



St Bonaventure
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

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

14th April 2024 Third Sunday of Easter

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

It is hard to believe we have reached the Third Sunday of Easter. The Church gives us Fifty Days to bask in the light of the Resurrection, culminating with the Ascension as the Risen Lord is taken up to be with his Father in glory on the Fortieth Day (Thursday 9th May) and completed at Pentecost with the Coming of the Holy Spirit. These days are so important as we get to know what the Risen Lord is like and what he wants to teach us in this season. Our faith is nourished and strengthened by the Lord's Spirit and Pentecost is an explosion of joy, life and love.

As I write I think back to Easter and the presence of so many sharing in the Proclamation of Easter. For some, it was a first experience of the Easter Vigil with its huge raging fire and the zeal of the adults and young people joining us in the Catholic Church. The icy waters of Baptism touched/drenched us, putting us in touch with the saving event of Christ's Death and Resurrection and uniting us with the newly baptised. And then the Easter Eucharist with the Lord's Real Presence feeding us with a taste of heaven.

Lourdes on HCPT with our parish group afforded a chance to feel the warmth of the sun and to see the sheer delight on the faces of adults and children - helpers and 'guests' who together were fuelled by the holiness of the Grotto and the exploration of the life of St. Bernadette. Ice-creams and hot chocolates, song and dance, exuberance and exhaustion were some of the hallmarks of the week's 'holiday' with Our Lady. Now as Easter continues, we are looking forward to First Holy Communions and Confirmation of the young people. More prayers and support are needed!

Fr. Marco and I would like to thank you all for your generosity at Easter and for your encouragement. God bless you and your loved ones. With much love, **Fr. Norbert**

EASTER COURSE Who is the Holy Spirit? How much are you familiar with the Holy Spirit? What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and how can we benefit from them? If you are puzzled by these questions or if you simply would like to explore a bit more your faith, Fr Marco invites you over this time of Easter to join on a course of seven weeks in preparation for Pentecost. Everyone is welcome. Coffee and tea and light refreshments will be provided before each session. Session times: Thursday or Friday (as below) from 7pm to 8.30pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

Session 2 – Thursday 18th April, The Gift of Understanding

Session 3 – Thursday 25th April, The Gift of Counsel

Session 4 – Thursday 2nd May The Gift of Fortitude

Session 5 – Friday 3rd May, The Gift of Knowledge

Session 6 – Thursday 9th May, The Gift of Piety

Session 7 – Thursday 16th May, The Gift of the Fear of the Lord

CONFIRMATION Next sessions 21st & 28th April @ 3.30pm in Trinity Hall. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Confirmation Mass on Friday 17th May at 7.30pm at Our Lady's. *We need altar servers for this Mass!*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES

Our Lady's - Sundays 11.30am 28th April, 2nd & 9th June.

St. Bonaventure Sunday 5th May 10.30am.

Holy Family Sunday 12th May 9.30am.

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.

GERRY McCARTHY RIP Funeral Mass Monday 29th April 9.30am at Our Lady's.

TERRENCE HOGAN RIP Terry died during the week -Funeral details not yet 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), emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net

METHODIST MODERN ART COLLECTION Thank you to everyone who made this such an unforgettable event both with the experience in the Focolare Centre and with the reflections during the week.

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

PARISH PILGRIMAGE 4-day Pilgrimage to Lourdes for Our Lady's Birthday from Friday 6th until Monday 9th September. *It is definitely going ahead!* The price is now £730 pp (guaranteed until end of April) full board in a 4-star hotel near the Grotto. Leaflets at the back of our churches or go to <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/LD0959/>

PRIEST TRAINING FUND Next weekend there will be the annual collection to support the training of priests for our Diocese. It costs £25k per year to train a priest. Your generosity will make a big difference. There are special envelopes at the back of the church or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations Importantly, we need to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and to support our present seminarians with our prayers.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY PARADE for the local district will take place at Our Lady's on Sunday 21st April at 2.30pm.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLEANING on Wednesday 17th April after 9.30am Mass and refreshments. The small and dedicated team would welcome new volunteers!

CAFOD CAKE SALE after 9.30 Mass at Holy Family on 21st April. Anyone wishing to donate cakes for sale should bring them on the day. Thank you.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP Talk on 'Justice and Peace in a World on Fire' Wednesday 17th April 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church, Church Road AL8 6PR. Speaker Rev. John Churcher, Chaplain to Royal British Legion.

FOCOLARE OPEN EVENING Friday 19th April, 7.30-9pm 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG *How can we effectively use Social Media to Enhance Our Neighbourhoods?* Speaker: Joel Budd, Social Affairs editor of *The Economist* where he has worked since 2023, covering Britain, America, the developing world & media industries globally. Tea/coffee.

SWIMATHON Members of the Gallucci family are taking part in this event to support Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie. If you would like to support them go to <https://www.justgiving.com/page/eddy-gallucci-1712521059503>

PENTECOST 2024 (Sunday 19th May) coincides with **Fr. Norbert's 60th Birthday!** He would like everyone to feel included in the celebrations which will also be attended by his family and friends. There will be Mass at 11.30am at Our Lady's followed by a party - hopefully outdoors - concluding around 6pm! There will be parishioners dancing as part of the entertainment: African, Filipino, Irish and Polish. There will be a variety of cuisines with Goan, African, Filipino and Polish food. If there are any language or cultural groups which would like to contribute, please let Fr. Norbert know. There will be a cocktail bar organised by Fr. Norbert's family. Help with mixing the cocktails would be appreciated. (Again, let Fr. Norbert know.) Karaoke and Zumba will also be on offer!

Help Needed at the Trinity Hall Saturday 18th May 2 - 4pm to set up. Sunday 19th May 12 noon to 6pm help with serving, and 5pm to 7pm help with clearing. If you can offer 2 hours to help, please contact Ann Chappell (ahchappell@aol.com, 07784781178) and book a time slot.

Food Needed on the day If you can prepare finger food (sandwiches, appetisers or sweet treats), contact Ann Chappell (ahchappell@aol.com, 07784781178). Food should be on a platter ready to place on the table (put your name on the platter so it can be re-turned to you). Prepare 12 servings. *Thank you!*

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

13th April

10am St. Bonaventure Margaret and Alan Staples Intention
6pm Our Lady Rose Fitzsimons RIP

14th Sunday ***THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER***

8am St. Bonaventure David Brand's Intention
9.30am Holy Family Teddy Tuohy RIP & Hannah Howes RIP
10.30am St. Bonaventure Ana Liza Sabalvero RIP *Fr. Tom O'Brien celebrant*
11.30am Our Lady Ernst Rump RIP
6pm Holy Family

15th Monday

9.30am Our Lady James Fitzgerald RIP Anniv

16th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Ivy Buck RIP
7pm Our Lady

17th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Keith Hughes RIP & Ruddy Family

18th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family

19th Friday *St. Alphege*

9.30am St. Bonaventure
7pm Our Lady Donnie Whyte RIP Anniv

20th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure John Hunter RIP
6pm Our Lady Dorothy Bagge's Intention

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. Entrance near Trinity Hall. Pray before the Blessed Sacrament, light a candle and have a moment of silence.

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass in the Lady Chapel of St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon on Fridays. *Fr. Norbert will be the celebrant on 19th April.*

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.