

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. William Johnstone
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Palm Sunday 10th April 2022

The Lord is making his way into Jerusalem; we are journeying with him. The Lord wants us to be caught up in the outpouring of Divine Love; let's open up ourselves to this powerful, transforming grace. How does this happen?

Watch! He gets on a donkey to enter the Holy City. He stoops down to wash his disciples' feet. He breaks bread and pours out wine to give us a perpetual remembrance of all that he does. See his face with its determined gaze to get to Calvary. Cast your eyes on those around him: executioners, religious folk, runaway disciples, a heart-broken Mother. Picture the agony the Father goes through in allowing his Beloved Son to suffer so grievously for the whole of humanity.

Listen! Clear a path in the busy-ness of your life to focus on - and appreciate - what is said at many points in the Passion. In our Gospel passages from St. Luke the people cry out: 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' (Sounds a bit like the Angels singing at Christmas?!) Jesus prays that his Father forgive those putting him to death - who do I need to forgive? 'Today you will be with me in paradise,' Christ says to the Good Thief - what will this paradise be like and who will be there? On Good Friday the Lord will utter 'It is accomplished!' and give up his spirit in death - what has he done for you?

Be there with him and share the experience! Feel in your hearts the riches of love resonating with the Father from all eternity and bursting into time and space. Suffer with Jesus and unite the pain of the world with his. Allow the glory of Resurrection to emanate from your whole being. Know that you are not on your own - he is there!

When we complete the Way of the Lord and reach Easter Sunday, God will most have definitely lavished his grace upon us, he will have given us an even clearer glimpse of his presence. We will have been prepared fundamentally for the eternal life of heaven.

Wherever you are, have a Holy Week. Whoever you share this time with, let these be days of blessing. Whatever is going on in your life, remember he understands. Let's journey together!

With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Holy Family on Wednesday sat 10am after 9.30 Mass

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Our Lady's on Monday after 9.30am Mass

LENT GROUP The final session of the Lent Group met on Thursday evening at Holy Family Church. We reviewed the main topics that we have covered over the last few weeks and we discussed how the group might continue in the future. The format of video input and discussion seems to have worked well and another course along these lines has been proposed. Watch this space for details.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION on Tuesday 12th April at 8pm in Our Lady's. There will be reflection on Scripture for about 10 minutes and then 3 visiting priests will join Fr. Norbert and Fr. William to hear Confessions. There's time to stop, think and ponder, time to make your Confession and experience the riches of God's mercy in this sacramental way AND the opportunity to go to a priest you do not know (if you prefer)! People leave once they have gone to the priest for Confession. Parents, why not bring your children? Let's avail of this moment in Holy Week to feel the closeness of the Lord to us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wanting to marry this year or next either in WGC or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert to organise the paperwork and the Marriage Course. Thank you.

BAPTISMS Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. William if you wish to arrange the Baptism of your child and they will organise all that is needed.

STREAMED MASS [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)

We continue to stream Mass on Palm Sunday Mass live at 11.30am, Maundy Thursday at 8pm, Good Friday Passion at 5pm and Easter Vigil at 9pm (on Saturday 16th) and available on Easter Sunday.

MASS INTENTIONS Fr. Norbert and Fr. William are celebrating the Mass Intentions week by week. If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please let them know. Donations for the Masses should be put in an envelope and given to Fr. Norbert or Fr. William or popped through the letterbox of one of the presbyteries. The intentions celebrated will be published in the newsletter as below.

This week Masses have been celebrated for: People of the Parishes, Ellen Brophy RIP Anniv, For the sick, Eddie Devine RIP, Brian Davidson RIP Anniv, Mary Pratt RIP, Liz Davin's Intention, Pat and Miriam Morrissey's 50th Anniversary, Barry Baron RIP Anniv, Vera & Gerald Lally, James Ashdown RIP, George Tosh RIP, Jacob Zacharias RIP.

NEWSLETTER Easter Sunday's newsletter will cover two weeks. So, if there are any items, please let Fr. Norbert have them by Wednesday 13th April. Thank you.

ST ALBANS The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday in the Lady Chapel, All are welcome. Please note NOT on Good Friday.

SVP REQUEST a CD Player for a client who is a stroke victim with lots of CD's but no player. Phone Janet on 01707 326456 if you can help. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING St. Bonaventure's cleaning takes place at 10am on Tuesday 12th April. All offers of help welcome.

We are very grateful to the volunteers who look after all our churches and their grounds keeping them clean and tidy. Thank you!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES There are sheets with the times of services for Holy Week and Easter. These appear online too. Please note that some Masses will be livestreamed. Only those exercising ministries will be seen (not the congregation). We need the permission of parents whose children are taking part.

