



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

PALM SUNDAY (29.3)
2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER(12.4)

EASTER SUNDAY (5.4)
3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER (19.04)

Parish Priest Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234

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Assistant Priest Fr. James Boyle 01707 327434

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Parish Administrator Mrs Jacqui Boon 01707 323234 Day/time will vary these weeks

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 are now in the intensity of Holy Week and Easter! We are renewing the identity received through Holy Baptism. We are sharing with others the Good News of Jesus Christ - God's Son who suffered, died and rose again! This is joyful and also demanding! We cannot arrive at the Resurrection without the Cross. There is no way of by-passing the agony Jesus went through for our sakes and in obedience to the Father. Just think of Our Lady. Mary's courage at the foot of the Cross, standing there and giving her Son the support to undertake his total Sacrifice. What did she receive? She was given all of us! We are her children.

Easter is about New Life. We are pointed to our destiny of sharing in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remember he rose Body and Soul and one day we look forward to the Resurrection of our bodies too. What will it be like? No-one quite knows. The disciples met the Risen Lord a number of times. Very often they did not recognise him; sometimes he appeared from nowhere! But Jesus Christ the Lord found ways of revealing his Presence, especially in the Breaking of Bread - the Eucharist!

*May the Lord watch over you and your loved ones. May his peace come to our world.
With much love and prayer, **Fr. Norbert***

HOLY WEEK

RECONCILIATION SERVICE at Our Lady's on Tuesday 31st March at 8pm. There will be 6 priests hearing Confessions. The Service will begin with Scripture and homily followed by the time of Confession. People can leave once they have had the opportunity to go to Confession. This is a deep moment in our lives as we get ready for the Easter Mystery. By reflecting on our lives and the power of God's compassionate forgiving love in Jesus, we are free from all that weighs upon us and can make anew be-ginning. Even if it has been a long time, don't worry - the priest will guide you!

CHRISM MASS at Westminster Cathedral (near Victoria Station) on Tuesday 31st March at 12 noon. All are welcome. The new Archbishop will bless the Holy Oils: the Oil of Chrism used at Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination to Priesthood and for the Consecration of Churches and Altars; the Oil of Catechumens for those who are to be baptised; the Oil of the Sick to give strength to those who are ill or infirm. The priests present will renew their priestly promises. It is a great gathering of the Diocese.

MAUNDY THURSDAY There will be 'watching' in Our Lady's Chapel until midnight. It is a moment to be spent with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, preparing for his Passion. The intimacy and silence open us up even more to his presence.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE in Howardsgate at 11am. Christians from across the town will gather, remembering and proclaiming Christ's great Sacrifice. There will be Scripture, music and reflection. The Service lasts around 40 minutes and will be followed by hot cross buns (!) in the United Reformed Church.

***HOLY SATURDAY** Blessing of Food at Our Lady's at 4pm. In this tradition, people from many parts of the world bring baskets of food to be blessed in readiness for Easter. There will be music and song, Scripture and reflection - some parts is Polish. Everyone is welcome.*

***EASTER VIGIL** on Saturday 4th April at 8.30pm at Our Lady's. This is THE most important Service of the year! We gather in darkness outside, the Easter Fire is blessed followed by the lighting of the Easter Candle. We enter a darkened church with our own candles. Easter is proclaimed. There are many passages of Scripture. Water is blessed followed by the celebration of the Sacraments. We conclude by entering into the Easter Eucharist. It is amazing! It is God's gift to us through his Son's Death and Resurrection. If you have never been before, why not come this year? Afterwards there is a great party in the Trinity Hall for all who have gathered!*

***EASTER SUNDAY** Morning Masses with renewal of Baptismal Promises. Remember no evening Mass!*

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

FIRST COMMUNION MASSES

Our Lady's: Sundays 3rd and 17th May, 7th June all at 12 noon.

Holy Family: Sunday 10th May 10.30am.

St. Bonaventure: Sunday 24th May 9am.

CONFIRMATION The Group have their next session on Sunday 19th April at 7pm in the Trinity Hall. They did really well on their fundraising Service Project which raised £565 for our HCPT Group 183 which goes out to Lourdes on Easter Monday. The Confirmation Rehearsal will be on Sunday 26th April at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Confirmation Mass on Friday 8th May at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

RCIA 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.* The Group will gather on Monday 27th April at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy to celebrate their recent reception of the Sacraments and the joy of being full members of the Church.

