



St Bonaventure
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Our Lady Queen of Apostles
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP
01707 323234

Holy Family
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

21st April 2024 **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Parish Priest Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234 norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk

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Parish Administrator Mrs Jacqui Boon (Tuesday - Friday 9am until 12 noon)

Parish Email: wgc@rcdow.org.uk

Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

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

We are half-way through the Easter Season! Today we move away from the Resurrection appearances of the Lord and turn to the image he gives us of being the Good Shepherd. Inevitably we take time today to reflect on our own calling and how we enrich the life of the Church and make our world a better place. We cannot help but think of the huge need we have of more priests to serve in our parishes and to minister to God's People especially through the Mass and the Sacraments. Our hearts are united with the suffering and agony of the nations of the world and we beseech the Good Shepherd to watch over them.

St. John is the great Evangelist who puts us in touch with what Jesus understands by being our Shepherd. The Lord knows us, he lays his life down for us and he is intimately caught up in our concerns. Christ models his love on all that he has received from the Father and as he experiences such tenderness, this is his gift to us who belong to him. Jesus continues by expressing a love for others who are not 'this fold' and a confidence that he will teach them to listen and thereby create just 'one fold'.

Is it always easy to *listen*? Can we radiate the sacrificial love of the One who laid down his life for us? Do we believe we have a particular calling/vocation which is a response to God? This Sunday is our opportunity to pray, to encourage and be encouraged, to love and be loved, all giving praise and glory to God our Father with and in Jesus, his Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I am grateful to God for the call to serve as a priest - it is here in Welwyn Garden City and YOU are the ones entrusted to me by the Lord. Thank you! Let us pray for one another and bring the Good News to everyone!
With much love, **Fr. Norbert**

EASTER COURSE Who is the Holy Spirit? What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and how can we benefit from them? Fr Marco invites you over this time of Easter to join on a course of seven weeks in preparation for Pentecost. Everyone is welcome. Coffee and tea and light refreshments will be provided before each session. Session times: Thursday or Friday (as below) from 7pm to 8.30pm in Holy Family's Parish Room.

Session 3 – Thursday 25th April, The Gift of Counsel

Session 4 – Thursday 2nd May The Gift of Fortitude

Session 5 – Friday 3rd May, The Gift of Knowledge

Session 6 – Thursday 9th May, The Gift of Piety

Session 7 – Thursday 16th May, The Gift of the Fear of the Lord

CONFIRMATION Next sessions 21st & 28th April @ 3.30pm in Trinity Hall. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Confirmation Mass on Friday 17th May at 7.30pm at Our Lady's. *We need altar servers for this Mass!*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES Our Lady's - Sundays 11.30am 28th April, 2nd & 9th June.

St. Bonaventure Sunday 5th May 10.30am.

Holy Family Sunday 12th May 9.30am.

BAPTISMS Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. Marco to arrange the Baptism of your child.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. Items received from 8am on a Wednesday at 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. Email foodbank@newzioncf.net to donate. Use Food Bank Baskets at the back of church.

GERRY McCARTHY RIP Funeral Mass Monday 29th April 9.30am at Our Lady's.

JOSEPHINE RICKETTS RIP Josephine's Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 15th May at 12.45pm at Holy Family Church.

TERRENCE HOGAN RIP Terry's Funeral Mass will be on Thursday 23rd May at 12 noon at Holy Family Church.

TRANSPORT TO MASS GROUP is there for parishioners who need a lift to Mass. Drivers are needed. Health & Safety training and Safeguarding requirements will be arranged. Call Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or macleaneltham@gmail.com

LISTER HOSPITAL Non-urgent referrals to Chaplaincy Team 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE at Westminster Cathedral on Sat.25th May at 2.30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass couples in the Diocese celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2024. Give Fr. Norbert the following: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (telephone number, if no email)

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLEANING Thank you to all who helped last week.

