

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*

Second Sunday of Lent 13th March 2022

Lent is moving fast and our lives are all over the place as we think about all that is happening in the Ukraine with suffering, tears, hunger and devastation. In some ways it impinges on us as did the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic when we were glued to the television watching all that was unfolding, seeing the amazing front-line workers bringing support to those who were sick and feeling quite helpless as to what to do. At the start there was such terror and fear about the coronavirus - who had it or would next be struck by it. As we take in the full impact of the situation in the east of our continent, we can't help but consider the prospect of war, maybe even world war; the use of weapons of destruction would wreak havoc untold and leave long-lasting trauma. As well as the material support which can - and is - being given, we are praying fervently, begging God to pour out his Holy Spirit in torrents which can lavish grace, healing and peace, moving hearts and minds to work beyond barriers which seem insurmountable. Our prayer is based on a deep trust in God and is a sign of our solidarity with the suffering; it expresses our total dependence on God when we can't achieve things on our own.

In our Gospel reading from St. Luke proclaimed at Mass, we see Jesus in deep prayer on a mountain accompanied by a few disciples. He is one with his Father and his whole being radiates the divine: his face changes and his clothing is brilliant as lightning. What a transformation/transfiguration! St. Luke tells us that he talks with Moses and Elijah about his passing - exodus - and we cannot help but remember the powerful experience the people of Israel leaving slavery and tears in Egypt and travelling for 40 long years through the wilderness to the Promised Land - their home! Jesus' awareness of what occurs on that mountain prepares him for the long journey towards Jerusalem and eventual Death and Resurrection. The Church gives us Lent to get ready, to be in training and embark on the final pathway to the Cross knowing that we are intimately connected with God's Son and the destination of heaven. He is our hope, our light and our salvation.

Let us be people of prayer and generous followers of Christ. May 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 is 6.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's on the First Fridays in Lent, next on 1st April. Breakfast in the hall follows. All are most welcome.

LENT GROUP The Lent Group continues to meet on Thursday evenings at Holy Family Church. 32 people have now signed up for the course so we are reaching full capacity in the parish room. This week we explored the idea of Mary as the first disciple and the model for our Christian life.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION on Tuesday 12th April at 8pm in Our Lady's. It has been ages since we've been able to gather in this way. 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 We are still waiting for more details about practical help and will keep you informed. There will be a Ukrainian Fundraising Dinner at the Focolare Centre on Saturday 26th March at 6.30pm. More details next weekend.

FAMILY FAST DAY We remember that there are many people who need our love and support all around the world. Children experiencing malnutrition like Amie's daughter Lombeh did in Sierra Leone or as we are seeing now in Ukraine, families affected by conflict. Your small act of love will make big things happen. Donations to CAFOD this Lent will reach families around the world, enabling local experts to provide support to families in times of need or conflict. You can donate in church using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/lent Envelopes will be collected this weekend.

PARKWAY CLOSURE Parkway will be closed Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th March 9.30am until 4pm for drainage investigations. This will affect easy access to St. Bonaventure's 9.30 Mass on the Tuesday. Mass will still go ahead but please give yourselves more time to get to Mass if you intend coming. Thank you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to parishioner Phyllis McKeogh who last Wednesday reached the grand age of 100! She had a brilliant day surrounded by family, friends, carers, cards and flowers. May God continue to bless her. Congratulations!

OUR LADY SCHOOL Children from Our Lady School Years 5 and 6 will join the congregation at 9.30 Mass in Our Lady's Church and will stay for part of the time of Exposition.

CWL NEWS The Catholic Women's League are starting their Thursday Coffee Mornings again from 17th March at 10.30 in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. Everybody welcome.

PRAYER FOR DEMENTIA WEEK

Lord, thank you for your presence this moment holding us in your love.

Help us to share your love with those who live among us with dementia and frailty that we may see your beauty in them. Amen

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.

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: Peace in Ukraine, Eileen Ling RIP, Phyllis McKeogh's intentions (100th birthday), Kathleen Messer RIP, Michael Callinan RIP, Peter Johnson RIP, Fr. Seamus McGeoghan RIP, Chrissie Morgan RIP, Florentina O. Navarro, Celerina Gruz Grosser (birthday intention), Danuta RIP Anniv, Julian Fitzwilliam RIP, Daisy Thaliath RIP Anniv.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE On the parish website wgc-catholics.org.uk there is form to download requesting a Certificate of Catholic Practice. Please fill it out and return to Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's and he will prepare the document and return to the family. Thank you. If you need a Baptismal Certificate for your child, please contact Kathryn Hubbard on 01707 322579.

