



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

11th February 2024 6th 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

We have a number of things to reflect on today! With 11th February usually being the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the day is commemorated as the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Illness comes in many forms and we seek healing in a variety of ways. There is physical infirmity which can weigh us down. There are memories of sadness in the past which can dominate our psyches. There is sin which blocks us from God and can cause destruction. In today's Gospel reading from St. Mark, a leper pleads with Jesus, saying: 'If you want to, you can cure me.' The Lord's immediate response is 'Of course I want to! Be cured!' The healed leper is restored to his family and neighbours and can now practise his religion - he has truly been healed! This Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent with the Imposition of Ashes. It is also Valentine's Day! Perhaps we might ponder the link between love and God's mercy, our generosity to the needy and God's compassion for us - Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross and the turning of our hearts back to God. What an explosion of love putting us in touch with our God in heaven and his Son's love revealed on the Cross! As we gather on this final Sunday before Lent begins, we are also in 'Marriage Week'. We are given the opportunity to pray for all married couples, remembering that 'Marriage is God's gift and is an expression of human loving, of its enduring reality and of its likeness to the love of God' - *Bishop David Evans*. We keep in mind and heart those whose relationships have become complicated or where there has been breakdown and we ask the Lord for his healing grace.

I invite you to ponder how this Lent of 2024 can be a season which is unique in our personal lives but also fruitful for our community and world. God bless you. With prayers and much love, *Fr. Norbert*

TOWARDS OCTOBER 2024 The **renewal of our mission** as Church, the **building up of communion** and the **widening of participation** have been strong themes of the synodal pathway thus far. The Cardinal has asked us in Westminster to have discussions and times of reflection - 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!* Here are the questions for reflection. 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

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?

RCIA Monday 12th 7.30pm Our Lady's Sacristy. The Group will be presented to the Cardinal at the Rite of Election on Saturday 17th at Westminster Cathedral.

CONFIRMATION Next session 3rd March @ 3.30pm in Trinity Hall. Fr. Marco will be launching a Post-Confirmation Course for ages 14 - 18. More info on parish website.

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 thanks to all who helped with the Marriage Preparation Day on Saturday 10th. We ask God's blessing on all preparing to enter Holy Matrimony.

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 FAST DAY Friday 23rd February. More information next week.

CHURCH CLEANING Thank you to all who helped last week at St. Bonaventure.

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 This exhibition will come to WGC 1st March. 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 paulgateshill@hotmail.com or call 07933453065

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.*

FUNERALS

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.

FR. MARCO is pleased to announce that he will be available for visits and meetings on Friday afternoons unless differently stated. During these visits, Fr Marco will also offer to bless the house if you would like him to do so. If you want to request a visit from Fr Marco please email him at marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk

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 For online booking <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/fr0946/>

CIVIC SERVICE We welcome to Our Lady's today (Sunday) at 3pm the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Pankit Shah and his family, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, the Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council and Mayors from the various boroughs of Hertfordshire. There are religious leaders, children, parents and staff from Holy Family and Our Lady's Primary Schools as well as parishioners. *We ask God's blessing on all involved in local politics.*

FOCOLARE OPEN EVENING on Friday 23rd February 7.30 - 9pm. *How can we deal with division better?* Conleth Burns, a Senior Associate at the think tank and research agency 'More in Common' will share his perspectives from dozens of focus group conversations about how communities might be better able to handle divisions on the big challenges this country faces from immigration to climate change to culture wars. Centre for Unity 69 Parkway AL8 6JG Tea and coffee provided. Everyone welcome!

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

10th February

6pm Our Lady Christina Bonass RIP Birthday

11th Sunday *SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

8am St. Bonaventure Anthony Ayke Okechukwu RIP
and Anthony Anene Okechukwu RIP
9.30am Holy Family In thanksgiving to St. Anthony
10.30am St. Bonaventure Eamonn McKenna
11.30am Our Lady Special Intention
6pm Holy Family Martina Jones RIP 1st Anniv

12th Monday

9.30am Our Lady

13th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure
7pm Our Lady Kathleen Boddington RIP

14th Wednesday *ASH WEDNESDAY A Day of Fasting and Abstinence*

9.30am Holy Family Bob Leys Intention
12 noon St. Bonaventure Valerie Grice RIP 9th Anniv
7pm Our Lady Patrick Coakley RIP Anniv (43 years)

15th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Manoj & Sneha Mampilly's 20th Wedding Anniv
9.30am Our Lady Funeral Mass Romualdo Gurjao

16th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure
3pm Holy Family Memorial Mass Gerard Burgon RIP
7pm Our Lady Tracey Laycock RIP Birthday

17th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Romualdo Gurjao RIP
6pm Our Lady Alice Hurley RIP

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. *It will be closed 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 will be livestreamed.