a view to becoming Catholic next Easter. Our course starts after the 7.00pm Mass on Tuesday 22 September and will run for twenty sessions up to Easter and five more sessions in the summer. Please pray for the nine people who are beginning the course next week and keep them in your prayers throughout the year.

CAFOD Family Fast Day. This year the fast day takes place on Friday 2 October and highlights the story of Tayla, a 12-year-old girl in northern Zimbabwe whose education has been affected by hunger and long walks to collect water. The money raised by your fast will help to fund solar-powered water systems, access to safe drinking water, and sustainable food-growing initiatives. Envelopes are available at the back of church and should be handed in on Sunday 4 October.

Mass Count. From Sunday 20th September until Sunday 11th October we are conducting our Annual Mass Count so that we can report to the diocese the average number of people who attend Mass at our two churches. Please make a special effort to attend Mass on these four Sundays so that the count is a fair reflection of the strength of our congregations.

Harvest Festival. To mark the end of the Season of Creation we have our annual Harvest Festival on Sunday 4th October. Please save the date and start from next week to bring gifts of non-perishable food to share with the local food bank. You should also make a special effort to join us in Benson Hall after Mass that day for our annual Harvest Brunch.

Prayer Group. You are invited to join people from our parish, and from the other Christian communities in Buntingford, for a time of informal prayer in the Lady Chapel once a month on a Sunday evening. We plan to meet for the first time at 7.00pm on Sunday 18th October to reflect on scripture, offer prayers, and sing some contemporary hymns. All are welcome. Please talk to Deacon Paul for more details.

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.

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.

Holy Hour. After being suspended for the summer, the Holy Hour at St Richard's has returned at the new time and date of 10.00am on Wednesday mornings in a new format. It will take place every Wednesday and be followed by coffee in Benson Hall. The Holy Hour will include morning prayer, a time of silence, and Benediction. Feel free to pop in for a few minutes or stay for the whole hour.

The Holy Half Hour takes place at St Thomas' before the weekday Mass each week. It will run from 11.50 to 12.20.

Season of Creation 1st September to 4th October. The Season of Creation was established by Pope Francis. The aim of the season is to encourage us to pray for our common home. This season's theme is 'Living Water'. Reflecting on the forthcoming season, Pope Leo XIV centred on these words from Isaiah "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Is 2:4). The Holy Father's message highlights the connection between armed conflict and environmental degradation. We are called to immerse ourselves in the water, actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together. As we enter the Season of Creation, let us pray that all peoples have enough water for their needs and let us thank God for our access to clean water.

