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**

Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

19th July 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

Each Sunday when we come together to worship God, we are nourished first by God's word in the readings, psalm, and Gospel and then by Christ's own body in the Eucharist. We may take both for granted, because each is available to us every Sunday, but these are gifts that are meant to be treasured. In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a great treasure buried in a field, bought by a person lucky enough to have found it. But we have our treasure right here and right now, given to us by a God of infinite generosity. May we be blessed with the wisdom to see the treasures we have in the Word and Eucharist.

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MASS AND SERVICE TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



Buntingford

Sunday 19th July	Sixteenth Sunday of the Year	9.15am People of the Parish
Tuesday 21st July		7.30pm
Sunday 26th July	Seventeenth Sunday of the Year	9.15am Michael O'Connor RIP

Puckeridge

Sunday 19th July	Sixteenth Sunday of the Year	11.00am Ken McCormick RIP
Friday 24th July		12.30pm
Sunday 26th July	Seventeenth Sunday of the Year	11.00am Celia Baxter RIP

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 £60.85 at Puckeridge; and at Buntingford; £73.68; 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

Funeral. The Funeral Mass for the late Angela Girandola will be celebrated on Friday 24th July at 2.00pm.

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. The Holy Hour that usually takes place on Friday between 5.00 and 6.00pm is suspended until September. It will start again but may be at a different time during the week.

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 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. Thank you for giving to Sea Sunday. Buntingford raised £100, and Puckeridge raised £91. Your generous gifts will ensure that Stella Maris chaplains can continue to be a friend for seafarers and fishers in times of need. To find out more about how your support helps those who live and work at sea, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk.

Faith In Focus: Is God Asleep? People have wondered over the centuries how it is that we call God almighty and powerful, yet things happen in our world that he seems powerless to do anything about. If we were God we'd surely be out there in the thick of it, sorting things out and making sure some people got their just deserts for what they've been up to. But God doesn't stir. It's as if he's asleep like the farmer in today's gospel. Philosophers say that God does not intervene because this would interrupt the laws of nature. Theologians say that God has given us total freedom to behave in any way we choose and this free will would be contradicted if God kept treating us like puppets or robots. What matters, they say, is that we should be prepared to accept ultimate responsibility for our actions both sides of the grave. The writer of the Book of Wisdom gives us a clue. In the face of evil God watches from afar, but he always steps in to offer people the gift of repentance. In other words, God is hoping that even the most sinister (and that of course includes us) will seize the chance of mending their ways. God is mild in judgement and governs with lenience, Wisdom says, and even after sin he holds out the olive branch if only the sinner is prepared to repent.
God's perspective is different from ours. The kingdom of God is still at the growing stage. He sees things over a lifetime and he judges in eternity's seconds. He is not a God who nips in the bud, but one who is always prepared to wait until the eleventh hour - just in case. At times this may seem frustrating to us when we would like some sort of dramatic intervention as God stoops to give someone their comeuppance. But there again, when he allows us to make slow progress in the hope that one day we might repent, then we're quite glad that he seems to be sleeping.

