



St Bonaventure
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

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

Holy Family
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

5th SUNDAY OF LENT 6th April 2025

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

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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

In our Second Reading today, St. Paul writing to the people of Philippi speaks about ‘the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord’ and then ‘that I may know him and the power of his resurrection...’ This great Apostle was so aware of his history and the ways in which he had been a cause of pain and suffering for Christians. His life took such a different direction on that day journeying to Damascus! Now he is a new man. Now he is a proclaimer of Good News rather than an opponent of the Gospel.

Many preachers and commentators keep reminding us that our faith is about *encounter* with Someone; it is a living Message which animates and inspires. Our relationship with Christ is a call to intimate love wherein we discover compassion, mercy and salvation! How do *you* know the Lord? Are there important people in your life who have put you in touch with him? Are there places which have opened you up to the Divine? Is there an experience in your life in which you really felt Christ breaking into your life? What does the *power of resurrection* look like to you? How has it given you hope? How does the Risen Lord communicate his presence to you? Today’s Gospel from St. John is momentous! Someone caught committing sin and dragged before Jesus is not condemned by Jesus. Pure mercy and a fresh start reveal God’s love. A life is saved and a new beginning initiated.

In two weeks we will have reached Easter! Spend time in contemplation with the Lord. Allow the Good News to bring you transforming grace. Enjoy the blessings of this Lent!

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

BAPTISMS Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. Marco to arrange the Baptism of your child.
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES on Sundays: 11th May at 10.30am Holy Family, 18th May at 12 noon Our Lady's, 25th May at 9am St. Bonaventure's and 15th June at 12 noon Our Lady's.
RCIA Final session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm on Monday 7th April at 7.30pm.
CONFIRMATION Group has a few more sessions. The Confirmation Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 13th June at 7.30pm.
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

LIZ DAVIN RIP Liz's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 11th April at 10am.
JOSEPHINE MAITLAND RIP The Funeral Mass for Josephine (nee McGuigan) will be on Monday 14th April at 2pm at Our Lady's.
ANDREW SCALLY RIP Andrew's Funeral Mass Our Lady's Friday 2nd May 1.30pm.

MEDJUGORJE Fr. Norbert will lead a group to this Shrine of Our Lady in Croatia from Tuesday 21st - Tuesday 28th October 2025. <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/MJ1035/>
ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 17th May 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).

CARDINAL'S PASTORAL LETTER about the Assisted Dying Bill. Take a copy.

WINCHESTER trip in June has been cancelled.

CHURCH CLEANING St. Bonaventure's Tuesday 15th April after 9.30am Mass. **Holy Family** Saturday 12th April from 10am; muscle is needed to move the benches so that the floor can be washed. Come and lend a hand as Easter approaches! Thanks to all who help!

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL is 60 this year! There will be Mass at the school on Thursday 26th June at 9.15am for 9.30am. Please let all associated with the school - past and present - know! RSVP: admin@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk by 1st May.

ONE JOURNEY MANY PATHS. Friday 25th April 7.30-9pm at Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. (Parking The Cloisters AL8 6DU.) Speakers will share their enthusiasm for interfaith dialogue: Valerie Skottowe - Chair of WelHat Interfaith; Pat Whitney - Chair of Birmingham Faith Leaders' Group and Representative of the Interreligious Dialogue on the Focolare western European Council; John Dal Din - former Director at Westminster Interfaith and Co-Representative of the Interreligious Dialogue on the Focolare Western European Council. All welcome! Tea/coffee provided.

BIG SUMMIT on Saturday 26th April at St. Joseph's, Bedwell Stevenage 12 - 7pm. Any young people who would like to attend this gathering in honour of the canonisation of Carlo Acutis, should contact Fr. Marco on marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk

LOOKING AHEAD

Special Needs Mass on Saturday 17th May at 6pm.

Filipino Mass Saturday 14th June at 6pm

Mass with the Anointing of the Sick Saturday 28th June at 12 noon at Focolare Centre.

African Mass Sun. 29th June at 12 noon

Polish-English Mass Sat. 27th Sept. at 6pm.

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 the Lord's Presence!*

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR on Friday 11th 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 this week-end (5th/6th). The special CAFOD envelopes are available at the back of our churches.

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. Final session on Saturday 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 very grateful for the support they have received.

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!*

ALTAR SERVERS are asked to sign up for the Easter Services. *Lists in each sacristy.*

PASSION READINGS Please note that with the new Lectionary, the parts of the Passion will be read by only three voices. The congregation will not have a spoken part.

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.

ST. EDMUND'S COLLEGE in Old Hall Green (near Ware) is an historic site in our Diocese. The Cardinal will celebrate Mass there - as a part of the Diocesan Jubilee celebrations - on Saturday 12th July at 12 noon. There will be time for picnic lunch and then at 2.30pm a Blessed Sacrament Procession concluding with Benediction. *Parishioners are invited to make their own way there. Parking should be easy on the site.*

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!*

MAY PROCESSION Monday 5th May (Bank Holiday) after Our Lady's 10am Mass

CORPUS CHRISTI Holy Hour + Benediction on Sunday 22nd June at 3pm followed by refreshments and a film about Carlo Acutis (to be canonised in Rome on 27th April).

MASS & ROSARY PROCESSION Saturday 4th October at 10am

MASS INTENTIONS

5th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Augustus Joachim RIP
6pm Our Lady Carole Shaw RIP

6th Sunday *FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT*

9am St. Bonaventure Andrei Shah RIP Anniv
10.30am Holy Family Timothy McCarthy RIP and his family
12 noon Our Lady Lucy Dias RIP (7th Anniv)
6pm Holy Family Amelia and Jenny Joachim's Intentions

7th Monday

9.30am Our Lady Liz Davin RIP and all who are sick

8th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Kathryn and David Hubbard's Intention
7pm Our Lady Bridget and Gill Shaw's Intention

9th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Edmund Devine RIP

10th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Leo Morgan RIP

11th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Mage and Rump Families (living and dead)
10am Our Lady Funeral Mass for Liz Davin
7pm Our Lady Dever Family (deceased)

12th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Liz King RIP
6pm Our Lady Marjorie Nichols RIP

13th Sunday *PALM SUNDAY*

9am St. Bonaventure Liz Davin RIP
10.30am Holy Family Terry Hogan RIP
12 noon Our Lady Peter Izzard RIP (10th Anniv)
6pm Holy Family Andrea Bagari 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. *Chapel will be closed from Monday 14th April and reopen on Monday 28th April.*

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)