



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

3rd May, 2026

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 Tues/Wed/Fri 9am -12 noon, Thurs 1 - 4pm

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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

*In today's Gospel Reading from St. John, Jesus refers to himself as 'the way and the truth and the life.' This is in response to a question from Thomas. How did Thomas grasp the answer? What do the Lord's words mean to you? **Way** suggests to me a journey, some-thing which is happening. There is a starting off point and place; the destination is ahead - sometimes obvious, at other moments hidden. Through our connection with Jesus Christ in Baptism, we are immersed in him, who knew his origin at the Father's Right Hand, his Mission to bring us a living message and the goal to take us all to his Father in heaven. **Truth** makes me reflect on what Jesus taught. Through our relationship with him, we have the capacity to come to an understanding of the timeless quality of God's love for the world and for each one of us personally. In St. John's Gospel, the truth of who God is is made flesh in Jesus. **Life** points me to an experience of the wonder of having Jesus live within me and my living in him and through him in the Father. This aspect is mysterious! We will never fully be able to put into words what this *indwelling* means, but it happens. I invite you to ponder the resonance of these Gospel words from the lips of Jesus, penned by John the Evangelist and apply them to your life.*

Our Second Reading from St. Peter's First Letter speaks about us: 'You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his (God's) own possession.' Wow! I/we have been personally called by God. There is a nobility in our identity. God's holiness shines in our lives. We belong to God. Reflect on who you/we are. This is so we may *proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light*. So, we cannot only revel in who we are; we must share our God with others - that's our calling! Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend. May God bless you.

With love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

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

FIRST COMMUNION MASSES *Please keep our children in your prayers.* 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 Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Confirmation Mass on Friday 8th May at 7.30pm in Our Lady's Church. *Let us pray for our young people!* The newly confirmed will then have a gathering on Friday 5th June with Mass at 7pm in Our Lady's and a social in the Trinity Hall.

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 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 The next early Mass will be on 5th June at 6.30am at St. Bonaventure's. *Thank you to the Team which gets everything ready!*

ANTHONY PIACENTINI RIP Tony's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's on Thursday 7th May at 9.30am.

RICHARD NOLAN RIP Memorial Service for Dickie on Friday 8th May at 2.30pm.

CHARLIE BRUNT RIP Charlie's Funeral Service will be in the Chapel at Oakhill Cemetery on Thursday 14th May at 10am.

CHURCH CLEANING St. Bonaventure's: Tuesday 5th May after 9.30am Mass. Holy Family: Wednesday 6th May after 9.30am Mass.

CROWNING OF OUR LADY at Our Lady's Church on Monday 4th May. There will be Mass at 10am, Rosary with Crowning of Our Lady's Statue, Procession outside and Picnic Lunch in Trinity Hall Garden. All welcome! Let others know.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS Friday 8th May 30 minutes of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's. Similarly on Friday 15th May after 7pm Mass at Our Lady's, Wednesday 20th May after Holy Family's 9.30 Mass and Saturday 23rd May after St. Bonaventure's 10am Mass.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND There are some Gift Aid envelopes. Thank you.

HCPT GROUP 183 We want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who made our pilgrimage at Easter so special. To our 5 amazing youngsters – you were an absolute pleasure to have with us. The friendships, bonds, laughter, and love you shared throughout the week were truly inspiring and reminded us all what this pilgrimage is about.

To our helpers and volunteers – thank you for your dedication, commitment, and the time you gave so generously before and during the pilgrimage. Your care and kindness were at the heart of everything we did.

To parents and guardians - thank you for entrusting us with the care of your children. Your trust means more to us than words can say.

To our supporters far and wide, thank you for helping with fundraising, planning, prayer, and ongoing support. Every contribution, big or small, helped make this pilgrimage unforgettable.

Together, in love x Well done everyone!

