

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. William Johnstone
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

Fifth Sunday of Lent 3rd April 2022

Today's Gospel reading from St. John begins with total mayhem as a woman caught sinning is dragged before the Lord as a test. The passage ends with the silent joy of the lady as she leaves the Lord's presence having been forgiven and she can make a new start in her life. This is a parable of Lent in our lives as we ponder God's gracious love and are open to accepting reconciliation. Just think back to last Sunday's Gospel of the Prodigal Son!

What has gone wrong in your life? Which burdens are you carrying this year in Lent? How are you struggling with life, with faith, with what is happening in the world? Many people wonder what Jesus was writing on the ground with his finger. Perhaps he was listing the sins of the woman's accusers? Maybe he was drawing a picture of the God of mercy and compassion? Could it be the Cross in two strokes summing up the Sacrifice he would make? Think about yourself and allow the Lord to look into your heart; he sees possibilities, a way forward, and he carries our crosses on his shoulder. Reflect on the gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation which he left us and search for words to express your need of his grace. Come to Confession and celebrate the mercy he pours out. Extend your hand to others to give them support and a concrete experience of God's presence.

Finally, picture the lady from the Gospel: the silent realisation that she has not been condemned, the joy welling up in her heart that God has accepted her and the deep peace from having encountered Divine Love in Jesus. There's not long to go in our Lenten journey. Don't lose any opportunity to meet the Lord! God bless you.

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

LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS usually lasting half an hour

Holy Family on Wednesdays at 10am after 9.30 Mass

St. Bonaventure on Fridays at 10am after 9.30 Mass

Our Lady's on Fridays at 7.30pm after 7 o'clock Mass

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT for half an hour

Our Lady's on Mondays after 9.30am Mass

Holy Family on Thursdays after 9.30am Mass (during Confessions)

St. Bonaventure on Saturdays after 10am Mass (during Confessions)

EARLY MORNING MASS There were around 40 people (including a dozen children) last Friday at 6.30 with most staying for a hearty breakfast! We will definitely continue next month on 6th May.

LENT GROUP The Lent Group met on Thursday evening at Holy Family Church. We explored the idea of Mary as Help of Christians and how she can inspire us to make our lives an offering to God. We also discussed the importance of praying the rosary. Next week will be our final meeting.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION on Tuesday 12th April at 8pm in Our Lady's. There will be reflection on Scripture for about 10 minutes and then 3 visiting priests will join Fr. Norbert and Fr. William to hear Confessions. There's time to stop, think and ponder, time to make your Confession and experience the riches of God's mercy in this sacramental way AND the opportunity to go to a priest you do not know (if you prefer)! People leave once they have gone to the priest for Confession. Put the date in your diary. Parents bring your children. Let's avail of this moment in Holy Week to feel the closeness of the Lord to us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

HELP FOR UKRAINE AND REFUGEES Local Church Leaders met last week and we are going to form a support network for refugees who will come to our town. Caritas Westminster has produced a useful summary of ways to help which is on our website.

CWL NEWS The Catholic Women's League hold Thursday Coffee Mornings at 10.30 in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. Everybody welcome.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Any couples wanting to marry this year or next either in WGC or elsewhere should contact Fr. Norbert to organise the paperwork and the Marriage Course. Thank you.

BAPTISMS Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. William if you wish to arrange the Baptism of your child and they will organise all that is needed.

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches

We continue to stream Mass on Sunday at 10am (Next Sunday Palm Sunday Mass will be streamed live at 11.30am)

MASS INTENTIONS Fr. Norbert and Fr. William are celebrating the Mass Intentions week by week. If anyone wants Mass offered for a particular intention, please let them know. Donations for the Masses should be put in an envelope and given to Fr. Norbert or Fr. William or popped through the letterbox of one of the presbyteries. The intentions celebrated will be published in the newsletter as below.

This week Masses have been celebrated for: Special intention, People of the Parishes, Josie Bell RIP (1st anniversary), Roy D'Cunha (thanksgiving), For Ukraine, Pat Finnan RIP, Alan Staples (intention), Joe Neumann RIP, Benoit Gauchard RIP Anniv, The O'Reilly Family Int, Paul Carter RIP Birthday, Josie Bell RIP & Louise Fearn RIP.

CHURCH CLEANING We are very grateful to the volunteers who look after our churches and their grounds keeping them clean and tidy. Our Lady's group needs many more volunteers on Saturday 9th April at 10am for a really good spring clean in readiness for Easter.

