



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

4th February 2024 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

The Cardinal has just written to Deans across the Diocese a letter called 'Towards October 2024' which is when the next Meeting of the Synod of Bishops takes place in Rome. The **renewal of our mission** as Church, the **building up of communion** and the **widening of participation** have been strong themes. The Bishops' Conference needs to have its response ready by 17th March and so the Cardinal has asked us in Westminster to prepare thoroughly in the coming weeks - parish by parish, deanery by deanery. Representatives of the Deanery will present the Deanery 'Conversation' at the Council of Deans on 6th March. *It doesn't leave much time!* Fr. Norbert has decided to give you the questions for reflection at this stage so that you have a chance to mull over your feelings and then to come to an **Open Parish Meeting in St. Bonaventure's on Thursday 29th February 7.30pm - 9pm. Everyone is invited.** Those who cannot attend are welcome to submit written responses to Fr. Norbert. Here are the questions!

Q.1: How do we witness as a Parish and proclaim our faith to:

▷those who have never heard of Christ;

▷those who have ceased walking with Christ;

▷those with whom we worship Christ (those who go to church)?

Q.2: How should we organise ourselves as a Parish to do this more effectively?

Q.3: What concrete steps/formation opportunities would help us begin to witness and proclaim our faith more effectively?

Q.4: What structures may need to change? How might we need to develop the way we are organised currently?

These are crucial questions for us as the Church. Please take time to ponder your answers and come if at all possible on 29th February. God bless you! With love, **Fr. Norbert**

RCIA Monday 5th 7.30pm Our Lady's Sacristy. The Group will be presented at 11.30 Mass on Sunday 11th before the Rite of Election on Saturday 17th at the Cathedral

CONFIRMATION Next session today (4th) and then 3rd March @ 3.30pm in Trinity Hall. Fr. Marco will be launching a Post-Confirmation Course for ages 14 - 18. More information will become available on parish website. *Watch THAT space!*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Parents and children's workshop Sun. 3rd March 3.30pm

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

MARRIAGE Our Marriage Preparation Day is this Saturday (10th) in the Trinity Hall and it will be followed by a Blessing of Engaged Couples at the 6pm Mass. Fr. Norbert has emailed all the couples he is aware of. If you have been missed please email him!

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. New Zion is happy to receive contributions from 8am on a Wednesday at 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. Email foodbank@newzioncf.net to make a donation. There are Food Bank Baskets at the back of our churches. Thank you.

CAFOD GROUP MEETING on Tuesday 6th at 2pm in HF Parish Room. All welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING Thank you to all who helped on Saturday at Our Lady's and also with the maintenance of the grounds. St. Bonaventure's church cleaning will be on Tuesday 6th after 9.30am Mass. Come and lend a hand if you are free. Thank you.

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR will start up again this Friday (9th February) after 7pm Mass. Gentle time in front of the Blessed Sacrament with Scripture, song and silence. There will be a simple gathering in the Sacristy afterwards as an opportunity to meet.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 2nd March 6pm at Our Lady's.

TRANSPORT TO MASS If any parishioners need a lift to Mass, the Transport to Mass Group is there! Drivers are urgently needed. Health & Safety training and Safeguarding requirements will be arranged. Contact Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or macleaneltham@gmail.com *Please note the new email address.*

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

METHODIST MODERN ART COLLECTION is one of the art world's unexpected treasures including some of the most powerful and arresting religious art of the 20th and 21st centuries. This exhibition will come to WGC in Lent and Easter of 2024. The Focolare Centre for Unity will host these amazing treasures. See Facebook: Art 2024 at WGC or contact art2024@focolare.org.uk Stewards are needed and training will be offered. Contact Paul Gateshill paulghill@hotmail.com or call 07933453065

OLD PALMS Please bring these in by 11th to be burned for Ash Wednesday.

HOLWELL SCHOOL Year 3 and Year 4 will be visiting Our Lady's Church this week.

LENT Ash Wednesday (14th February) Masses with the imposition of ashes will be at 9.30am Holy Family, 12 noon St. Bonaventure and 7pm Our Lady's. *This a Day of Fasting and Abstinence.*

Stations of the Cross Wednesdays after Holy Family's 9.30am Mass, Fridays after St. Bonaventure's 9.30am Mass and after Our Lady's 7pm Mass.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (for 30 minutes) Mondays after Our Lady's 9.30am Mass (19th, 26th Feb), Thursdays after Holy Family's 9.30am Mass and Saturdays after St. Bonaventure's 10am Mass.

