



St Bonaventure
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Our Lady Queen of Apostles
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP
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Holy Family
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

3rd March 2024 3rd 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

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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

Today the Church takes us to St. John's Gospel, to the second chapter. Jesus has just performed his first great sign with the transformation of water into wine at the Wedding Feast of Cana. The Evangelist highlights Christ's glory being revealed and the fact that his disciples believed in him. Now the scene is Jerusalem - a distance from Cana! Jesus cleanses the Temple; he calls it his Father's house. Jesus creates a whip out of cord, driving the sellers out and he overturns the tables. This is a Jesus filled with passion and not afraid to show his feelings! John tells us that this incident is just before the Passover. We cannot help but think of the Passover experience of liberation and the journey to the Promised Land. Passover also looks forward to the Exaltation of Jesus on the Cross as the Passover lambs are being sacrificed, following St. John's timeframe. A final point to note is that the Lord says that in destroying the sanctuary, he will raise it up in three days. His hearers are focused on the Temple building; Jesus is speaking of his Body which will be raised up on the third day in Resurrection.

This passage gives us much to mull over as we continue our Lenten journey. How should I purify/cleanse my life? What gets in the way of my heart being aligned to God? Our trek through this season of renewal is taking us to the Lord's Passover at Easter and the liberation experienced through his great Sacrifice. Are my eyes fixed on him? Jesus the Son of God is a Temple and we are his living members, parts of this vibrant Body filled with the Spirit. One day he wants us to share in his bodily Resurrection. How is Lent 2024 opening me up to a glimpse and taste of the life to come? God bless you!

With love and prayers, *Fr. Norbert*

TOWARDS OCTOBER 2024 Our thanks to all who came on Thursday evening. Notes of responses were made and are available at the back of each church. The reflections will be shared with the Deanery and then be presented at the Council of Deans on Wednesday.

RCIA Next session Monday 4th March 7.30pm Our Lady's Sacristy and then on 11th March.

CONFIRMATION Next session 3rd March @ 3.30pm in Trinity Hall and then 17th. Fr. Marco will launch a Post-Confirmation Course for ages 14 - 18. parish website.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Parents and children's workshop Sunday 3rd March at 3.30pm. The final workshop will be on Sunday 17th March 3.30 - 5pm.

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

FIRST CONFESSIONS Congratulations to the children who made their First Confession this week. Doing something for the first time is daunting. Our thanks to the parents who worked with - and supported - their children.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY starts today (3rd) at the 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's. After the start of Mass children will be invited to leave and assemble in the Sacristy where there will be the presentation of the Scriptures at the children's level; they will return to the church at the offertory.

DON'T FORGET Mothering Sunday next weekend!

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.

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.

JAMES LYNCH RIP There will be a Memorial Service for Jim on Monday 11th March at 11.15am in Our Lady's Church.

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

CHRIS WILKINSON RIP We are waiting for Funeral details to be finalised.

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), email spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net

CHURCH CLEANING at St. Bonaventure's this Tuesday after 9.30 Mass. Please come and lend a hand if you are free. Our thanks to all who helped at Our Lady's on Saturday 2nd with church cleaning and the maintenance of the grounds.

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) 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 Thank you to our helpers who provided the breakfast and to all who came. Next 6.30am Mass on 3rd May.

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. For a visit email marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk

FINANCE The Diocese will close the 'old' *Our Lady Queen of Apostles + Holy Family* accounts at the end of March. 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. More info on sheets at the back of church or <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 opened on 1st March at The Focolare Centre for Unity on Parkway. For more details please pick up a leaflet at the back of the church or see Facebook: Art 2024 at WGC or contact art2024@focolare.org.uk *The exhibition is brilliant!*

CAFOD GROUP will meet in Holy Family's Parish Room on Tuesday 5th March at 2pm. All are welcome.

HCPT GROUP 183 A huge thank you for the huge generosity of parishioners from the recent retiring collection. £2690.23 was raised. You will be remembered at the Grotto of Lourdes at Easter. *The Group will be at 11.30 Mass this Sunday.*

FUNDRAISING FOR ALZHEIMERS Spencer White will embark on an epic charity raising aquathlon for Alzheimers in March and April. If you can support him, then follow the link <https://www.justgiving.com/page/spencer-white>

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

2nd March

6pm Our Lady Alice Hurley RIP

3rd Sunday *THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT*

8am St. Bonaventure Kay Fanthorpe RIP
9.30am Holy Family Carol Organ RIP 1st Anniv
& Bridie Frost RIP (33rd Anniv)
10.30am St. Bonaventure Roy D'Cunha RIP
11.30am Our Lady
6pm Holy Family Deirdre Davis RIP (6th Anniv)

4th Monday

9.30am Our Lady

5th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Jim Ryan RIP
7pm Our Lady Nancy Attwood RIP Anniv

6th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family In thanksgiving to St. Gerard Magella

7th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Michael Cade's Intention

8th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure
7pm Our Lady Carol Organ RIP (1st Anniv)
& Bridie Frost RIP (33rd Anniv)

9th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Carol Organ RIP (1st Anniv)
6pm Our Lady Thomas Callaghan 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) Saturday's 6pm Mass will be recorded and streamed at 10am on Sunday.