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 foodbank@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 07811926002 or 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.

DIVINE MERCY SERVICE will be held from 2.00 - 4.00pm on Sunday 12th April at Holy Family Church. There will be Rosary, Hour of Divine Mercy with Chaplet + Veneration of Image, Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration.

CAKE SALE at Holy Family Church on Sunday 12th April to raise funds for Epilepsy Action.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY Would anyone like to help with refreshments?

FUNERALS Funeral Mass for Rosario (Charro) Hyden will be on Monday 27th April at 12.30pm at St. Bonaventure's.

Laura Gap's Funeral will be in Poland on Wednesday 1st April.

Mary Cade died recently. There are no details yet of her Funeral.

EASTER THANKS Easter is probably the busiest time of the year in the Church. We are so grateful to the huge number of people who give of their time to support our three churches in so many ways - some up front in the Liturgy, others quietly behind the scenes. *Thank you!* This is a demonstration of the hard work going on right through the year to keep our community alive, active, welcoming and faithful. *Thank you!* We are blessed with a multitude who come to worship here in the Garden City enriching our churches with your prayerful presence. *Thank you!* Fr. James and Fr. Norbert are grateful for the support they receive and for the kind Easter cards and gifts at this time. *Thank you!*

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CENTENARY Soon the second phase of the redecoration of St. Bonaventure's Church will begin, getting ready for a worthy celebration of the 100th! The Foundation Stone was laid on 10th March 1926 and the first celebration of Mass on 14th September 1926. Unfortunately Archbishop Richard Moth cannot come but Bishop Paul McAleenan has kindly agreed to celebrate a Centenary Mass on Sunday 13th September at 3pm. This can be followed by an Afternoon Tea. Also, on the Feast of St. Bonaventure (Wednesday 15th July) the 9.30am Mass will be celebrated at St. Bonaventure's. A date will be set in early June to plan for these events. *Watch this space!*

OTHER WORKS As mentioned before the electrics at Holy Family have been addressed. We are still waiting for the completion of the renewal of the flat roofs at Our Lady's...a long process! If anyone has money to spare, it would be gratefully received in paying off the remaining loan on the Trinity Hall (£100k) and the works which have been undertaken. Your generosity is great - thank you!

VOLUNTEERS We are so grateful to the many volunteers who generously give their time and services to the Parish. The Diocese of Westminster asks that all volunteers complete a Confidentiality Agreement Form. *This is a requirement.* The forms are available at the back of each church. Please complete it and return to Fr. Norbert as soon as possible. Parents should complete one for their son/daughter who serves at the altar or who reads at Mass if they are under age. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY is on 25th/26th April this year. It is an opportunity to reflect on our different callings in the Church and how together we create a harmony of service to our world. It is also a chance to pray for those still discerning what God is calling them to do/be.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND The annual collection will be the weekend of 25th/26th April. Envelopes should become available especially for those able to Gift Aid their contribution. Thank you.

HCPT GROUP 183 will keep you in prayer in Easter Week as they travel to Lourdes. Thank you for your generosity. God bless you all.

MEETING FOR THE WIDOWED Tuesday 7th April at 2.30pm. More info from Mary Gateshill marygateshill@hotmail.com

CHURCH CLEANING Tuesday 31st March St. Bonaventure after 9.30 Mass. Wednesday 1st April Holy Family after 9.30 Mass and Stations of the Cross. Please come and lend a hand.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY Thank you to everyone who helped with the party.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

FILIPINO MASS Saturday 6th June 6pm.

AFRICAN MASS on Sunday 28th June 12 noon.

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

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Saturday 9th May at 6pm.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 23rd May 2.30pm. Couples celebrating **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th+** Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2026. Please give Fr. Norbert husband and wife's names, Wedding date, full postal address and contact email (or phone no.). *A number of couples have sent their details which Fr. Norbert has passed on to the Diocese. Final call!*

HOSPITALITY GROUP Contact Helen Meyer helenannstoy@hotmail.com, 07973 363 214 Next 'event' - the Reception after Easter Vigil on Saturday 4th April. Please let Helen know if you can offer help in any way. Thank you.

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!*

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP Next meeting Thursday 16th April 7.30 - 9pm in Focolare Centre, Parkway AL8 6JG. 'Theology: Queen of the Sciences?' Speaker Canon David Munchin Team Vicar at St. Mary's, Welwyn.

