



**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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (15.03) & FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (22.03)**

**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

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Church bids us 'Rejoice!' in Latin *Laetare*. We are half-way through the Lenten journey. We can catch our breath and reflect on our response to God and the gracious gift we receive in his Son Jesus. There is still a trek ahead!

The respite from this stopping off point is an opportunity to refocus ourselves on the Cross and the wonder of Resurrection which lie ahead. The Gospel passage offered to us tells us of a person who has never had sight. By carrying out the command of Jesus to wash in the Pool of Siloam after the Lord has daubed his eyes with paste, the man comes back *seeing*. No one can believe that this is the same blind beggar and conversations take place between various groups trying to establish what has taken place and the veracity of this man's story. At times it gets quite tortuous! Why don't they get to the complete answer sooner? St. John's technique through discussion/dispute is gradually for the realisation of the truth about Jesus to emerge from the protagonists themselves. The man with new sight comes to a deep and authentic vision of Jesus: 'Lord, I believe.' are his words *and he worships Jesus!* We ourselves in Lent need patience with ourselves and others as we come to rediscover and renew our faith. The Lord engages with us in this pathway of exploration and he is content to go with us even when there are dead-ends. *He guides us on the right path!* On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Bethany is the scene of one of Jesus' greatest signs - he raises his friend Lazarus from the dead. The humanity and divinity of Christ are revealed and so many witness what takes place and truly come to *know* Jesus. A *sign* in St. John's Gospel points to who Jesus is and calls people to faith in him. Can we too respond to the One who is the Resurrection and the Life? What are the consequences of a much deeper faith for our own way of living?

Blessings on your Lent! With love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY** to all mothers and honorary mums. *God bless you!*

**DON'T FORGET** to move your clock one hour forward 28th into 29th March!!!

**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 have a fundraising Service Project next weekend (21/22) when they will sell bags of Easter sweets for our local HCPT Group 183 at each Mass that weekend. 2 bags for £5. Please give them your support.

**RCIA** (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) Next sessions on Mondays 16th and 23rd 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 pray for them.*

**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.

**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)

**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. Mass will be celebrated, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. Walk or ride the Holy Mile and visit the site of the original Holy House. Cost £27 for adults, free for children. Contact Rosemary 07723546642 [rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.roscoe@gmail.com)

**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!*

**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.

**HCPT GROUP 183** would like to express heartfelt thanks to everyone in the parish for your incredible generosity in supporting HCPT Group 183. Through your kindness and support, an amazing £3,751 has been raised towards the Easter pilgrimage to Lourdes. Your donations, prayers, and encouragement mean so much. This support will help make it possible for the group to travel to Lourdes this Easter and join many others in prayer, friendship, and service.

**AFRICAN COMMUNITY** has a planning meeting on Sunday 22nd March 1pm in Our Lady's Church to prepare for Mass on 28th June.

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH** on Church Road is running a weekly Dementia Support Group on Mondays 1.00 - 3.30pm. They are looking for volunteers to help in a variety of ways. Contact Tracy 07596 452960 or [miss.devurc@yahoo.com](mailto:miss.devurc@yahoo.com) for more info.

**ARCHBISHOP RICHARD MOTH** Last Wednesday's gathering was a great celebration of community, faith and love. All who came had a brilliant time and left church so happy. The Archbishop enjoyed meeting so many people from this side of Hertfordshire. We prayed for him and welcomed him in a variety of ways. Thank you to all who helped in the Trinity Hall and in the Liturgy - every bit of support was much appreciated!

**HOSPITALITY GROUP** If you can help by baking, preparing simple food, serving and welcoming, contact Helen Meyer email: helenannstoy@hotmail.com, telephone: 07973 363 214  
*Next 'event' - the Reception after the Easter Vigil on Saturday 4th April.*

**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 Wednesdays 18th and 25th March 7 - 8pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. To join online - Stefan websg@hotmail.

