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-Sixth Sunday of the Year 27th September 2026

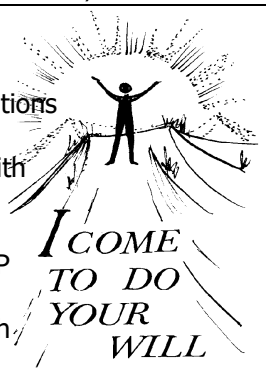
Parochial Administrator: Fr John Cunningham **Parish Deacon**: Rev Deacon Paul O'Connor

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Waltham Cross Parish Office: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 2.00pm **Phone:** 01992 623156

As we gather to celebrate the Eucharist let us give God thanks for second chances. All of us fail sometimes, maybe quite often, but this does not mean that we are condemned forever, unable to overcome our faults and past sins. We are constantly invited to repent. seek forgiveness, and change our behaviour. St Paul, who knew a thing or two about doing all this, calls upon us to reject selfishness and instead look out for the interests of others. Let us pray today for a change of heart that will lead us to more closely follow the road to God's kingdom.

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MASS AND SERVICE TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 27th September	Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year	9.15am Ena Chapman - Intentions
Tuesday 29th September		7.00pm
Sunday 4th October	Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year	9.15am Sheila & Veronica Keith

Puckeridge

Sunday 20th September	Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year	11.00am Patrick Kennedy RIP
Thursday 1st October		12.30pm
Sunday 4th October	Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year	11.00am People of the Parish

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, Auf=drey Mondey
For those who have died recently: Bob Jackson, 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 £169.80 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £99.72; and for your Regular Standing Orders

Harvest Preparation. Please join us from 9.30am on Saturday 3rd October to help decorate St Richard's Church and the sanctuary so that everything is ready for our celebration of the Harvest Festival the next day.

The Holy Rosary. The month of October is a time of special dedication to the Virgin Mary so please join us each week to pray the rosary before Sunday Mass from 8.45am at St Richard's and from 10.30am at St Thomas's.

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.

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. We meet in the Presbytery after the 7.00pm Mass on a Tuesday evening. It is not too late to join. If you would like more details, please speak to Deacon Paul. Please keep all those involved 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 4th 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.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees. For over one hundred years, the Church has marked the World Day of Migrants and Refugees on the last Sunday of September, inviting us to pray for and accompany people who have been forced to leave their homes in search of safety, dignity, and hope. This year, Pope Leo has chosen the theme 'Even just one of these children', inviting the Church and her faithful to pay particular attention to children and young people affected by forced displacement. In his message he reminds us that every refugee child, woman, and man has infinite dignity and that every person deserves to be welcomed. As Christians we are called to respond with love and empathy. For further details of ways in which you can support the work being done in the Diocese please see the Jesuit Refugee Service website at jrs.net.

