



St Bonaventure
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Our Lady Queen of Apostles
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP
01707 323234

Holy Family
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ
01707 327434

WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 2nd March 2025

Parish Priest Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234 norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest Fr. Marco Salvagnini 01707 327434 marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator Mrs Jacqui Boon (Tuesday - Friday 9am until 12 noon)

Parish Email: wgc@rcdow.org.uk

Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

TRINITY HALL Bookings + enquiries can be made through www.wgc-catholics.org.uk which has terms and conditions of hire, as well as a live diary. General enquiries please call 01707 537464

Jesus is still on the plain in today's Gospel from St. Luke! Soon we will walk with him into the wilderness where he is tempted. There will be a climb up a mountain and an experience of Transfiguration. We will hear teaching, see mercy in its fullness and be challenged by powerful parables. Lent is coming - the Springtime in the Church! With a later Easter, we are witnessing already the new life emerging after the slumber of winter. Cross and Resurrection await us at the completion of Lent! There is so much the Lord wants to share with us and NOW in these last few days before Ash Wednesday, we can reflect on how Lent 2025 can bear rich fruit in us.

Today's Gospel passage asks us to think about how we see things and others. It is easy to fall into the trap of pointing out the faults of those around me and not allow the mirror of conscience to prod me into recognising what is not right in my own life. Jesus uses the word 'hypocrite' as he addresses his disciples. It is paramount to take stock of our lives and admit to ourselves before God the reality of what is the case. Sometimes we can make efforts for change; at other moments in life no obvious solution can be found. The crucial aspect of Lent as we head for Easter is that we are journeying with the Lord and he walks with us. Compassion and mercy are hallmarks of the Divine Grace revealed by Jesus; he is so patient.

I pray that these coming weeks may be for each one of, for our households and our community a time of renewal. May our focus be on the Lord Jesus and may our hearts beat with his love. God bless you.

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

BAPTISMS Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. Marco to arrange the Baptism of your child.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION The next sessions for parents and children will be today Sunday 2nd March at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church and next Sun-day 9th March at 3.30pm.

RCIA Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm on Monday 3rd March at 7.30pm. The Group will be presented today (2nd) at 12 noon Mass and will go to Westminster Cathedral on Saturday for the Rite of Election when they will formally be accepted by the Cardinal. Please keep them in your prayers.

CONFIRMATION Group A meets on Sunday 2nd March at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. Group B on Sunday 9th March.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY Our thanks to all who helped last week. Any other couples planning to get married should contact Fr. Norbert.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. Items received from 8am on a Wednesday at 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. Email foodbank@newzioncf.net if you wish to donate money. Please use the Food Bank Baskets at the back of our churches if you wish to give items: tins, pasta, rice & toiletries.

TRANSPORT TO MASS GROUP is there for parishioners who need a lift to Mass. Drivers are needed. Health & Safety training and Safeguarding requirements will be arranged. Call Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or macleaneltham@gmail.com

LISTER HOSPITAL Non-urgent referrals to Chaplaincy Team 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net

PHYLLIS McKEOGH RIP Phyllis' Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family on Thursday 6th March at 12 noon. *No 9.30am Mass or Confessions that day.*

JOHN MURPHY RIP John's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 10th March at 12.30pm.

BILL WEST RIP Bill's Funeral Service will be at Holy Family Church on Wednesday 12th March at 12.30pm.

JOSIE TREACY RIP Josie's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 24th March at 12.30pm.

ELIZABETH KING RIP Liz's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Friday 4th April at 12.30pm. .

MEDJUGORJE Fr. Norbert will lead a group to this Shrine of Our Lady in Croatia Tues. 21st - Tues. 28th October 2025. All Saints Travel is organising everything and brochures are at the back of our churches. Online link: <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/MJ1035/>

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 17th May 2025 at 2.30pm for couples celebrating in 2025 their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and any year over 60) Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage. Please give Fr. Norbert these details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email (or phone number, if no email).

CHURCH CLEANING Our thanks to all who helped with church cleaning and the maintenance of the grounds at Our Lady's on Saturday. St. Bonaventure's church cleaning will be on Tuesday 4th after 9.30am Mass. Holy Family's church cleaning will be on Wednesday 12th March after 9.30 Mass and Stations of the Cross. Looking ahead Holy Family's team is planning a major spring clean on Saturday 12th April at 11am.

CAFOD GROUP meets this Tuesday in the Parish Room at Holy Family at 2pm.

