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 Thirty Second Sunday of the Year 8th November 2026

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

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Not only on the first two days of this month do we honour the saints and commemorate the faithful departed on the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, but during the entire month of November we remember those who have departed from this world. Today we hear Saint Paul write that if we believe in the resurrection of our Lord, surely God, through Jesus, will bring all those who died in Christ to the heavenly kingdom as well. May that be our hope and our consolation as we cherish our memories of our loved ones.

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MASS AND SERVICE TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford

Sunday 8th November	Thirty Second Sunday of the Year	9.15am James Rafferty Anniversary
Tuesday 10th November		7.00pm
Sunday 15th November	Thirty Third Sunday of the Year	9.15am Denise Rogers RIP

Puckeridge

Sunday 8th November	Thirty Second Sunday of the Year	11.00am Holy Souls
Friday 13th November		12.30pm
Sunday 15th November	Thirty Third Sunday of the Year	11.00am Holy Souls

Please note the Mass and Holy Half Hour in Puckeridge will be on Friday this week.

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, Sheila Stephenson, Jean Berkeley,
For those who have died recently: Julian Robarts,
For those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's Offertory collection, which came to £62.00 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £104.10; and for your October Standing Orders £202.00; Online Donations £440.00 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £635.00; Online Donations £235.00

November Holy Souls. November is traditionally the month in which we pray for the Holy Souls. Purple Sheets for the November Dead List and envelopes are available at the entrances to the Churches. Please return them both, and the lists of names will be placed in the Book of the Dead, which will be on the Sanctuary during each Mass in November. Mass will be celebrated for the Holy Souls each week, and the Annual Mass for all those from the Parish who have died in the last year will be celebrated at 8.00pm on Friday 13th November.

Baptism Next Sunday. We look forward to welcoming Valencia into our Catholic community when she is baptised at 12.00pm on Sunday 15th November. Please pray for Valencia as she prepares for the most important day of her young life, and for her parents and godparents as they take up the responsibility of bringing her up in the practice of the faith.

Fr Stephen Coker celebrated the 30th Anniversary of his Ordination last Sunday with a special Mass and a meal. There is a card for parishioners to sign - it will be at the back of St Richard's this week and at the back of St Thomas's next week. We will give the card to Fr Stephen the next time he comes to celebrate Mass for us.

Lights of Love. We would like to keep St Richard's open between 4.00pm and 8.00pm on the evening of Friday 27th November when the Christmas lights in Buntingford are turned on and the shops are open late. We need stewards to be present in the church so that we can keep it open, Please sign up for a one-hour slot on the rota at the back of St Richard's today.

Christmas Tree Festival. The annual Christmas Tree Festival takes place at St Mary's Aspenden on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th December. It would be good to have a tree to represent St Richard's and/or St Thomas's at the festival. If you would like to volunteer to create a tree for us, please speak to Deacon Paul.

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 with contemporary hymns, scripture reading and reflection. We meet again at 7.00pm on Sunday 22nd November.

Celebration of Christmas. From 6.00pm on Friday 11th December at St Richard's students from St Edmund's College will lead us in a selection of Christmas songs, carols, and readings. After the concert a glass of wine and mince pie will be served in Benson Hall. Please use the QR code on the poster in the porch at St Richard's to reserve your place.

Christmas Cards and Gifts. On the way out of the church please collect one of the brochures for Christmas cards and gifts sent to us by the Catholic Children's Society and CAFOD. Please support these charities by buying some of your cards and gifts from them.

Donate a Christmas Dinner. The local food bank has invited us to give a Christmas hamper to a local person or family by donating non-perishable foods from the list provided. It is not too early to start collecting. Please see the poster in the porch and cross off from the list the item you wish to donate. Start bringing your donations next week.

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. The Holy Hour at St Richard's is celebrated each week at 10.00am on Wednesday morning in a new format. It is followed by tea and 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.

St Ignatius College Alumni. Please join St Ignatius for a Fish & Chip Supper at the College on 20th November, 2026, 6.00-9.00pm, £20. This will be one of the final opportunities to visit the current school building before major building works start in 2027. Full details, and booking information are on the Poster on the Notice Board.

CAFOD Volunteer. Could you inspire the next generation and gain valuable experience of presenting to young people at the same time? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, is looking for volunteers to visit local schools to present assemblies and workshops. Full training and support provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or contact Westminster's CAFOD representative Chris Driscoll at cdriscoll@cafod.org,uk or call 07776 493162.

Sick and Retired Priests Collection. Next weekend is the annual collection for the sick and retired priests in the Diocese of Westminster. The number of our priests over the age of 75 is steadily increasing, and caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. Whilst we work with the NHS and local authorities to ensure funding gaps are met, we still rely heavily on the generosity of parishioners who contribute to this worthy fund each year. Therefore, I would like to ask for your help once again as we draw close to this year's annual appeal for our Sick & Retired Priests.

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. Please pray for the people who are attending the Course here in Buntingford, which meets in the Presbytery after Mass on a Tuesday evening, and keep them in your prayers throughout the year.

