



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

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT 23rd 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

In our First Reading from Exodus, we have the picture of the calling of Moses. A shepherd minding his father-in-law's flock in the wilderness is chosen to be the instrument of God's salvation for his people. He is intrigued by the 'flame of fire' from within a bush and investigates. There is a majestic revelation of God on this holy ground as Moses hears of God's compassion for his people and his desire to take them to a 'land flowing with milk and honey'. In today's passage, we do not hear the protests of Moses not feeling up to the job; however, the Divine Name is uttered and the mysterious 'I Am Who I Am' disclosed. The unfolding history of God's love for his people continues and sights and wonders will be worked.

I was thinking of *shepherds* in the fields who are given a message centuries later when the Angel of the Lord appears to them. They are told to find the Saviour of the World - a Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger - Jesus Christ, God's Son. They then are enveloped by *glory* and hear the *song* of the angelic throng. Their lives are changed and these lowly workers become the source of transforming *News* for every nation on earth!

Not many of us spend much time in fields! However, the Lord finds ways of speaking to us, entrusting us with the gift of faith and its life-changing consequences. Lent is our *wilderness time* when silence, reflection, generosity and determined resolve spur us on to discover more deeply our *calling*, our place in the world on the journey to heaven. As St. John Henry Newman says: 'God has created me for some definite purpose'. May this Third Lenten Week open us up to the *intimacy* of Divine Love, the *willingness* to listen to the Lord's Voice and the *readiness* to walk with Christ to the Cross and Resurrection.

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

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION The final session for parents and children will be today (Sunday 23rd) at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

RCIA Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm on Monday 24th March at 7.30pm.

CONFIRMATION Group B meets today (Sunday 23rd) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

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

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.

LIZ DAVIN RIP Liz's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 11th April at 10am.

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. 34 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).

ST. PATRICK'S DAY What a joyful celebration last Monday! So many came and made for a faith-filled Mass and a great get-together afterwards. *Thank you to all who helped with the refreshments!*

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 is next Sunday - 30th March. *Don't forget!*

CLOCKS go forward *ONE* hour next weekend as we enter British Summer Time.

NURSERY Our Lady Catholic Primary School have a few places available in their Nursery for September 2025 entry. If your child was born between 1/9/21 and 31/8/21 please contact the school for an application form. Phone number: 01707 324408

TUESDAY On Tuesday 1st April there will not be 7pm Mass at Our Lady's. *This is not an April Fool!*

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our next celebration will not be in April but on Saturday 17th May at 6pm at Our Lady's - a date for your diaries!

FR. MARK CONNOLLY who was ordained priest in WGC in 1968 is around for the next few days visiting family and friends and will celebrate Mass when free. It is always good to welcome him back home!

JUDAISM A talk by Reynold Rosenberg for the Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group at the Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway AL8 6JG 7.30 - 9pm. *Come and find out more!*

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 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 4th April after 7pm Mass at Our Lady's - music, prayer and silence with 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. The special CAFOD envelopes are available at the back of our churches. *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 until 12th April 12.30 until 1.30pm. £5 per person with soup, roll, cake and a hot drink in the Trinity Hall. The CWL are so grateful for the support they have received not only from our WGC churches but parishes further afield - Stevenage and Hatfield - as well as the Church of England at St. Mary Magdalene's and the Salvation Army. *Three more Saturdays to go!*

PALM SUNDAY Children are invited to take part in the acting of the Passion at Our Lady's Church on Sunday 13th April 12 noon. There will be practices on Sunday 6th April at 11am and on Sunday 13th April at 11.15am. *All are welcome!*

JUBILEE YEAR

Pilgrims of Hope In our Diocese a number of churches have been designated as Jubilee Churches. Our Lady's WGC is the church for Hertfordshire. This means that by receiving Holy Communion, going to Confession, saying the Creed and praying for the Pope's Intention, you can receive a Plenary Indulgence for yourself or for someone who has died - helping you or the deceased towards eternity. In addition to Mass and devotions, works of charity or mercy are possible elements. On **Sunday 6th July**, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions at 3pm. The Cardinal will offer catechesis at 4pm. He will celebrate Mass at 5pm. This will be a very special time for us as we host this great gathering for the Jubilee Year in Hertfordshire.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Fr. William Johnstone will lead the devotions at Holy Family Church on Sunday 27th April at 2pm. Please join us for the Rosary, an hour of Divine Mercy, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet and veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. *All are welcome!*

FR. LORENZO ANDREINI from the Seminary has asked to celebrate Mass at Our Lady's next Sunday at 12 noon as part of the Jubilee Year. *Welcome!*

MASS INTENTIONS

22nd March Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Mavis Cleasby RIP *Fr. Mark Connolly*
6pm Our Lady Ken Shaw RIP

23rd Sunday **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

9am St. Bonaventure Roy D'Cunha RIP
10.30am Holy Family Josie Rodger RIP Anniv *Fr. Mark Connolly*
12 noon Our Lady Ruth's Intentions
6pm Holy Family Elizabeth Geehan RIP Anniv

24th Monday

9.30am Our Lady Joseph O'Brien RIP Anniv
12.30pm St. Bonaventure Josie Treacy's Funeral Mass

25th Tuesday **THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

9.30am St. Bonaventure Patrick McEleney's Intentions
7pm Our Lady Jonathan Joachim's Intentions *Fr. Mark*

26th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Josie Treacy RIP *Fr. Mark*

27th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Phyllis McKeogh RIP

28th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Adelia and Adrian's Intentions
7pm Our Lady Steve Royals RIP

29th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Josephine and Patrick Brogan RIP Anniv
6pm Our Lady Philomena Kinsella RIP Anniv

30th Sunday **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

9am St. Bonaventure Maureen Bell RIP
10.30am Holy Family Mary Kennedy RIP (1st Anniv)
12 noon Our Lady Nellie Brophy RIP (6th Anniv)
6pm Holy Family Bob Leys RIP (1st Anniv)

CONFESSIONS (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30am

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

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