ST. DAVID'S DAY *Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus* on 1st March to our Welsh parishioners!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY on Monday 17th March. 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's followed by refreshments in the Sacristy. *Come and celebrate!*

SOUTH ASIAN CARNIVAL MASS Saturday 1st March 6pm at Our Lady's. We welcome local councillors, a representative from Hertfordshire County Council, people of other Christian Denominations and a variety of faiths as well as visitors who have come specially to join parishioners in marking the last weekend before Lent begins. Diverse languages and a treasure of cultures will enrich the celebration. Don't forget the party in the Trinity Hall with food, drink and dance. Everyone is welcome. We are grateful to all who have worked so hard to prepare.

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY Masses with the giving of ashes: Holy Family at 9.30am, St. Bonaventure's at 12 noon and Our Lady's at 7pm. This is Day of fasting and abstinence.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS on Wednesdays after 9.30am Mass at Holy Family, on Fridays after 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's and Friday evenings after 7 o'clock Mass at Our Lady's.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT for half an hour on Mondays at Our Lady's after 9.30 Mass, on Thursdays at Holy Family after 9.30 Mass and on Saturdays at St. Bonaventure's after 10am Mass. *Come and enjoy peace and serenity in the Lord's Presence!*

FIRST FRIDAY There will be the early morning Mass at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30 followed by a simple breakfast in the hall on 7th March and 4th April. Also, the Rosary is usually prayed on First Fridays after 9.30 Mass (and the Stations of the Cross) and on First Saturdays before 10am Mass.

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR on Friday 14th March and Friday 4th April after 7pm Mass at Our Lady's. There will be music, prayer and silence with the Stations of the Cross incorporated.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION before Easter will be on Tuesday 15th April at 8pm at Our Lady's with visiting priests helping with Confessions.

CAFOD FAST DAY COLLECTION here in Welwyn Garden City will be transferred to 5th/6th April. *You can start now saving to support people in developing countries!*

LENTEN LUNCHES hosted by the Catholic Women's League every Saturday from 8th March until 12th April 12.30 until 1.30pm. £5 per person with soup, roll, cake and a hot drink in the Trinity Hall. *Enjoy a simple lunch in good company!*

MOTHERING SUNDAY this year will be on Sunday 30th March.

STEWARDSHIP AND PLANNED GIVING DRIVE

The Diocese asks parishes to think carefully about their resources and to plan for the future. As many of you know, there is a huge expectation of meeting the high standards required in safeguarding, finance, the maintenance of buildings and data protection. What is extremely important is the sacredness of the Liturgy, the strengthening of community and the reaching out to the vulnerable and those in need as well as welcoming newcomers and visitors. Fr. Norbert with the Finance Committee decided to choose the first three weekends in Lent 2025 for a Stewardship and Planned Giving Drive across our three churches. A formal programme like this has not happened for over 10 years. There will be an opportunity to consider helping in the parish as well as think about financial giving. This period will also allow for an updating of records and 'registering' of new parishioners. We thank you in advance for your support and co-operation.

MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 4th April at 2pm. A chance for family and friends to be together, remember and pray for comfort

MASS INTENTIONS

1st March Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Fr. John McKenna's Intention
6pm Our Lady Christina Bonass RIP Birthday

2nd Sunday *EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

9am St. Bonaventure Ron and Barbara Wix RIP
10.30am Holy Family Sheila and Dave Thomas RIP
12 noon Our Lady Rosemarie Stummer RIP (20th Anniv)
6pm Holy Family Len Bonner RIP

3rd Monday

9.30am Our Lady Deirdre Davis RIP Anniv

4th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Carmela Pisapia RIP Anniv
7pm Our Lady Ellen Castelo RIP (10th Anniv)

5th Wednesday *ASH WEDNESDAY Day of fasting and abstinence*

9.30am Holy Family Cade Family Intention
12 noon St. Bonaventure Walter Lockwood RIP
7pm Our Lady Michael Caulfield RIP

6th Thursday

12 noon Holy Family Funeral Mass of Phyllis McKeogh

7th Friday

6.30am St. Bonaventure Bridie McCallion (sick)
9.30am St. Bonaventure Carole Shaw RIP
7pm Our Lady James Kilkenny RIP Anniv

8th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Carol Ann Organ RIP
6pm Our Lady Ken Shaw RIP

9th Sunday *FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT*

9am St. Bonaventure John Barry RIP
10.30am Holy Family Keith Hughes RIP
12 noon Our Lady Harry and Ethel Grayson RIP
6pm Holy Family Renata's Special Intention

CONFESSIONS (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

St. Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11am Our Lady's 5.00 - 5.30pm

CHAPEL near the Trinity Hall is open 8.30am - 4pm Monday to Friday.

ST. ALBANS There is a Catholic Mass every Friday in the Lady Chapel in St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon. *Fr. Norbert celebrating this Mass on 21st March.*

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