**SATURDAY CLUB** for those with learning disabilities meets next on Saturday 11th April 2 - 4 pm in the Trinity Hall.

**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 WRC DT 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!*

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!** Come for refreshments after 9.30am Mass on Tues-day 17th March at St. Bonaventure's. .

**LINDA FINN RIP** Linda's Funeral Mass at St. Peter's Church in Tewin on Tuesday 24th March 12 noon. The C. of E. and R.C. Bishops have given their permissions.

**WILLIAM STONE RIP** William's Funeral Mass Our Lady's Friday 27th March 1pm

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:** *These celebrations lead into parties in Trinity Hall.*

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

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

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

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** on Saturday 9th May at 6pm.

**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). **ST.**

**JOHN HENRY NEWMAN SCHOOL** in Stevenage had its religious inspection recently. It received Grade 1 (outstanding) judgements in all areas. *Well done!*

**NICHOLAS BREAKSPEAR SCHOOL** invites you to an event called *End of Life Care: Science and Technology at the Service of Humankind*. Guest speakers, Baroness Julie Smith of Newnham and Prof David Albert Jones (St Mary's, Twickenham), will reflect on the challenges that affect the way we think about medicine and the development of biomedical technologies, the significance of the care of the sick, the complexities of healthcare delivery, ethical and legal boundaries, and our social responsibility toward the most vulnerable. Drinks and nibbles followed by roundtable activities and a Q&A. Monday 23rd March 5.00 - 7.00pm Colney Heath Lane, St Albans AL4 0TT. Link to register: <https://nbsscienceandfaithsymposiumsendoflifecare.eventbrite.co.uk> Any questions to Miss Gallego [gallegom@nbs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:gallegom@nbs.herts.sch.uk)

**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 Lady Chapel.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** Our Lady's 12 noon Mass. The Passion Reading on Palm Sunday will be acted by the children. Practices on 22nd and 29th March at 11am.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** 30 minutes Mondays after 9.30am Mass Our Lady's, Thursdays after 9.30am Mass Holy Family and Saturdays at St. Bonaventure's after 10am Mass.

**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.

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

### **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

### **16th Monday**

9.30am	Our Lady	Jonathan Joachim (Intention)
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### **17th Tuesday *ST. PATRICK***

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Patricia Shelford RIP
7pm	Our Lady	Amelia Joachim (In thanksgiving)

### **18th Wednesday**

9.30am	Holy Family	In thanksgiving (Ventur-Lim Family)
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### **19th Thursday *ST. JOSEPH***

9.30	Holy Family	Mario Mariosa RIP (2nd Anniv)
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### **20th Friday**

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Nora O'Kelly RIP
7pm	Our Lady	Margaret Caulfield RIP Anniv

### **21st Saturday**

10am	St. Bonaventure	Pat Shelford RIP
6pm	Our Lady	John and Mary Davin RIP

### **22nd *FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT***

9am	St. Bonaventure	Ayke Okechukwu RIP
10.30am	Holy Family	David Thomas RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Annette Basilia Gurjao (Birthday Intention)
6pm	Holy Family	Felicidad Ventura RIP Anniv

### **23rd Monday**

9.30am	Our Lady	Paddy O'Driscoll RIP (25th Anniv)
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**24th Tuesday**

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Rebecca Theopillal RIP
12 noon	St. Peter's Tewin	Funeral Mass for Linda Finn
7pm	Our Lady	

**25th Wednesday *THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD (not a Holy Day of Obligation)***

9.30am	Holy Family	Liz McGeehan RIP
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**26th Thursday**

9.30am	Holy Family	Peter Emmanuel RIP
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**27th Friday**

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Mary Emmanuel (healing)
1pm	Our Lady	Funeral Mass for William Stone
7pm	Our Lady	Mikey Davitt RIP

**28th Saturday**

10am	St. Bonaventure	Patricia Shelford RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Packie McEleney RIP ( <i>Clocks one hour forward!!</i> )