



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

17th March 2024 5th 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

'We should like to see Jesus' This is a simple enough request put to Philip by some Greeks who were in Jerusalem for the festival. Philip and Andrew both approach Jesus. I hadn't realised until I did some reading recently that these two disciples had Greek names - hence the Greek people going to them and through them to Jesus! The response of the Lord is to offer imagery of a wheat grain falling on the ground, dying and then yielding a rich harvest. He later says that when he is lifted up from the earth, he will draw all people to himself. So, if we reflect on Jesus' words, we have two different movements: firstly, going down and then rising; secondly, upwards and drawing others into this dynamic. It is never that simple with Christ, especially in St. John's Gospel! There are so many layers of meaning - riches waiting to be discovered; as with parables, if we think we've got it, another insight emerges!

'A voice came from heaven' In the middle of our passage, everyone hears a voice speaking. Their interpretations range from a clap of thunder to an angel talking. Jesus, however, is clear that the voice came for *our* sake. What does that mean? The message is of the Father glorifying his name now the *hour* has come. Being lifted up, dying and rising, being exalted to heaven - these are all components of this glorification. Jesus is aware of what will happen to him and he stands between the Father and humanity as our Media-tor, our Brother and our Saviour-Redeemer. His Sacrifice in obedience to the Father is huge and the love lavished on us is intimately and passionately deep because we matter to God - Father, Son and Spirit.

'...wherever I am, my servant will be there too.' The challenge now is to stay very close to Jesus as these final weeks of Lent progress. God bless you! With love, **Fr. Norbert**

ST. PATRICK'S DAY has been overtaken by the Fifth Sunday of Lent! Happy feast!

RCIA Last session Monday 18th March 7.30pm Our Lady's Sacristy.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Parents+ children's final workshop today (17th) 3.30pm.

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. 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 on Saturday 23rd at 11am. Parents should come and stay with their children.

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.

MICHAEL MACPHERSON RIP Funeral Mass on Monday 18th March 12.30pm at Holy Family Church.

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

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE will be at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 25th May at 2.30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th and every year over 60) Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

CHURCH CLEANING at Holy Family on Wednesday around 10.30am.

EVENING OF REFLECTION at Holy Family Church on 21st March at 7pm. A couple of hours when you can reflect on how you live your faith in your everyday work and with your family, friends and colleagues. The evening will include spiritual reading, a talk in the parish room and an examination of conscience, with quiet time in church between activities. There will be tea/coffee and biscuits in the parish room at the beginning and end of the evening. A priest will also be available for confession throughout the evening. This evening is intended for men. There is a similar evening for women at St. Peter's Church, Bishop's Rise, Hatfield on Wednesday 20th March at 7pm. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY at Holy Family. Fr. Marco will lead Rosary, Exposition, Chaplet, Benediction, Confessions and Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image on 7th April 2 - 4pm. All welcome!

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.

Lenten Course (based on the Methodist Modern Art Exhibition) Mondays after 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's (in the Sacristy) 10 - 11am 18th, 25th March

ALTAR SERVERS Please sign up for Holy Week on sheets in each sacristy. Thanks!

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. Thank you to all who have changed their standing orders. A few more still to go!!! The account is WRCDT Welwyn Garden City Sort-code 400520 Account no. 51094459

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL Special envelopes to support Diocesan projects.

HCPT GROUP 183 will be in Lourdes at Easter. Please give intentions to Fr. Norbert to leave at the Grotto. No money in the envelopes as these are eventually burned !

REFUGEE SEEKING ACCOMODATION If you can help, please call Fr. Norbert.

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 next week and in April. This entails an ultrathin, a marathon and three 5km swims. If you would like to support him, follow the link <https://www.justgiving.com/page/spencer-white> *Good luck, Spencer!*

METHODIST MODERN ART COLLECTION at The Focolare Centre for Unity on Parkway AL8 6JG. Lecture by Graham Kent, who has been involved in the collection for 20+ years, focusing on a few of the paintings on Thursday 21st March 7.30pm. Evening of music and poetry Wednesday 27th March at 7.30pm. Each event 90 minutes. Entry free. Exhibition will open at 7pm before these events and a bar will follow!. The Exhibition continues until the beginning of April. *On Palm Sunday (24th) Fr. Norbert will lead at the Focolare Centre Prayer and Reflection at 3pm based on the Exhibition; this will last 45minutes followed by refreshments. All are welcome.*

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 *Our thanks to the Chaplains who provide great support to patients, families and staff. Also, to the Deanery Catholic priests who take it in turn to be available for emergencies*

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

16th March

6pm Our Lady John Davin RIP Anniv RIP

17th Sunday *FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT*

8am St. Bonaventure Jerzy Matuszewski RIP (10th Anniv)
9.30am Holy Family Josie Rodger RIP Anniv
10.30am St. Bonaventure Patrick & Josephine Brogan RIP Anniv
11.30am Our Lady Margaret Caulfield RIP Anniv
6pm Holy Family

18th Monday

9.30am Our Lady Joseph Fernandez (Birthday intention)
12.30pm Holy Family Michael Macpherson Funeral

19th Tuesday *ST. JOSEPH*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Paddy Glynn RIP
7pm Our Lady Benoit & Maurice Gauchard RIP Anniv

20th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Lesley Dowling RIP

21st Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Antonietta Fede (in Di Stefano) RIP &
Gennaro Michele Di Stefano RIP

22nd Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Special Intention (CW)
7pm Our Lady Nicholas Brighton

23rd Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Maureen Brennan RIP
6pm ***PALM SUNDAY*** 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.

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.