



**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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 8th March, 2026**

**Parish Priest** Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234      [norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk)

**Assistant Priest** Fr. James Boyle 01707 327434      [jamesboyle@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:wgc@rcdow.org.uk)

Website [wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://wgc-catholics.org.uk)

**TRINITY HALL** Bookings + enquiries can be made through [www.wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://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 we pause on our journey with St. Matthew to turn to St. John's Gospel. For three Sundays we will have lengthy passages with deep and thought-provoking teaching about Jesus and his identity. Chapter 4 takes us to Sychar in the land of Samaria. Jesus rests by a well while his disciples search for food. There is a powerful encounter between the Lord and a Samaritan woman. So many boundaries are crossed; there is understanding, misunderstanding and then an insightful discovery of who Jesus is. The gift of the *Water of life*, awareness of Jesus being *the Christ* and the declaration that he is the *Saviour of the World* are notions which tease us into reflecting on who he is to us, what he offers and what it means to drink the water which gives life. We are immersed into the life of Baptism and the call to share our knowledge and love of Christ with others. Relationship is crucial to the bond created and just as he knows us intimately, so he calls us to experience the riches of his friendship with us. So, spend some time this week with him. Where is the 'well' or equivalent where he is waiting? What can encourage this union of love? What can get in the way? For the Samaritan woman, her life was totally changed. Sadly, once she has introduced her neighbours to Jesus, she is not needed and they can go directly to Jesus. There are times we have to step back!

In this part of Hertfordshire we will welcome Archbishop Richard Moth on Wednesday. He will meet headteachers at 4.30pm, clergy at 5.30pm and celebrate Mass with us at 6.30pm. Nothing like this has happened for many years! Let us pray that, as our Shepherd in Westminster, Archbishop Richard will be a source of inspiration, a courageous leader and a catalyst for helping us all shape a new vision for the future. May God bless him, the visitors who gather and all our Community. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Thank you for your encouragement. With much love, **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 22nd March at Our Lady's Church 3.30 - 5pm.

**CONFIRMATION** The Group will be leading the Stations of the Cross on Friday 13th March at Our Lady's after 7pm Mass. They will have a fundraising Service Project the weekend of 21st/22nd March when they will sell bags of Easter sweets for charity at each Mass that weekend. More details soon. Confirmation will be on Friday 8th May at 7.30pm

**RCIA** (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) The Group has a Retreat Day today (9th) 3 - 5pm in Our Lady's Church. Their next session will be on Monday 16th March at 7.30pm in Our Lady's. We are blessed to have 30 for the Sacraments at Easter: 21 adults and 3 children for Baptism, 3 Receptions into the Catholic Church and 3 adult Catholics completing initiation by being confirmed. Please keep them in your prayers.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:macleaneltham@gmail.com)

**CHURCH CLEANING** Thank you to all who have helped keep our churches and grounds clean and tidy!

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS & BREAKFAST** Thank you to the Team who provide the breakfast. The next early Mass will be 1st May at 6.30am at St. Bonaventure's.

**MEXICO PILGRIMAGE** to Guadalupe 6th - 14th October 2026. 44 have signed up! There is still room for more. However, the new price guaranteed until 30th April is now £2445pp for two sharing a room. Contact [allsaintstravel.co.uk/mx1128/](http://allsaintstravel.co.uk/mx1128/)

**WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE** Come and celebrate the Annunciation in Walsingham, Norfolk on Wednesday 25th March! Join the coach leaving from St Bartholomew's, St Albans, at 7.45am. Holy Mass will be celebrated in Walsingham's Basilica at 12 noon, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. Walk or ride the Holy Mile and visit the site of the original Holy House, and say the Prayer for England. Cost £27 for adults, free for children. Contact Rosemary Roscoe 07723546642 [rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com) or Margaret Leahy [margleahy@gmail.com](mailto:margleahy@gmail.com) 01727 763832 for further details.

**DIVINE MERCY SERVICE** will be held from 2.00-4.00pm on Sunday 12th April at Holy Family Church, 194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ. (Rosary, Hour of Divine Mercy with Chaplet + Veneration of Image, Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration. *Come!*

**WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP** invites you to *End of Life Matters* on Thursday 12th March 7.30 - 9pm in the Focolare Centre AL8 6JG. There will be a variety of faiths and viewpoints. Should be really interesting! Why not go?

