



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

PALM SUNDAY 13th April 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

One more week and then it will be Easter! *But what a week this will be!* Holy Week calls on us to give of our time, to reflect more deeply and to strengthen our commitment. The Cross is at the heart of our journey - the power of love, sacrifice, forgiveness and salvation. Jesus Christ walked every step of the way holding us in his heart and full of resolve to carry out the Father's will. The invitation - and challenge - to us is to allow Christ's love to resonate in our whole being, to be inspired and radiate what we experience.

Today on **Palm Sunday** we wave palms acclaiming Jesus as King. On **Maundy Thursday** we will recall the Lord washing his disciples' feet, institute the Eucharist and watch with him as he enters his Passion. On **Good Friday** the Cross will dominate and we will have the opportunity to make an act of Adoration. **Holy Saturday** is laced with the silence of the Tomb and yet there are the Easter preparations which must take place! The **Easter Vigil** (on Saturday Night at 9pm) is the high point of our life as Catholic Christians when the darkness of the night is radiant with the light of Resurrection, when we follow the Scriptures and watch new members join us - adults, teenagers and children. Our Easter Eucharist nourishes us with the New Life of the Lord's Victory. All of this flows into Easter Sunday and 50 Days of hope-filled joy!

This is a busy time when we rely on the sheer hard work of so many. It is wonderful moment spread over the days when we welcome visitors and join together as a community. This is eternity breaking into our lives and giving us a taste of heaven! May God bless you and your loved ones.

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 Celebratory gathering in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm on Mon. 2nd June 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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Bishop John Sherrington who has been named as the new Archbishop of Liverpool. He will be installed at the end of May. Bishop John lived in Welwyn Garden City when he first became an Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster Diocese.

ROME PILGRIMS returned last Saturday inspired and delighted by their trip. Fr. Marco guided them well, offering a variety of memorable experiences and a reunion will take place. Our thanks to them for their prayers for the parish in all the holy places.

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

JOSEPHINE MAITLAND RIP The Funeral Mass for Josey (nee McGuigan) will be at Our Lady's on Monday 14th April at 12.30pm.

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/>

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 Wednesday after 9.30am Mass at Holy Family.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT for half an hour on Monday at Our Lady's after 9.30 Mass. *Come and enjoy the Lord's Presence!*

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION before Easter will be on Tuesday 15th April at 8pm at Our Lady's. There will be three visiting priests, together with Fr. Norbert and Fr. Marco, helping with Confessions. The Service will begin with Scripture and reflection then the opportunity for individual Confession. People are free to leave when ready. This Sacrament is beautiful, powerful and healing - putting us in touch with the Lord's rich mercy especially revealed on the Cross. *Seize the opportunity and come!*

CHRISM MASS will be at Westminster Cathedral (near Victoria Station in London) on Tuesday at 12 noon. The Cardinal, Bishops, priests and people will be together as the Holy Oils are blessed: the Oil of Catechumens for those to be baptised in the coming year, the Oil of the Sick to support those who are seriously ill, infirm or nearing the end of their lives, and the Oil of Chrism to anoint children after Baptism, to confirm teenagers and adults, to anoint priests and bishops, to consecrate altars and churches. Priests will, at this Mass, renew their priestly commitment. If you are free, you are most welcome. The Mass lasts around an hour and three-quarters. Afterwards, Fr. Norbert as Dean of Stevenage will collect the Holy Oils and distribute them on Wednesday to the parishes of our Deanery, namely: Royston, Baldock, Letchworth Garden City, Hitchin, Stevenage, Knebworth, Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City.

GOOD FRIDAY Don't forget the 11am Service outdoors in Howardsgate. It lasts around 40 minutes and is a great witness of our Christian Faith to the wider community.

BLESSING OF FOOD on Holy Saturday(19th) at 4pm at Our Lady's lasts 30 minutes and reflects the tradition in some countries of baskets of food and painted eggs being blessed in readiness for the Easter Festival. Some prayers and hymns will be in Polish. However, everyone is 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.

#ST. EDMUND'S COLLEGE in Old Hall Green (near Ware). The Cardinal will celebrate Mass there on Saturday 12th July at 12 noon. Then picnic lunch and at 2.30pm a Blessed Sacrament Procession concluding with Benediction.

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

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)

14th Monday

9.30am	Our Lady	Anna Liza Sabalvaro + Arnold Muceros(Both RIP Birthday)
--------	----------	--

15th Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lucia and Franco Federici's Intentions
7pm	Our Lady	Liz Davin RIP

16th Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	Liz Davin RIP
--------	-------------	---------------

17th *MAUNDY THURSDAY*

7pm	Holy Family	For the People
8pm	Our Lady	For the People

18th *GOOD FRIDAY*

10am	St. Bonaventure	Stations of the Cross
12 noon	Our Lady	Children's Stations of the Cross
3pm	St. Bonaventure and Holy Family Churches	Solemn Passion
7pm	Our Lady	Solemn Passion

19th *HOLY SATURDAY*

4pm	Our Lady	Polish Blessing of Food
9pm	Our Lady	EASTER VIGIL & FIRST MASS OF EASTER

20th *EASTER SUNDAY*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Liz Davin RIP
10.30am	Holy Family	Cheryl + Graham Williams' Intentions
12 noon	Our Lady	For the People

NO EVENING MASS

CONFESSIONS (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Our Lady Tuesday 15th Service of Reconciliation 8pm *with visiting priests*
Holy Family Thursday 18th 10 - 10.30am
St. Bonaventure Saturday 19th 10 - 11am

CHAPEL will be closed from Monday 14th April until Monday 28th April.

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