



St Bonaventure
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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

18th February 2024 1st Sunday of Lent

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

It is all systems go! Lent has begun and our journey towards the Lord's Cross and Resurrection. Have you started carrying out your Lenten promises or have they fallen by the wayside? Is there something different God wants you to try this year? The Church invites us to be with the Lord in the wilderness for forty days. St. Mark's account given to us today is terse and does not go into many details about the temptations. What we do know is that this passage follows on from the Baptism of the Lord and includes Jesus' ministry beginning with the words 'Repent and believe the Good News'! We are only at verse 15 of the first chapter of St. Mark. We will have to wait until chapter 15 to encounter the Lord's love in his dying and then be opened up to the message of Resurrection.

Sometimes in life we want everything to happen quickly and at other moments we attempt a slowing down of gear. God's sense of humour is not always within our control! Each period of time whether short or long affords us the chance to experience sacrificial, life-giving love from God's Son in obedience to his Father. Every Lenten pathway can be a trek or a dash as the weeks go by! Allow Jesus to be your inspiration, your beginning and your destination. As we remember him by looking back into the past and then gazing into the future, it the NOW which is grace-filled and fruitful. Let us not forget that we are walking together and mutual support is paramount.

May God bless you and your loved ones. May our world be filled with the light of God's promise through his Son's victory over evil and death. With 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 pro-claim 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 Next session Monday 26th February 7.30pm Our Lady's Sacristy. The Group was presented to the Cardinal at the Rite of Election at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 17th. *Let us keep them in our prayers.*

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.

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 to donate. Use Food Bank Baskets at the back of church.

CAFOD FAST DAY Friday 23rd February. Please take a special CAFOD envelope, save money to help the needy in developing countries and return next weekend. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING at Holy Family on Wednesday 21st after Stations of the Cross. Come and lend a helping hand...it is much appreciated.

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

MICHAEL MacPHERSON RIP Funeral Monday 18th March 12.30pm at Holy Family.

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

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

LENT 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.

First Friday Mass & Breakfast on 1st March at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30am.

Restoration Holy Hour Friday 8th March after 7pm Mass + Stations at Our Lady's.

FR. MARCO is available for visits and meetings on some Friday afternoons. He would be happy to bless your home too. 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. 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/>

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL There are special envelopes at the back of the church. Funds raised will support projects across the Diocese.

CIVIC SERVICE Our thanks to all involved in last Sunday's celebration: the children of Holy Family and Our Lady's Schools, to the altar servers, organist, to the helpers in the Trinity Hall. All who came had a brilliant time and appreciated the warm welcome.

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!

ULTRA RUN, SWIM Spencer White, will face his toughest endurance challenge - an Ultra Run and Swim. He will attempt his first Ultra marathon in March swiftly followed by a marathon and then a triple 5km swim over three days in April. Money raised for Alzheimers Research UK. Below is the link to his Just Giving page. Thank you. https://www.justgiving.com/page/spencer-white-1706295228279?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fspencer-white-1706295228279&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=pfp-email

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

17th February

6pm Our Lady Alice Hurley RIP

18th Sunday *FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT*

8am St. Bonaventure Maureen & Joe Ryan RIP
9.30am Holy Family Sister Jo (for her recovery)
10.30am St. Bonaventure Mary Mortimore
11.30am Our Lady Harry & Ethel Grayson RIP
6pm Holy Family Oliver Gatfield RIP

19th Monday

9.30am Our Lady

20th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure
7pm Our Lady Jane Jelly RIP

21st Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Lin Thomas (for her recovery)

22nd Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Mary Cosgrove RIP

23rd Friday

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

24th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Ged and Kathy Connolly RIP
6pm Our Lady Jim O'Connor 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 *Closed for half-term 19th - 23rd February.*

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) Saturday's 6pm
Mass will be recorded and streamed on Sunday at 10am.