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** 17th - 24th July. Registration open until 30th April. See poster on noticeboard. Scan QR code or call 0207 798 9173 or email

[elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk). Youth and adult volunteers, registered medical professionals needed. Also, praying pilgrims, whether able-bodied or needing assistance, are welcome to journey together to a place of prayer, peace and compassion where illness or disability does not define people.

**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 no reception. However, he will greet people at the end of Mass.

**ALTAR SERVERS** who wish to serve on Wednesday should sign up this weekend on the list in the Sacristy of each church and come by 6pm. We have to have sufficient chairs on Sanctuary for clergy and servers!

**PARISH HOSPITALITY GROUP VOLUNTEERS WARMLY WELCOMED** Whether you can help occasionally or more regularly, your support would be greatly appreciated - no previous experience needed!

**Wednesday 11th March – Archbishop's Visit** Food contributions (sandwiches, finger food or cake) are needed to support hospitality for the Archbishop, headteachers and clergy at meetings before Mass.

**Easter Vigil (Saturday 4th April at 8.30pm) & Future Events** Help with refreshments, serving and welcoming at parish-wide celebrations. You can help by baking, preparing simple food, serving on the day, or joining the team for future events. Even occasional support makes a real difference. To volunteer or find out more contact Helen Meyer, Email: helenannstoy@hotmail.com, Telephone: 07973 363 214 *We are grateful to Ann Chappell for co-ordinating this group over many years.*

**WORKS IN WGC** St. Bonaventure's Hall is having a second phase of repair/re-decoration in time for its Centenary; this will include a new floor in the Hall. Holy Family Church has new lights and electrics. Work has begun on putting new flat roofs on Our Lady's Church - a project which will take a month. Lots to be done and money needed to cover the expense! If you can help financially, why not make a donation? *Thank you for your continuing generosity!*

**BANK DETAILS** To pay parish by bank transfer, HSBC account WRCDD 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!*

**SOUTH ASIAN MASS** Thank you to everyone who worked so hard last Saturday to create a wonderful celebration and sharing of a variety of languages, cultures and customs of Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. One of the dignitaries noted how unique the occasion was; another loved the breaking down of barriers with so many participating.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY** Come for refreshments after 9.30am Mass on Tues.17th March.

**FILIPINO MASS** Sat. 6th June 6pm.

**AFRICAN MASS** on Sunday 28th June 12 noon.

**POLISH-ENGLISH MASS** Sat. 3rd October 6pm.

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** on Saturday 9th May at 6pm. *The above celebrations will be followed by parties in Trinity Hall*

**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 **Saturday 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 rogetaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Tito Pereira – Assistant Director Permanent Diaconate 07977 599110 or titopereira@rcdow.org.uk

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

**LENTEN LUNCHESES** Catholic Women's League have Lenten lunches every Saturday in Lent from 12noon till 1.30pm in the Trinity Hall. £5 suggested donation.

**LENT PRAYER COURSE** on 'Prayer' continues on Wednesday 18th March 7 - 8pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. To join online - Stefan websg@hotmail.com.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### 7th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Lisa Class RIP Anniv  
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

### 9th Monday

9.30am Our Lady Liz Davin RIP

### 10th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure *100 years since the Foundation Stone was laid*  
7pm Our Lady Nancy Attwood RIP (3rd Anniv) **1**

### 11th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Agnes Delaney RIP  
1pm Our Lady Funeral Mass for Maureen Fell  
6.30pm Our Lady Welcome Mass for Archbishop Richard Moth

### 12th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family

### 13th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Anene Okechukwu RIP  
7pm Our Lady

### 14th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Liz and Ron Davin RIP  
6pm Our Lady Packie McEleney RIP

### 15th *FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Mothering Sunday)*

9am St. Bonaventure John and Teresa O'Sullivan RIP Anniv  
10.30am Holy Family Josephine Brogan RIP Anniv  
12 noon Our Lady Ron and Liz Davin RIP Anniv  
6pm Holy Family Carol Organ RIP

## 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](https://www.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*

**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. *Come and enjoy peace and refreshment before the Lord!*

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