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 Third Sunday of the Year 15th November 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

Ten years ago, Pope Francis established this Sunday, the next to last Sunday in Ordinary Time, as the World Day of the Poor. Today, we recognize our obligation as Christians to offer prayers and assistance to all those living in poverty both here and around the world, no matter the reason for their condition. We also realize that Jesus made poverty holy by choosing to live in poverty, by requiring his disciples to do the same, and by teaching that those who follow him should sell all they have and give it to the poor. May we reach out with heart and hands to all those who are poor, who are so dear to our Lord.

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MASS AND SERVICE TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Buntingford

Sunday 15th November	Thirty Third Sunday of the Year	9.15am Denise Rogers RIP
Tuesday 17th November		7.00pm Holy Souls
Sunday 22nd November	Christ the King	9.15am Julian Robarts RIP

Puckeridge

Sunday 15th November	Thirty Third Sunday of the Year	11.00am Holy Souls
Thursday 19th November		12.30pm
Sunday 22nd November	Christ the King	11.00am Holy Souls

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: James Rafferty,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Thank you for last week's Offertory collection, which came to £155.73 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £109.00; and for your Regular Standing Orders

Baptism this Sunday. We look forward to welcoming Valencia into our Catholic community when she is baptised at 12.00pm today. Please pray for her parents and godparents as they take up the responsibility of bringing her up in the practice of the faith.

Holy Hour. The Holy Hour at St Richard's is celebrated each week at 10.00am on Wednesday morning and includes the Church's official Morning Prayer, a time of silence, and Benediction. Feel free to pop in for a few minutes or stay for the whole hour.

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.

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. Today's second collection is for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. Please give generously and help ensure our sick and older priests are financially supported, having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. They have baptised us, welcomed us into the church, and offered comfort and prayer at times of sorrow. Now we have a chance to give back and ensure they have peace of mind during their senior years, when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility. Please give generously using the envelopes in the church. You can make a one-off donation or set up a regular gift and become a Patron by completing section 4 on the envelope form. You can also donate online at recow.org.uk/SRP – the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online.

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.