OPUS DEI EVENING OF RECOLLECTION at Holy Family Church for Lent on Wednesday 23rd March at 7pm: An Evening of Recollection is like a mini retreat lasting only a couple of hours, spent away from your ordinary occupation, when you can reflect on how you live your faith in your everyday work and with your family, friends and colleagues. An atmosphere of personal prayer and recollection is maintained during the evening to help you consider aspects of your life and identify areas in which you can improve. Two meditations will be given by a priest, along with a talk on some aspect of the spiritual life, an examination of conscience and Benediction at the end of the evening. A priest will also be available for confession throughout the evening. This recollection is intended for men, however, there is also an Evening of Recollection for women at St. Peter's Church, Hatfield on 16th March at 7pm. All are welcome and no booking is necessary. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. William or Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

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.

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.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 14th May 2022 at 3pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass 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 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give Fr. Norbert the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email). Before Covid, many couples from our parishes attended this Mass and were absolutely delighted to share in the joy of the celebration.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP Tuesday 29th March 8pm – 9.15pm **COMMUNAL PRAYER:** As well as praying as individuals, members of particular faith communities often come together to pray. Fr. William will be one of the presenters. Leaflets available at the back of the church.

What is a Jewish minyan?

How does a Catholic service differ from a Methodist one?

What happens when Muslims attend the congregational noon prayer on Fridays?

How are the Quaker meetings for worship conducted?

What happens at a Baha'i Nineteen-Day Feast?

These and many other questions will be answered during this session by those who participate in them. Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/98125135849?pwd=bFRoRC9DYINqR0xyY2R6c21EYUxuUT09>

Meeting ID: 981 2513 5849 Passcode: 748520

CONCERT Our Lady's Church, Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS, is delighted to welcome back the Orpheus Choir who will be singing a range of choral works on 26th March 7.30pm in church. Tickets priced £5 are available from the parish office 01462 459126

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.

Parish Pals-YOUNG ADULTS SOCIAL Rob Hitchcock, Hitchin's Youth Co-ordinator (mob:07862 764 884) writes: I have recently started a young adults' social group that meet on the last Monday of each Month. I want to extend the invitation to your parishioners who are 18-35. The format is very simple we come together to prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament and afterwards we socialise in a local pub or restaurant all in Hitchin. Next gathering on Monday 28th March @ 7pm Our Lady's Church, Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS

Parish Priest
Fr. Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234
norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk
Our Lady's Church
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

Parish Secretary
Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579
parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk
St. Bonaventure's Church
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Assistant Priest
Fr. William Johnstone 01707 327434
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.

STREAMED MASS [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)
We continue to stream Mass on Sunday at 10am

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

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 13TH MARCH

Saturday 12th March

Deuteronomy 26:16-19 Keep and observe God's commands with all your heart and soul.

Matthew 5:43-48 You must be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Sunday 13th March SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 15:5-12,17-18 The covenant God makes with Abram (later to be called Abraham).

Philippians 3:17-4:1 Our homeland is in heaven. We will be transfigured into copies of the Lord's glorious body. The community is Paul's joy and crown.

Luke As Jesus prays the aspect of his face is changed and his clothing becomes brilliant as lightning - the Transfiguration!

Monday 14th March

Daniel 9:4-10 Mercy and pardon come from God

Luke 6:36-38 Be compassionate. Grant pardon and give.

Tuesday 15th March

Isaiah 1:10,16-20 Cease to do evil, learn to do good. Search for justice, help the oppressed.

Matthew 23:1-12 Jesus is critical of the scribes and Pharisees who not practise what they preach.

Wednesday 16th March

Jeremiah 18:18-20 The plot against Jeremiah

Matthew 20:17-28 The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.

Thursday 17th March ST. PATRICK (385-461) Missionary Bishop who took the Gospel to the people of Ireland. Patron Saint of Ireland and many places where the Irish missionaries preached.

Jeremiah 1:4-9 'Go to those to whom I send you.'

Acts 13:46-49 'I have made you a light for the nations.'

Luke 10:1-12,17-20 The sending out of the 72 disciples; their joyful return.

Friday 18th March

Genesis 37:3-4,12-13,17-28 The account of Joseph sold into slavery in Egypt

Matthew 21:33-43,45-46 Parable of the vineyard