



St Bonaventure
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Our Lady Queen of Apostles
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP
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Holy Family
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

1st SUNDAY OF LENT 9th March 2025

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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

Today on this First Sunday of Lent, we are with the Lord in the wilderness just after his Baptism. St. Luke tells us that Jesus is 'full of the Holy Spirit' and fasts for forty days. A time of temptation and testing follows with the use of Scripture and the lure of food, riches and power. Jesus is triumphant and prepared for the ministry entrusted to him by the Father. In this Sacred Season, the Church invites us to stay close to Christ *every step of the way*. We must look for opportunities to deepen our prayer, strengthen our faith, increase our generosity towards those less fortunate than ourselves and learn to say 'Yes!' to God. Our destination is Easter - what will our lives be like, our community, our world? I have started reading a book by Pope Francis entitled 'A Good Life' in which he offers 15 essential *habits* for living with hope and joy. As we keep the Holy Father very much in our prayers, I share these with you: 1. Just think: where God has planted you, there is hope! 2. Jesus gave us light that shines in darkness: defend it, protect it. 3. Do not surrender to the night. 4. Cultivate ideals. 5. Believe in the existence of lofty and beautiful truths. 6. Never for a moment think that your struggle is pointless. 7. Wherever you are, build! 8. Work for peace among people. 9 Love all people. 10. Above all else, dream! 11. Take responsibility for this world and for the life of every single person in it. 12. When you stand in fear before one of life's hardships, remember that you do not live for your-self alone - you are immersed in the mystery of the Trinity and Jesus lives in you. 13. Always have the courage of truth. 14. If you make a mistake and fall, get to your feet - the Son of God came to assist the sick, remember God is your friend. 15. If you are stricken with bitterness, believe in all the people who work in the name of goodness - learn from all that is wonderful, nurture your sense of awe. *Live, love, dream, believe. And, with God's grace, never despair!*

May God bless your Lent. With 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 9th March at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church and Sunday 23rd March at 3.30pm. *This week the First Confessions begin. Keep the children and their families in your prayers.*

RCIA Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm on Monday 10th March at 7.30pm. The Rite of Election took place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8th March - they have formally been accepted by the Cardinal as people on their way to the Sacraments at Easter. *Please keep them in your prayers.*

CONFIRMATION Group B meets today (Sunday 9th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Par-ish Room. Group A on Sunday 16th March.

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

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 from Tuesday 21st - Tuesday 28th October 2025. *The apparitions are still happening and Pope Francis has given permission for official pilgrimages to take place.* 31 have signed up. There's still room for more! 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 at St. Bonaventure's. 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.

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

MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 5th April at 2pm. A chance for family and friends to be together, remember and pray for comfort.

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

FLAME 2025 We wish the young people attending this Youth Congress at Wembley on Saturday 15th every blessing, a safe journey and lots to share with us when back

LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS on Wednesdays after 9.30am Mass at Holy Family, on Fridays after 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's & Fridays after 7pm 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 (not 13th March) 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 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 - music, prayer, silence and incorporating the Stations of the Cross.

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!* There are Jubilee Year resources available for downloading cafod.org.uk/jubilee-guide

CARDINAL'S APPEAL supporting Youth & Evangelisation, Social Action, Marriage & Family Life and Catholic Education Initiatives. *Take one of the special envelopes!*

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE The Lent Appeal is to support those in detention. More info www.jrsuk.net/lent

LENTEN LUNCHESES 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!*

CARNIVAL MASS *Sharon Macauley writes:* Last Saturday was 'A Night of Joy and Celebration'. South Asian heritage communities, together with the parish, gathered for the first-ever South Asian Carnival Mass—an event that was nothing short of spectacular. Families from Indian, Sri Lankan, Pakistani, and other South Asian backgrounds came together in a vibrant celebration of faith, culture, and community. Against the stunning backdrop of Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, the congregation rejoiced through song, dance, prayer, and cherished traditions. The Mass began with a mesmerizing Arti worship dance, followed by heartfelt prayers and hymns in Konkani, Sinhala, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Urdu. The celebration culminated in the sacred Bha-ratanatyam worship dance, a moving tribute to faith and devotion. But the joy did not end there. The congregation was warmly invited to continue the festivities with an evening of South Asian cuisine, music, and entertainment. Thanks to the generosity and tireless efforts of many families, the tantalizing aromas of spices filled the air, welcoming guests to a feast of regional specialities. This vibrant gathering beautifully reflected the spirit of Goa's famous Carnival, one of the largest Christian celebrations in the world—an event that, much like our own, unites people of all faiths. The evening unfolded with captivating music and dance performances, including talented children from the parish and a dazzling Bollywood showcase by students from the University of Hertfordshire. These performances were graciously arranged by former Welwyn Hatfield Mayor Councillor Pankit Shah and his wife Vaishali Shah, both of whom joined in the festivities. A heartfelt thank you to all who dedicated their time and energy to making this event a success. With God's blessing, may this become a cherished annual tradition!

MASS INTENTIONS

8th March 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

10th Monday

9.30am Our Lady Ninoshka Olga Menezes (Birthday Intention)
11.30am Our Lady Funeral Mass for John Murphy

11th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Pope Francis' Intention
7pm Our Lady Maurice and Benoit Gauchard RIP

12th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Duke Barracliffe RIP Birthday
12.30pm Holy Family Funeral Service for William (Bill) West

13th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family John Dalgarno RIP

14th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Catherine Dalgarno RIP
7pm Our Lady Mr Brind RIP

15th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Josie Treacy RIP
6pm Our Lady Margaret Caulfield RIP Anniv

16th Sunday *SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT*

9am St. Bonaventure John and Teresa O'Sullivan
10.30am Holy Family Alexandra D'Costa RIP
12 noon Our Lady John Davin RIP Anniv
6pm Holy Family Bridie Frost RIP and Carol Organ RIP

CONFESSIONS (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION) (*Not at HF on 13th*)

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)