

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*

Fourth Sunday of Lent 27th March 2022

We're half-way through Lent - REJOICE! (in Latin Laetare!) This is the Sunday to tone down the purple and move to rose/pink vestments to signal this important staging-post. Moreover, in this country it is Mothering Sunday with the thanksgiving and signs of appreciation expressed and offered. In addition(!) we have now entered British Summer Time; so, after recovering from a lost hour of sleep, we can look forward to more sunshine and longer days. It is all happening!

In our Gospel reading today from St. Luke, we hear about the loss - not of an hour - but of a son. Jesus presents his audience with a brilliant story to get their minds pondering the sheer graciousness of God's love and mercy which make up for the pain and hurt we can cause others. The Lord is so aware of the religiously-minded people who resent the time he spends with sinners. For Christ, this is not wasted time but an outpouring of real care and compassion for those who have become distanced through their own fault or through circumstance. The younger of the two sons 'comes to his senses' and determines to return home and express his contrition for his wasteful extravagance. The father is on the constant lookout for his lost son and runs to him when he catches sight of him, lavishing affection, restoring him to his place in the house and celebrating with a magnificent banquet. The older son, as we all know, is consumed with envy and hates the idea of such a feast for the one who has squandered everything. The father again leaves the house in search of his other son, assuring him of his love and constancy. He insists that for such a return, a party beyond compare is necessary because it is as if his younger boy has come back from the dead - he is alive!

This week our children will be making their First Confession. This is always a significant moment in a family's and a community's life. Trying to get over the nerves

and finding the right words to express sorrow for sin is part of the challenge and is only natural. However, I asked the children and their parents at last Sunday's workshop to keep remembering that this Sacrament - as with every Sacrament - is a celebration as words are used to articulate what has been sinful and words are offered back of Absolution, making concrete the forgiveness God offers. Please pray for them that it will be the first of many experiences of God's rich mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What about you? Why not use today's Gospel as a means of preparing for the Sacrament yourself? Our Service on Tuesday 12th April at 8pm will be a great moment for our community before Easter arrives. Why not come? Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones. Let us continue to lift up Ukraine to God in prayer. God bless you. With much love, *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 will be 6.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's on 1st April, the First Friday of the month. Breakfast in the hall follows. All are most welcome.

LENT GROUP The Lent Group met for its fourth session this week at Holy Family Church. We explored the concept of Our Lady as Queen of Heaven and we discussed the Assumption and the way in which this dogma gives us hope for our own bodily resurrection.

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 Local Church Leaders met last week and we are going to form a support network for refugees who will come to our town. More details still to follow. Also, Caritas Westminster has produced a useful summary of ways to help which is on the website.

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

MOTHERING SUNDAY Happy Mothering Sunday to all mothers and honorary mums. God bless you!

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 parishes. The intentions celebrated will be published in the newsletter as below. This week Masses have been celebrated for: Phyllis McKeogh's Intention, Kathleen Foley RIP, Elizabeth McGeehan RIP, People of Ukraine, In thanksgiving (McCrave Family), Patricia Jereat RIP, Annette Gurjao (in thanksgiving), Jimmy & Hannah Byrne RIP, Olaf Bruns (Intention), Maurice Gauchard RIP Anniv, Tracey Laycock RIP, Ladislav Sokolovsky RIP 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).

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 pray 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

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=bFRoRC9DYlNqR0xyY2R6c21EYUxuUT09>

Meeting ID: 981 2513 5849 Passcode: 748520

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.

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.

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 joelark@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk

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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

26 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Confessions 5-5.30pm
27 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	Holy Family	
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am	Our Lady	
	6pm	Holy Family	
28 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	
29 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	
30 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	
31 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Confessions 10-10.30am
01 Friday	6.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	
02 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Confessions 10.30am - 11am

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 27TH MARCH

Saturday 26th March

Hosea 5:15-6:6 'What am I to do with you?'

Luke 18:9-14 The parable of the tax collector and Pharisee.

Sunday 27th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Joshua 5:9-12 They tasted the produce of the Promised Land and celebrated the Passover

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 For anyone who is Christ there is a new creation.

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 The parable of the Prodigal Son

Monday 28th March

Isaiah 65:17-21 'I create new heavens and a new earth'

John 4:43-54 Another great sign in Cana

Tuesday 29th March

Ezekiel 47:1-9,12 The water from the sanctuary brings life

John 5:1-3,5-16 A man ill for 38 years is healed by Jesus

Wednesday 30th March

Isaiah 49:8-15 'I will never forget you.'

John 5:17-30 Belief and eternal life

Thursday 31st March

Exodus 32:7-14 Moses intercedes for the people

John 5:31-47 Jesus' testimony as one coming from the Father

Friday 1st April

Wisdom 2:1,12-22 The ill-treatment of the virtuous man

John 7:1-2,25-30 Christ's origins