CAFOD CAKE SALE after today's 9.30 Mass at Holy Family.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE 4-day Pilgrimage to Lourdes for Our Lady's Birthday from Friday 6th until Monday 9th September. *It is definitely going ahead!* The price is now £730 pp (guaranteed until end of April) full board in a 4-star hotel near the Grotto. Leaflets at the back of our churches or go to <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/LD0959/>

PRIEST TRAINING FUND The annual collection to support the training of priests for our Diocese takes place this weekend. It costs £25k per year to train a priest. Your generosity will make a big difference. There are special envelopes at the back of the church or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations Importantly, we need to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and to support our present seminarians with our prayers.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY PARADE for the local district will take place at Our Lady's today (21st) at 2.30pm. Welcome to all our visitors!

SPENCER WHITE *writes:* On Sunday I completed the Manchester Marathon, the second of my five events. It was an incredible event, something that will live with me forever. The race saw 32,000 runners, and 125,000 spectators, a new record for Manchester making it the second largest marathon in the UK next to London. It was great to be back in the city I was a student at and to be amongst so many inspirational runners and cheered on by wonderful support. The crowds were incredible! Through wonderful generosity I have now raised over £1000 (including gift aid) for Alzheimer's Research UK. I have now 3 events left. The three 5km swims which take place on the 26th, 27th and 28th April. *Congratulations, Spencer! Good luck for the remaining challenges.*

SWIMATHON Members of the Gallucci family are taking part in this event on 28th April to support Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie. If you would like to support them go to <https://www.justgiving.com/page/eddy-gallucci-1712521059503>

PENTECOST 2024 (Sunday 19th May) coincides with **Fr. Norbert's 60th Birthday!** He would like everyone to feel included in the celebrations which will also be attended by his family and friends. There will be Mass at 11.30am at Our Lady's followed by a party - hopefully outdoors - concluding around 6pm! There will be parishioners dancing as part of the entertainment: African, Filipino, Irish and Polish. There will be a variety of cuisines with Goan, African, Filipino, Polish, Romanian and Brazilian food. If there are any language or cultural groups which would like to contribute, please let Fr. Norbert know. There will be a cocktail bar organised by Fr. Norbert's family. Help with mixing the cocktails would be appreciated. (Again, let Fr. Norbert know.) Karaoke and Zumba will also be on offer!

Help Needed at the Trinity Hall Saturday 18th May 2 - 4pm to set up. Sunday 19th May 12 noon to 6pm help with serving, and 5pm to 7pm help with clearing. If you can offer 2 hours to help, please contact Ann Chappell (ahchappell@aol.com, 07784781178) and book a time slot.

Food Needed on the day If you can prepare finger food (sandwiches, appetisers or sweet treats), contact Ann Chappell (ahchappell@aol.com, 07784781178). Food should be on a platter ready to place on the table (put your name on the platter so it can be re-turned to you). Prepare 12 servings. *Thank you!*

MASS INTENTIONS *These can be booked through Fr. Norbert*

20th April

6pm Our Lady Dorothy Bagge's Intention

21st Sunday ***FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER***

8am St. Bonaventure Anthony Ayke Okechukwu RIP
& Anthony Anene Okechukwu RIP
9.30am Holy Family Cheryl & Graham Williams' Intention
10.30am St. Bonaventure Nora O'Connor RIP (month's mind)
11.30am Our Lady Hedvika Juchelkova
6pm Holy Family Frank Larkin RIP

22nd Monday

9.30am Our Lady

23rd Tuesday ***ST. GEORGE***

9.30am St. Bonaventure Janet Csoti (90th Birthday)
7pm Our Lady Louisa Anyanwu RIP 1st Anniv

24th Wednesday *St. Erkenwald & St. Mellitus*

9.30am Holy Family Brian Haughton RIP Anniv

25th Thursday ***ST. MARK***

9.30am Holy Family Lin Thomas' Intention

26th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Marie Therese Laurie RIP
7pm Our Lady Dave Stone

27th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure David Grungy RIP
6pm Our Lady Mary Moran RIP (11th Anniv)

CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure 5pm - 5.30pm Our Lady

Thursdays 10.00 - 10.30am Holy Family (with Exposition of Blessed Sacrament)

CHAPEL Open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. Entrance near Trinity Hall. Pray before the Blessed Sacrament, light a candle and have a moment of silence.

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass in the Lady Chapel of St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon on Fridays.

STREAMED MASS on [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) Saturday's 6pm Mass will be recorded and streamed on Sunday at 10am