



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

25th February 2024 2nd Sunday of Lent

Parish Priest Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234 norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk

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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

Another week has flown by and Lent continues! The Second Sunday of Lent is always an encounter with Christ in his Transfiguration. The Divinity shines from his transfigured body and the Father's voice cries out: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' The terrified disciples accompanying Jesus do not know what to say apart from Peter's attempt to hold onto the experience through making three tents - one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah. It is an incredible moment for Jesus as in such a powerful way his identity is revealed and felt; and for the disciples who are privileged to witness the event. They have to come back down the mountain and continue the journey to Calvary. That transfigured body will bear the terrible marks of suffering and then come to the glory of Resurrection. Do you think that the risen body of the Lord was different to the transfigured one?

On our trek through Lent, often we would rather not have to keep *plodding* along! It gets tiring and our patience is tested! Perhaps the destination of Easter Sunday is where we would rather be fast-forwarded? Jesus teaches us not only in the present to be with him in glimpses of glory, but also to walk with him to the Cross. The weight of the wooden beam, the lashes of the scourges, the piercing crown of thorns and the painful falls are challenging but draw us ever so deeply into the mystery of Divine Suffering and then Divine Glory - the two go together.

As a new week begins may God's wonderful and inspiring love revealed in Jesus support you. With love and prayers, **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 synod-al 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.

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.

FIRST CONFESSIONS Please pray for the children of our parish who will be making their First Confession this week. It is such an important moment for them + their families.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Since lockdown, the usual Children's Liturgy on a Sunday has not taken place. Some of our catechists are having their DBS applications processed at present to satisfy all safeguarding requirements. Once done, we will let you know the next steps. Thanks for your patience!

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 There is a retiring collection this weekend to support CAFOD in their work in developing countries. Your Fast Day contributions make a real difference. Please use a special envelope if you are able to GiftAid your contribution. Thank you.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 2nd March 6pm at Our Lady's. Afterwards we will gather in the Trinity Hall with food and drink, bingo and a quiz. All are welcome. Please bring food to share. Thank you!

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

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 (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 Pilgrimage to the Shrines of France Monday 2nd to Monday 9th September. We will visit Paris, Lisieux, Tours, Paray-le-Monial, Lyon, Rocamadour and be in Lourdes for Our Lady's Birthday. St. Bonaventure died in Lyon 750 years ago and his body lies in a Basilica there. In Tours there will be a chance to do some wine-tasting. There is more information on sheets at the back of our churches or for online booking go to <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.

METHODIST MODERN ART COLLECTION This exhibition will come to WGC 1st March. The Focolare Centre for Unity will host these amazing treasures. See Face-book: Art 2024 at WGC or contact art2024@focolare.org.uk

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

CHURCH CLEANING at Holy Family. Thank you to all who helped last Wednesday

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

24th February

6pm Our Lady Jim O'Connor RIP

25th Sunday *SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT*

8am St. Bonaventure Anthony Ayke Okechukwu RIP
& Anthony Anene Okechukwu RIP

9.30am Holy Family

10.30am St. Bonaventure John Bichard's intentions

11.30am Our Lady Maria-Del-Carmen Willis RIP 40th Anniv RIP

6pm Holy Family Leonard Bonner RIP

26th Monday *This Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan*

9.30am Our Lady Elizabeth Margaretha Treurnicht Evans RIP Anniv

27th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure

7pm Our Lady

28th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Romualdo Gurjao RIP (month)

29th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Giovanni Pisapia RIP, Ines Pisapia RIP & Carmela Pisapia RIP

1st Friday *ST. DAVID*

6.30am St. Bonaventure

9.30am St. Bonaventure

7pm Our Lady

2nd Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure

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 Open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. The entrance is near the Trinity Hall. Come for peace and quiet before the Blessed Sacrament. Light a candle and feel the Lord's closeness.

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