



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (22.2) + SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (1.3)

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

Assistant Priest Fr. James Boyle 01707 327434 jamesboyle@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator Mrs Jacqui Boon 01707 323234 (Tues. Wed. Fri. 9am - 12 noon,
Thurs. 1 - 4pm)

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

The other day I met up with a friend in London. We were close to Marble Arch and I had the thought of visiting Tyburn Convent which isn't far from there. When my friend, whom I've know for over 30 years, arrived, he made the same suggestion! So after lunch we walked to the Convent which is very close to where many Martyrs died at the gallows: men and women, religious and lay; they were ready to die for Christ and his Church. The enclosed Nuns have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and so we had 30 quiet minutes praying and reflecting on Christ's Presence and how he inspired these scores of people in their lives and last moments.

Today we are in the Season of Lent when we prepare ourselves personally, and as a community, to celebrate Christ's glorious Passion and Death which take us to his wondrous Resurrection. Jesus was obedient to his Father's voice and carried out his Father's will. Humanly speaking he hoped this chalice of suffering would pass him by; however, his love for his Father and for humanity spurred him on. The newsletter for these two Sundays places us firstly in the wilderness where the Lord is led by the Spirit after his Baptism and is tempted beyond measure. Jesus Christ stands firm and his resolve to be faithful does not waver. As we enter March, we are taken up a high mountain and, with Jesus' favourite disciples, we witness the divinity shining out from his human body - the Transfiguration! The Lord himself radiates who he is and the voice from the cloud resounds with almost the same words as were heard at his Baptism: 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.'

What sacrifices are you called on by God to make? What choices are you making this Lent? How is your life revealing to others the person of Christ? Have the courage to be a *martyr* - a *witness* to the Son of God. May God bless us and our Lent! With love + prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

BAPTISM Contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. James to arrange the Baptism of your child.

FIRST COMMUNION The next Workshop for parents and children will be on Sunday 1st March at Our Lady's Church 3.30 - 5pm.

CONFIRMATION The Group will be on retreat with Fr. Norbert at Aylesford, Kent on Saturday 7th March leaving from Our Lady's at 8.30am and returning around 5.30pm. They will lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday 13th March at Our Lady's after 7pm Mass and will have a fundraising Service Project the weekend of 21st/22nd March.

RCIA (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) The next sessions will be on Mondays 23rd February and 2nd March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

MARRIAGE Any couples planning to get married this year or next should let Fr. Norbert know so that all the necessary preparations can be made.

SATURDAY CLUB for adults and children with learning disabilities, their families and friends. 2 - 4pm in the Trinity Hall on 14th March.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. Items received from 8am Wednesdays at 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. Email food-bank@newzioncf.net to donate money. Please use Food Bank Baskets.

LISTER HOSPITAL Non-urgent referrals to Chaplaincy Team 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (ask for duty chaplain) emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net

TRANSPORT TO MASS GROUP is there for parishioners who need a lift to Mass. Call Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or macleaneltham@gmail.com There will be an appeal for more drivers the weekend of 21st/22nd February. *Do think about this!*

LENTEN LUNCHESES The Catholic Women's League are hosting Lenten lunches every Saturday in Lent from 12noon till 1.30pm in the Trinity Hall. £5 suggested donation for homemade soup, hot drink and cake. All welcome!

LENT PRAYER COURSE Fr. James & Stefan Guerzoni will be leading a six-week course on 'Prayer' starting on Wednesday 4th March 7 - 8pm in the Parish Room at Holy Family and online. The course will explore essential steps like how to greet God through engaging in Scripture. If you would like to join in person, just turn up or online, please let Stefan know - websg@hotmail.com.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT in Lent for 30 minutes on Mondays after 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's, on Thursdays after 9.30am Mass at Holy Family and on Saturdays at St. Bonaventure's after 10am Mass. Enjoy silence and peace before the Lord.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS in Lent on Wednesdays after Holy Family's 9.30am Mass on Fridays after 9.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's and after 7pm Mass at Our Lady's.

DENNIS MURPHY RIP Funeral Mass on Tuesday 3rd March 10.30am at Our Lady's.

PATRICIA SHELFORD RIP Pat's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 6th March at 12.30pm.

MAUREEN FELL RIP Maureen's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 11th March at 1pm. Her body will be received into the church on the Tuesday at 5pm.

CHURCH CLEANING Tuesday 3rd March at St. Bonaventure's after 9.30 Mass. Wednesday 4th March at Holy Family after 9.30 Mass and Stations of the Cross. Saturday 7th March at 10am plus maintenance of the grounds. *Come and lend a hand!*

FIRST FRIDAY There will be the 6.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the Hall. Rosary after Stations of the Cross on Friday at St. Bonaventure's and on First Saturday at 9.30am before Mass.

