

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*

Third Sunday of Lent 20th March 2022

'I have seen the miserable state of my people...I have heard their appeal to be free...Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings...' These are the words of the Lord spoken to Moses when the latter encounters God in the Burning Bush in today's First Reading. God chooses Moses to be the leader to guide the people out of Egypt. He commissions him to speak to Pharaoh. God reveals his name as the One who is pure Being. The journey begins and the hope of Exodus. When I read these words, I thought of how they reflect our feelings for the people of Ukraine, desperate to be set free and relieved of suffering, determined to have their own land and the separation which has ensued as so many have had to flee.

Last Saturday evening our Vigil of Prayer was so powerful and yet highlighted our helplessness. We were in solidarity with the suffering and with each another; we were one in the Lord. I would like to thank the parishioners and friends who came and enriched each hour with music, song, reading, prayer, refreshments and silence. We know we can't do everything on our own and at such times calling on God's Name and engaging in deep prayer is essential. So many want to help materially, through fundraising and by offering hospitality in their homes. For the people of Israel escaping from Egypt, it was a long and complicated road. In the present situation there are no easy answers or wands which can work magic. Nevertheless, let us continue to pray and intercede, to support and reach out with help, to let the prospect of a solution offer hope and light in the midst of so much uncertainty.

As we walk the path of Lent, the Lord wants with all his heart for us to turn back to him completely. He asks us to work hard to bear rich fruit in our lives. He offers eternity in the glory of heaven and the Cross is the means.

Have a blessed week. 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. This week there was reflection on the concept of Mary as mother of us all and how St. John responded to Jesus' instructions about Our Lady from the cross; also Mary's role at Pentecost.

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. Details at the back of this newsletter.

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.

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

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. 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.

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: Phyllis McKeogh's Intention, Betty O'Neill RIP, Deceased members of Americo and Araujo families, Sarah Keller RIP, People of the Parish, Bridget & Luke Delaney and family intentions, People of Ukraine, Roger Shelford RIP Birthday, Helen Keach RIP. Jo Neumann RIP, Esther McDonagh, Yves Pichon RIP, Ron Davin RIP Anniv, Margaret Caulfield RIP 2nd Anniv.

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).

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.

MOTHERING SUNDAY Don't forget that in this country we honour mothers and honorary mums next Sunday.

MASS TIMES FOR THE WEEK

19 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Confessions 5-5.30pm
20 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady	
	6pm	Holy Family	
21 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	
22 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	
23 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	
24 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Confessions 10-10.30am
25 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	
26 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Confessions 10.30am - 11am

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 20TH MARCH

Saturday 19th March ST. JOSEPH Husband of Our Lady, foster father of Jesus Christ, Protector of the Church, Patron of artisans.

2 Samuel 7:4-5,12-14,16 'I will preserve the offspring of your body after you...'
Romans 4:13,16-18,22 Abraham's faith, hope and belief.

Matthew 1:16,18-21,24 Joseph is a man of honour.

Sunday 20th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 3:1-8,13-15 Moses encounters God in the burning bush

1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12 Moses and Christ; the people of Israel and Christians

Luke 13:1-9 Repent and bear fruit!

Monday 21st March

2 Kings 5:1-15 Naaman the leper is healed by bathing in the Jordan.

Luke 4:24-30 God acts outside the borders of Israel

Tuesday 22nd March

Daniel 3:25,34-43 The prayer of Azariah

Matthew 18:21-35 Forgiveness from the heart offered as many times as is needed.

Wednesday 23rd March

Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9 The Lord is so near to us.

Matthew 5:17-19 Keeping the commandments and teaching others to do the same

Thursday 24th March

Jeremiah 7:23-28 The people have not listened, have not paid attention and have grown stubborn.

Luke 11:14-23 The finger of God works great things.

Friday 25th March ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Mary says 'Yes!' to the Angel.

Isaiah 7:10-14,8:10 The maiden is with child and will give birth to a son - Immanuel - God-with-us

Hebrews 10:4-10 We are made holy by Christ's offering of his body

Luke 1:26-38 Let it be done to me according to thy word!



Fundraising Dinner for Ukraine



Saturday 26th March 6.30pm

Focolare Centre

Tickets £17

Child tickets £6, Family 'bundle' ticket £40


Come to eat delicious Ukrainian food, and discover more of Ukrainian culture through song, stories and history.

Scan for tickets

or email michal.siewniak1@gmail.com

call 07825021746



All proceeds support the DEC British Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian appeal. The Focolare Centre is at
 69, Parkway Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JG