



St Bonaventure
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Our Lady Queen of Apostles
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP
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Holy Family
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

10th March 2024 4th Sunday of Lent

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Parish Administrator Mrs Jacqui Boon (Tuesday - Friday 9am until 12 noon)

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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

God loved the world so much! This is the message from our Gospel passage today. We are now half-way through our Lenten journey and the Church cries our 'Laetare! Rejoice!' God's love for our world is revealed in so many ways but in this holy season we especially reflect on the power of the Cross as the source of salvation and a revelation of the God who is constantly pouring out love through the Sacrifice of his Son. Wow! Making sacrifices can be challenging for many of us. Admitting the wrong we have done takes courage and humility. Opening our eyes to the plight of someone in need puts us on the spot in determining a response. However, in all these ways love can be experienced and shared. Surely that is what we yearn for in Lent?

Today is Mothering Sunday! For a huge number of us there are happy memories of love which has brought tenderness and great humanity. Mary is a wonderful model of what it means to love God and to love others. The total dedication which took her from her 'Yes!' in Nazareth to her presence at the foot of the Cross is an inspiration. We can count on her as Mother!

As you ponder on how Lent is going in 2024, do you really feel *loved by God*? Do you think that your undertakings to make this a holy season are helping others feel *loved by God*? Is there anything else which could make a difference in the remaining weeks?

Thank you for your support. May God bless you. With love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

TOWARDS OCTOBER 2024 Notes of responses from our parish meeting were taken to a deanery gathering last Sunday evening. The fruits of the Deanery Response were presented to the Cardinal at the Council of Deans last Wednesday. *All the meetings have been very positive and we will keep you informed.*

RCIA Next session Monday 11th March 7.30pm Our Lady's Sacristy and then on 18th.

CONFIRMATION Next session 17th March @ 3.30pm in Trinity Hall and then 24th. Fr. Marco will launch a Post-Confirmation Course for ages 14 - 18. parish website.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Parents and children's 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at the 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's. After the start of Mass children are invited to leave and assemble in the Sacristy where the Scriptures are presented at the children's level; they return to the church at the offertory. Children who wish to act out the Passion Reading on Palm Sunday (24th) at 11.30 Mass are invited to a practice in Our Lady's Church on Saturday 23rd March at 11am. Parents are asked to come and stay with their children.

MOTHERING SUNDAY Happy Mother's Day to each and every mother and honorary mum. There are chocolates for everyone in their honour! May God bless them.

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 Our thanks to all who made last weekend's Mass and celebration so enjoyable. Everyone had a great time!

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 Mass on Monday 18th March 12.30pm at Holy Family.

CHRIS WILKINSON RIP The Funeral Mass for Chris will be on Wednesday 27th March at 2pm at St. Bonaventure's Church.

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

CHURCH CLEANING Thank you to all who helped with church cleaning at St. Bonaventure's last Tuesday.

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. Come and share in the joy of celebrating God's forgiveness in this wonderful Sacrament as Easter approaches! *There will be music and Scripture followed by a time for Confession with six priests. People are free to leave after Confession.*

Lenten Course (based on the Methodist Modern Art Exhibition) Mondays after 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's (in the Sacristy) 10 - 11am 11th, 18th, 25th March and 8th April In Holy Family's Parish Room Thursday 14th March 7.00 - 8.30pm.

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

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 at The Focolare Centre for Unity on Parkway. For more details please pick up a leaflet at the back of the church or see Face-book: Art 2024 at WGC or contact art2024@focolare.org.uk *The exhibition is brilliant!*

EVENING OF REFLECTION in Holy Family Church at 7 o'clock on Thursday 21st March. More information next week.

HCPT GROUP 183 will go to Lourdes at Easter. If anyone would like an intention left at the Grotto, please put it in an envelope clearly marked and give it to Fr. Norbert. Please do not put any money in the envelope as these are eventually burned !

REFUGEE SEEKING ACCOMODATION If you can help, please speak to Fr. Norbert for more information. Thank you.

SVP REQUEST for a frame for a double bed which folds in half. If you can help, Please call Janet Lewis on 01707 326456. Thank you.

FUNDRAISING FOR ALZHEIMERS Spencer White will embark on an epic charity raising aquathlon for Alzheimers in March and April. This entails an ultramarathon, a marathon and three 5km swims. 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*

9th March

6pm Our Lady Thomas Callaghan RIP

10th Sunday *FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT*

8am St. Bonaventure Anthony Ayke Okechukwu RIP
and Anthony Anene Okechukwu RIP
9.30am Holy Family Carol Organ RIP 1st Anniv
& Bridie Frost RIP (33rd Anniv)
10.30am St. Bonaventure Carol Organ RIP 1st Anniv
11.30am Our Lady Jim Kilkenny RIP Anniv
6pm Holy Family William Gore RIP Anniv

11th Monday

9.30am Our Lady Daisy Thaliath RIP Anniv

12th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure
7pm Our Lady Marjorie Nichols RIP Anniv

13th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Anthony Anene Okechukwu RIP

14th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Frank Larkin RIP

15th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure
7pm Our Lady Ron Davin RIP Anniv

16th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure John & Theresa O'Sullivan
6pm Our Lady John Davin RIP Anniv

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.