VENUE HIRE Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City. Looking for a space for a gathering (of up to 100 people) after Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, or a reception after the Funeral? Self-catering and full-catering options. Contact: cfu@focolare.org.uk or 01707 323620

MEXICO PILGRIMAGE to Guadalupe 6th - 14th October 2026. Contact allsaintstravel.co.uk/mx1128/

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 17th - 24th July. Call 0207 798 9173 or email elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk .

CONFESSIONS *Sacrament of Reconciliation (from 11th April)* Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30 St. Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11am Our Lady Saturday 5 - 5.30pm

CHAPEL Closed. Reopens on Monday 27th April 8.30am - 4pm.

STREAMED MASS on youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral on Fridays 12 noon in the Lady Chapel.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Our Lady's at 12 noon Mass *from 19th April*

MASS INTENTIONS

28th Saturday

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

29th PALM SUNDAY

9am	St. Bonaventure	Samantha Candeggi RIP
10.30am	Holy Family	Patrick McEleney RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Fr. Michael Groarke RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Jonathan Joachim's Intention

30th Monday

9.30am	Our Lady	
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31st Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
7pm	Our Lady	Maurice and Benoit Gauchard RIP
8pm	Our Lady	Reconciliation Service with Confessions

1st April Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	In thanksgiving (PH)
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2nd Thursday MAUNDY THURSDAY (No morning Mass)

7pm	Holy Family	Mass of the Lord's Supper For the People
8pm	Our Lady	Mass of the Lord's Supper For the People

Watching in the Chapel at Our Lady's until midnight

3rd Friday GOOD FRIDAY

10am	St. Bonaventure	Stations of the Cross
11am	Howardsgate	Ecumenical Service <i>outdoors</i>
12 noon	Our Lady	Children's Stations of the Cross
3pm	St. Bonaventure	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
3pm	Holy Family	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7pm	Our Lady	Celebration of the Lord's Passion

4th Saturday HOLY SATURDAY

10am	St. Bonaventure	Confessions
4pm	Our Lady	Blessing of Food
8.30pm	Our Lady	Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter For the People

5th EASTER SUNDAY

9am	St. Bonaventure	For the People
10.30am	Holy Family	For the People
12 noon	Our Lady	For the People
6pm	No Evening Mass	

6th EASTER MONDAY

10am	Our Lady	Martin Donohugh RIP
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7th EASTER TUESDAY

10am	St. Bonaventure	Edmond Devine RIP
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8th EASTER WEDNESDAY

10am	Holy Family	Mary Keogh RIP
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9th EASTER THURSDAY

10am	Holy Family	Special Intention (CW)
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10th EASTER FRIDAY

10am	St. Bonaventure	Rose Parish RIP
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11th EASTER SATURDAY

10am	St. Bonaventure	
6pm	Our Lady	Packie McEleney RIP

12th SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

9am	St. Bonaventure	
10.30am	Holy Family	Terry Hogan RIP Anniv
12 noon	Our Lady	Josephine Creamer RIP
2pm	Holy Family	Divine Mercy Service
6pm	Holy Family	Patrick and Mary Byrne RIP Anniv

13th Monday

9.30am Our Lady

14th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Liza Sabalvaro RIP Birthday

7pm Our Lady Marjorie Nichols RIP

15th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family

16th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family John Anthony Stokes RIP (6 months)

17th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure

7pm Our Lady

18th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure

6pm Our Lady Brian Davidson RIP

19th *THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER*

9am St. Bonaventure Lucy Dias RIP and Nelson D'Lima RIP

10.30am Holy Family Cheryl and Graham Williams (Intention) 1

2 noon Our Lady James Coyle RIP (1st Anniv)

6pm Holy Family

20th Monday 9.30am Our Lady**21st Tuesday**

9.30am St. Bonaventure

7pm Our Lady

22nd Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Brian Haughton RIP

23rd Thursday *ST. GEORGE*

9.30am Holy Family Louise Redman RIP

24th Friday *St. Erkenwald and St. Mellitus*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Terrance Boyle (Int)

7pm Our Lady

25th Saturday *ST. MARK*

10am St. Bonaventure Josie Bell RIP

6pm Our Lady Josie Shakeshaft RIP

26th *FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER*

9am St. Bonaventure

10.30am Holy Family Raphael Winch (Int)

12 noon Our Lady Patrick Creamer RIP Anniv

6pm Holy Family