Service of Reconciliation (Confession) Tuesday 12th March 8pm Our Lady's Church.

Lenten Course (based on the Methodist Modern Art Exhibition) Mondays after 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's (in the Sacristy) 10 - 11am 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March and 8th April.

In Holy Family's Parish Room Thursdays 7th and 14th March 7.00 - 8.30pm. *Paintings have been chosen and are accompanied with Scripture, Prayer and Music. All welcome.*

FIRST FRIDAY Thanks to all who made last Friday's 6.30am celebration wonderful!

FUNERALS

Eric Fishwick's Funeral Service at St. Bonaventure's Monday 5th February 10am *The morning Mass at Our Lady's will have to be at 9.15am on this day.*

Maureen Ryan's Funeral Mass Wednesday 7th Feb at 12.30pm at St. Bonaventure's.

Wasył Tertiuk's Funeral Service Harwood Park Crematorium Friday 9th 3.30pm.

Romualdo Gurjao's Funeral Mass Our Lady's on Thursday 15th at 9.30am *There will still be 9.30 Mass at Holy Family Church that day.*

Alice Hurley's Funeral Mass Our Lady's on Friday 16th February at 11am.

FINANCE The Diocese is soon to close the 'old' *Our Lady Queen of Apostles* and *Holy Family* accounts. The St. Bonaventure account is the 'new' WGC account. It appears that many parishioners still have not set up new Standing Orders in the new account. Please, please check that you have altered your contribution so that the parish does not lose money which is estimated to be £1600 a month. It is possible that some parishioners did not stop their previous Standing Orders or that others assumed the Parish would create the new Standing Order—the latter had to be done by the donor. The account is called WRCDT Welwyn Garden City Sort-code 400520 Account no. 51094459

PILGRIMAGE 2024 Fr. Norbert has invited All Saints Travel to schedule a pilgrimage 2nd - 9th September. *Shrines of France* will include Paray-le-Monial where St. Margaret Mary Alacoque had visions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lyons where St. Bonaventure died in 1274 and his body lies and Lourdes for Our Lady's Birthday. There are other shrines and a wine-tasting trip included! *Brochures should be ready by next weekend!*

CIVIC SERVICE The Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Pankit Shah, has asked for his Civic Service to be in Our Lady's Church on **Sunday 11th February at 3pm**. He has also requested that the choirs of Holy Family and Our Lady's Schools sing. *Parishioners who wish to attend should let Fr. Norbert know so that he can inform the Council.*

FOCOLARE Open Evening 23rd February 7.30pm in Centre for Unity (AL8 6JG) 'How can we deal with division better?' More info next week!

MASS INTENTIONS *These can be booked through Fr. Norbert*

3rd February

6pm Our Lady Mary O'Driscoll RIP Anniv

4th Sunday *FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

8am St. Bonaventure Joan Finnegan RIP
9.30am Holy Family Sophie Constable (33rd Baptismal Anniv)
and Pat Frost RIP 1st Anniv
10.30am St. Bonaventure Roy D'Cunha RIP
11.30am Our Lady John McShane RIP Anniv
6pm Holy Family Mary Coates RIP Anniv

5th Monday *St. Agatha Virgin Martyr*

9.15am Our Lady Special Intention (CW)
10am St. Bonaventure Funeral Service for Eric Fishwick

6th Tuesday *St. Paul Miki and his Companions (Japanese Martyrs)*

9.30am St. Bonaventure
7pm Our Lady Alice Hurley RIP

7th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Margaret Cogger RIP
12.30pm St. Bonaventure Funeral Mass Maureen Ryan

8th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family In thanksgiving to St. Jude

9th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Joe and Alice Phelan RIP
3.30pm Harwood Park Funeral Service Wasyl Tertiuk
7pm Our Lady Fr. Michael Groarke RIP Anniv

10th Saturday *St. Scholastica*

10am St. Bonaventure Susan Cairns RIP Anniv
6pm Our Lady Christina Bonass RIP Birthday

CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure 5pm - 5.30pm Our Lady

Thursdays 10.00 - 10.30am Holy Family (with Exposition of Blessed Sacrament)

CHAPEL As you look at the Trinity Hall on Woodhall Lane, the Chapel is to the right and is open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. This is a wonderful place of peace and quiet. *The Chapel will be closed during half-term (19th - 23rd)*

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass in Lady Chapel St. Albans Cathedral 12 noon Fridays.

STREAMED MASS on [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) Sunday's 11.30am Mass from Our Lady's will be livestreamed.