St. Bonaventure's cleaning takes place at 10am on Tuesday 12th April. Volunteers are welcome.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES There are sheets with the times of services for Holy Week and Easter. These will appear online too. Please note that some Masses will be livestreamed. Only those exercising ministries will be seen (not the congregation). We need the permission of parents whose children are taking part. The Bishops' Conference has issued guidelines for these Services with some options. Fr. Norbert and Fr. William have decided that for this year (as last year) there will not be the Washing of Feet on Maundy Thursday or individual kissing of the Cross on Good Friday.

On Palm Sunday the children will act out the Passion at 11.30 Mass and the Blessing of Palms will start outside the new hall at 11.30 (sharp!). Please note that there will not be an evening Mass on Easter Sunday.

NEWSLETTER Easter Sunday's newsletter will cover two weeks. So, if there are any items, please let Fr. Norbert have them by Wednesday 13th April. Thank you.

ALTAR SERVERS Please sign up for the Easter Services on sheets which are in each sacristy and come to the practices mentioned. Some Masses in Holy Week will be livestreamed and we will need parents' permission for their children to be seen on the internet.

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BAPTISMS Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. William if you wish to arrange the Baptism of your child and they will organise all that is needed.

A MEDITATION FOR LENT Wednesday 13th April at 7pm at St Hugh of Lincoln Church, Pixmore Way, Letchworth Garden City SG6 3TP
Haydn's Passion - The Seven Last Words performed by the Jubilate Chamber Choir
Musical director: John Edwards. Entrance is free but there will be a retiring collection in aid of Caritas Bakhita House to provide accommodation and support to women escaping human trafficking and modern slavery.

MONK'S WALK SCHOOL are looking for more invigilators to help oversee their exams. Are you reliable, punctual, highly flexible and comfortable under pressure? Can you commit to mornings and/or afternoons during exam seasons? Experience is not essential, full training provided.
Hourly rate £9.74 plus tri-annual holiday pay. Scope for progression.
If you are interested in finding out more about becoming an invigilator contact Ms Joanna Clarke on 01707 322846 or email joclark@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. If you are able to drop off non-perishable food for the needy members of our community, New Zion is happy to receive contributions from 8am on a Wednesday. The address is 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. If anyone would like to make a financial contribution to the Food Bank, please email foodbank@newzioncf.net and you will be given details as to how to make a donation.

TRANSPORT TO MASS If any parishioners need a lift to Mass the Transport to Mass Group is there! If anyone can offer a lift, please contact Kay Mason on 01707 335633. All necessary safeguarding and health and safety guidelines will be followed.

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HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP will be meeting on Tuesday 5th April at 2pm in the parish room at Holy Family. All who come along will be very welcome.

The CAFOD group will also be hosting the coffee morning next Sunday after the 9.30 am mass at Holy Family. If you can spare the time please come along for a tea/coffee and a chat.

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81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Assistant Priest
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williamjohnstone@rcdow.org.uk
Holy Family Church
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

SVP Request for a single mum.
Dining chairs, kettle, girls clothes
4,7 and 8 year olds. Contact Janet
on 01707 326456. Thank you.

FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/Welwyn-Garden-City-Catholic-Churches-113038463699672/> Gospel reflections, the latest news, and so on.

ST ALBANS The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday in the Lady Chapel, All are welcome.

MASS TIMES FOR THE WEEK

02 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Confessions 5-5.30pm
03 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady	
	6pm	Holy Family	
04 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	
05 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	
06 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	
07 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Confessions 10-10.30am
08 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	
09 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Confessions 10.30am - 11am

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 3RD APRIL

Saturday 2nd April

Jeremiah 11:18-20 'I was like a trustful lamb being led to the slaughter-house.'

John 7:4-52 'He must be a prophet...he is the Christ...'

Sunday 3rd April FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Isaiah 43:16-21 'The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.'

Philippians 3:8-14 'All I want is to know Christ...'

John 8:1-11 The woman caught committing adultery experiences forgiveness

Monday 4th April

Daniel 13:41-62 Susanna, unjustly accused by lying elders, is saved.

John 8:12-20 'I am the light of the world.'

Tuesday 5th April

Numbers 21:4-9 'Intercede for us with the Lord.'

John 8:21-30 Many came to believe in him.

Wednesday 6th April

Daniel 3:14-20,24-25,28 The three young men thrown into the fire are saved

John 8:31-42 'I have come from God.'

Thursday 7th April

Genesis 17:3-9 Abraham, his many descendants and the land given in perpetuity

John 8:51-59 'Whoever keeps my word will never see death...'

Friday 8th April

Jeremiah 20:10-13 'I have committed my cause to you.'

John 10:31-42 'You claim to be God'