INTERFAITH GROUP 'Religious education in Schools' Speaker: Shammi Rahman, Equalities and Diversity Adviser (HFL Education) & Lead RE Adviser for Hertfordshire Thursday 14th May 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway AL8 6JG

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CENTENARY The second phase of the redecoration of St. Bonaventure's Church will begin at the start of June. The Foundation Stone was laid on 10th March 1926 and the first celebration of Mass on 14th September 1926. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate a Centenary Mass on Sunday 13th September at 3pm. Also, on the Feast of St. Bonaventure (Wednesday 15th July) the 9.30am Mass will be celebrated at St. Bonaventure's. There will be a planning meeting on Wednesday 10th June at 7pm in St. Bonaventure's. *Come and share your ideas for the Centenary.* Fr. Norbert contacted the Council to locate grave of Frances Clemson, the Founder of St. Bonaventure's, who died at the end of 1944. It is in Hatfield Hyde Cemetery and Fr. Norbert has now seen it!

MORE MONEY NEEDED! 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 in our three churches. Already an extra £12k has been donated for which we are very grateful. Any more out there? Thanking you in advance!

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!*

VOLUNTEERS 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 and return to Fr. Norbert. 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. Another requirement is for people to agree to be in a livestreamed Mass - readers, servers especially. *So many regulations!* Fr. Norbert has the forms. Please speak to him if you are seen in an online Mass. Thanks.

SATURDAY CLUB for those with learning disabilities meets next on Saturday 9th May 2 - 4 pm in the Trinity Hall.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Saturday 9th May 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a Get-together in the Trinity Hall with bingo, quiz, a raffle, refreshments. Bring food to share.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

FILIPINO MASS Saturday 6th June 6pm.

AFRICAN MASS on Sunday 28th June 12 noon.

MASS WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK organised by the SVP on Saturday 4th July at 12 noon at the Focolare Centre.

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

HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY SCHOOL Careers Day - 12th June 1.00 - 3.15pm. Could you help inspire Holy Family children (Years 4 - 6) informing them about different career choices? Please email rparmley@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk for more info.

OPAL (Outdoor play and learning) Can you donate: pots, pans and utensils, traffic cones, barriers and signs, anything with wheels - prams, wheel chairs, board with castors, skateboards, arts and crafts, materials or playdough tools? Contact school office on 01707 375518 or admin@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk. Many thanks for your support!

RUN4UNITY is an annual, worldwide sports relay race and peace initiative. It links children and young people across different time zones to promote peace, fraternity and the "Golden Rule" (treating others as you want to be treated). It will take place at Our Lady's School, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3TF on Sunday 3rd May. The event will be opened by the Mayor, Mrs Lyn Chesterman at 2.30pm. There will then be a prayer for peace, followed by the Run4Unity and then other team games, finishing at 5pm. All are welcome. More information from Joy Watters 07710090150.

MASS INTENTIONS

2nd Saturday *St. Athanasius*

10am St. Bonaventure Mary Cade RIP
6pm Our Lady Vicente Carniyan Junior RIP Birthday

3rd **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

9am St. Bonaventure Mary Cade RIP
10.30am Holy Family Niamh Kinnane RIP
12 noon Our Lady Richard Coakley RIP
6pm Holy Family For people with no family

4th Monday *ENGLISH MARTYRS*

10am Our Lady Janet Lewis (Intention)

5th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Chichi Umaefulam (For a Successful Operation)
7pm Our Lady

6th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family In honour of St. Jude
11.30am Our Lady Funeral Service for Patrick Healy

7th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Daniel McAuliffe RIP
11am Our Lady Funeral Service for Tony Piacentini

8th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Osinachi Umaefulam RIP
2.30pm Our Lady Memorial Service for Dickie Nolan
7.30pm Our Lady Confirmation Mass

9th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Con + Margaret McAuliffe RIP Anniv + Family's Int.
6pm Our Lady Valerie Umaefulam (Birthday Blessing)

10th **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

9am St. Bonaventure Jennifer Tyler RIP
10.30am Holy Family Mary Marron RIP Anniv
12 noon Our Lady Vata Family Intention
6pm Holy Family Emerson Gatpo RIP

CONFESSIONS *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30 (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament also)

St. Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11am

Our Lady Saturday 5 - 5.30pm

CHAPEL Open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4pm

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass St. Albans Cathedral on Fridays 12 noon Lady Chapel. *Fr. Norbert will celebrate this Mass on 22nd May*

STREAMED MASS on [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Our Lady's 12 noon Mass *The Rosary for children and families will be prayed in the Chapel on Sunday 10th May at 11.25am before Mass.*