The Bishops' Conference has issued guidelines for the Services in 2022 with some options. Fr. Norbert and Fr. William have decided that for this year (as last year) there will not be the Washing of Feet on Maundy Thursday or individual kissing of the Cross on Good Friday. There will be Baptisms and Confirmations at the Easter Vigil starting with the fire outside. The Vigil usually takes just over two hours. (No Saturday evening Mass at 6pm.) *Please note that there will not be an evening Mass on Easter Sunday.*

ALTAR SERVERS Please sign up for the Easter Services on sheets which are in each sacristy and come to the practices mentioned. Some Masses in Holy Week will be livestreamed and we will need parents' permission for their children to be seen on the internet.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. If you are able to drop off non-perishable food for the needy members of our community, New Zion is happy to receive contributions from 8am on a Wednesday. The address is 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. If anyone would like to make a financial contribution to the Food Bank, please email foodbank@newzioncf.net and you will be given details as to how to make a donation.

A MEDITATION FOR LENT Wednesday 13th April at 7pm at St Hugh of Lincoln Church, Pixmore Way, Letchworth Garden City SG6 3TP

Haydn's Passion - The Seven Last Words performed by the Jubilate Chamber Choir
Musical director: John Edwards. Entrance is free but there will be a retiring collection in aid of Caritas Bakhita House to provide accommodation and support to women escaping human trafficking and modern slavery.

FROM CARITAS As Catholics we believe in the Dignity of Work. The job market can be a minefield, particularly for those for whom English is not their first language, or who might not be aware of the options available to them. The Upper Room and Caritas Westminster invite you to join their free online '**Stepping Stones**' programme to learn how to accompany people into dignified employment. Receive full training and support to become a **Dignified Work Champion** in your parish or outreach project. This programme has been funded by the St John Southworth Fund. More information, video and registration www.tinyurl.com/workchampions The programme will start after Easter, the deadline for applications is 15th April 2022.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH First face to face meeting for a long time!

GIVING WHY? WHEN? WHERE? What motivates us to look after those less fortunate than ourselves? Come and share what your faith says about alms and the giving to others. Share your experience of giving or, possibly, receiving. Wednesday 20th April 7.30pm -9.30pm. Focolare Centre.

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 Holy Family Church
 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

SVP Request for a single mum.
 Dining chairs, kettle, girls clothes
 4,7 and 8 year olds. Contact Janet
 on 01707 326456. Thank you.

SERVICES AND MASS TIMES FOR THE WEEK

09 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Confessions 5-5.30pm
10 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady	
	6pm	Holy Family	
11 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	
12 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	
13 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	
14 Thursday	6pm	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Holy Family	
	8pm	Our Lady's	
15 Friday	10am	Traditional Stations of the Cross	St. Bonaventure
	12noon	Children's Stations of the Cross	Our Lady's
Solemn Liturgy	3pm	St. Bonaventure	
	3pm	Holy Family	
	5pm	Our Lady's	
	8pm	Good Friday Evening Service	Our Lady's
Holy Saturday	9pm	Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter	Our Lady's
Easter Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady's	
14 Thursday	10am - 10.30am	Holy Family	Confessions
16 Saturday	10am - 11am	St. Bonaventure	Confessions

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 10TH APRIL

Saturday 9th April

Ezekiel 37:21-28 'I will be their God; they shall be my people.'

John 11:45-56 'It is better for one man to die for the people.'

Sunday 10th April PALM SUNDAY

Luke 19:28-40 Jesus enters Jerusalem

Isaiah 50:4-7 'I made no resistance.'

Philippians 2:6-11 Jesus emptied himself to become a slave.

Luke 22:14-23:56 Jesus' Passion and Death

Monday 11th April

Isaiah 42:1-7 The Suffering Servant who brings true justice.

John 12:1-11 Jesus goes to the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus in Bethany.

Tuesday 12th April

Isaiah 49:1-6 The Servant who is made the light of the nations.

John 13:21-33,36-38 Jesus predicts that Judas will betray him and Peter deny him.

Wednesday 13th April

Isaiah 50:4-9 The Servant who trusts that the Lord will help him.

Matthew 26:14-25 Judas agrees to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

Thursday 14th April MAUNDY THURSDAY

Exodus 12:1-8,11-14 Instructions for the Passover meal.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Paul's account of the Last Supper

John 13:1-15 Jesus washes his disciples' feet.

Friday 15th April GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 'Ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried.'

Hebrews 4:14=16, 5:7-9 'He offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears...'

John 18:1-19:42 John's account of Jesus' Passion and Death