MEXICO PILGRIMAGE 6th - 14th October 2026. 39 have signed up! £1987pp for two sharing a room. Contact allsaintstravel.co.uk/mx1128/

VISITOR Fr. Côme de Jenlis, a friend of Fr. Norbert, will be staying with him from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th February. He is from the Diocese of Nanterre, Paris.

CONFESSIONS *Sacrament of Reconciliation* Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30 St.

Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11am Our Lady's Saturday 5 - 5.30pm

CHAPEL Next to the Trinity Hall is open Monday to Friday 8.30am until 4pm.

STREAMED MASS on youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral on Fridays at 12 noon in the Lady Chapel. *Fr. Norbert will celebrate this Mass on 13th March*

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at Our Lady's at 12 noon Mass.

ARCHBISHOP RICHARD MOTH wants to meet many people as soon as possible! He will celebrate Mass in Our Lady's Church on **Wednesday 11th March at 6.30pm**. This Mass will be for our Deanery of Stevenage and for the Deanery of Lea Valley. It would be brilliant if as many of you would come. Archbishop Richard wants to keep a simplicity in Lent, so there will not be a reception; however, he will greet people at the end of Mass.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPS who work as a team to support our community: Ann Chappell wgcdigswellsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Mary Stephenson wgceastsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk and Cathy Staniforth wgcsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

BANK DETAILS To pay parish by bank transfer, HSBC account WRCDT Welwyn Garden City, Sort code 400520 No. 51094459. *It is essential that there is paperwork or an email to stipulate how money is to be spent and who has made the payment. Thanks!*

CAFOD FAST DAY As you leave Mass today, please take a special CAFOD envelope to make your Lenten donation. If you can GiftAid your contribution that would be brilliant. The money raised will be collected next weekend. *Thank you in advance.*

CAFOD Group raised £188 from the regifting of Christmas presents. *Well done!*

SOUTH ASIAN MASS on Sat. 28th Feb. 6pm Our Lady's followed by a party in the Trinity Hall. Mass will include a variety of languages from Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka; there will be sacred dance as part of the Mass. Food at the reception will be typical of South Asia but there will also be non-spicy food! Contact Sharon 07985 648169. We are honoured to have the presence of the Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield and the Sri Lankan High Commissioner. All welcome!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY Refreshments after 9.30am Mass on 17th March. All welcome!

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 23rd May at 2.30pm. The Archbishop is inviting 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 2026. Please give Fr. Norbert these details: husband and wife's names, Wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or telephone number, if no email).

COME AND SEE for those interested in Priesthood and Permanent Diaconate **Sat. 14th March 12 - 3.30pm at St. Bonaventure's** run by the Diocesan Vocations Team. Refreshments and a light lunch. To find out more/register attendance, contact: Canon Roger Taylor - Vocations Promoter robertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Tito Pereira – Assistant Director Permanent Diaconate 07977 599110 or titopereira@rcdow.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS

21st Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Ninoshka Olga Menezes (Birthday Intention)
6pm	Our Lady	Isia's Intention

22nd *FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Dominic Hilliard RIP
10.30am	Holy Family	Patricia Oliver RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Frances Andrews RIP and Louiza Fearn's RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Leonard Bonner RIP

23rd Monday

9.30am	Our Lady	Ged and Kathy Connolly RIP
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24th Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Adelia and Adrian Parker (Intention)
7pm	Our Lady	Tracey Laycock RIP

25th Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	Xi and the people of China (Intention)
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26th Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	Billy Moran RIP
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27th Friday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Giovanni Pisapia RIP (26th Anniv)
7pm	Our Lady	Sean Cox's Intention

28th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Josephine Creamer RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Olga and Frank Carvalho RIP

1st March *SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Christopher Wilkinson RIP (2nd Anniv)
10.30am	Holy Family	Packie McEleney RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Lisa Bowell's Intentions
6pm	Holy Family	Leonard Bonner RIP

2nd Monday

9.30am	Our Lady	Tracey Laycock RIP
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3rd Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Dr. Des Coffey RIP
10.30am	Our Lady	Funeral Mass for Dennis Murphy
7pm	Our Lady	NO MASS

4th Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	Ellen Castelo RIP Anniv
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5th Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	Margaret Walsh RIP
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6th Friday

6.30am	St. Bonaventure	
9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
12.30pm	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Mass for Pat Shelford
7pm	Our Lady	Carmela Pisapia RIP (4th Anniv)

7th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	
6pm	Our Lady	Ken and Carol Shaw RIP

8th *THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Keith Hughes RIP (8th Anniv)
10.30am	Holy Family	Ayke Okechukwu RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Frank Cafferty RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Bridie Frost RIP Anniv