

WELWYN GARDEN CITY



ST. BONAVENTURE



**OUR LADY,
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



HOLY FAMILY

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

7th Sunday of the Year 19th February

This week is one of transition as we prepare to leave behind the green of Ordinary Time and take on the purple of Lent and penitence. We let go of the Alleluia and the Gloria; our churches are more austere with the absence of flowers. In many countries it is Carnival Time! There is much merriment and many distractions! As I look back over these past days, I am so grateful for the many blessings I have received through all of you from the Lord. Your prayers and presence at the Cathedral on 7th February as well as the joy of last Saturday's Mass and party created for me a memory which I will never forget. For me, the journey with others is crucial as a priest; there are shared moments of sadness as well as happiness, the people who have always been there as well as the stranger/visitor/newcomer. There is the personal calling from the Lord Jesus; however, he asks his priest to exercise it in the midst of those entrusted to him. Now as we embark on Lent, this too is a shared enterprise as we respond totally to the Lord; indeed, our personal efforts enrich the Church and humanity - the world becomes a better place!

Today the Cardinal writes to the whole Diocese asking us to make good use of the coming Season of Lent. He focuses on three ways of refreshing and renewing our faith: 1. A renewed focus on Jesus, by giving him space in our hearts - we need a time of prayer every day when we can simply talk to him, bringing him our worries and our joys. 2. A fresh readiness to bear witness to him - there are many moments when speaking of the goodness of the Lord is quite appropriate, for example, when someone is sharing with you their sorrow or distress, don't hesitate to tell them you will pray for them; or when you come across a person who is feeling alone or neglected, speak to them of the love of the Lord and the consolation you find in his presence. 3. A conscious effort to build community and compassion wherever we may be - by breaking down hostilities which is much needed in our troubled world; every day brings opportunities to do this. The full text is on our parish website if you wish to return to the Cardinal's words and mull over them.

The Cardinal ends by asking us to pray for him as he prays for us. May God bless him and our Diocese of Westminster.

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

EARTHQUAKES IN SYRIA & TURKEY Our thanks to all of you for donating money so generously for the victims of the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey. The money will be sent to CAFOD for distribution. There is still time to make a donation. Please use one of the Cafod envelopes and return to one of the priests.

ASH WEDNESDAY 22nd February. This is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence to mark the beginning of the Season of Lent. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at Mass as follows: 9.30am at Holy Family, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's. If you have any old palms, bring them in as soon as possible and they will be burned to make the ashes.

LENTEN COURSE Fr. William will run a course on Wednesdays starting on 1st March at 7.15pm in the Parish Room of Holy Family. There will be refreshments beforehand. Please let him know if you are interested on williamjohnstone@rcdow.org.uk

LENT During the Season of Lent there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays at Our Lady's 10.00 -10.30am, Thursdays at Holy Family 10.00 -10.30am and Saturdays at St. Bonaventure's 10.30 -11.00am. *Enjoy the peace and quiet of prayer before the Lord in the Eucharist.*

Stations of the Cross will follow 9.30 Mass at Holy Family on Wednesdays, after 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Fridays, and after 7pm Mass at Our Lady's on Fridays.

Sacrament of Reconciliation A Lenten Service for our three churches will be at Our Lady's on Tuesday 14th March at 8pm with visiting priests being available as well as Fr. Norbert and Fr. William. Don't forget the scheduled times for Confession: Thursday at Holy Family 10.00 - 10.30am, Saturday at St. Bonaventure's 10.30 - 11.00am and Saturday at Our Lady's 5.00 - 5.30pm. If none of these suit, call one of the priests to make an appointment.

LENTEN CHARITIES

CAFOD We will have the customary Family Fast Day on Friday 3rd March.

CARDINAL'S APPEAL Envelopes are available at the back of our churches. Money raised supports Marriage and Family Life, Youth and Evangelisation, The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. These are all Faith in Action in the Diocese.

MARY'S MEALS provides a daily meal in a place of education for children across the world. Go to marysmeals.org.uk

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE Parents who need a Certificate of Catholic Practice for entry into a Catholic school are asked to download the relevant form from the parish website and return it as soon as possible to Fr. Norbert who will make contact with the family.

FUNERALS

Kathleen Coughlan's Funeral Service will be at 1pm on Tuesday 21st February at Our Lady's.

Anne Carton's Funeral Service will be at 11.45am on Monday 27th February at Our Lady's.

Mavis Cleasby's funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

Joe Galloway's funeral arrangements have not yet been made either.

HOLY LAND & JORDAN PILGRIMAGE Sunday 19th to Tuesday 28th November 2023 £1597 per person for a shared room (or with a single room supplement of £597). The pilgrimage will go to Petra in Jordan. 54 places have been booked. There are 5 places left. Please go to the online link <http://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/hj0812/> **A £400 deposit is needed.**

LISTER HOSPITAL If a parishioner or a family member goes into the Lister Hospital, the following links might be helpful: Non-urgent referrals 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), Chaplaincy Team email is spiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net Please remember that the sick person must want the Chaplaincy to know that they are Catholic and that they want to be seen by a priest!

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The next session for parents and their children is on Sunday 12th March at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church. The children will be making their First Confession the final week of February and first 2 days of March. Please keep them in your prayers.

INSTALLATION CELEBRATION Ann Chappell writes: I want to express my thanks to all the wonderful people who were involved in making this such a special celebration. I have received so many kind remarks from those who attended thanking us for the plentiful food, which was delicious and diverse. I particularly want to thank the helpers who showed up at five, worked through the event, and helped clearing all the items. There were numerous trays left after the event. These will be at the back of the churches over the next couple of weeks. Check through them to see if anything belongs to you. The Congratulations cards produced for Father Norbert are at the back of each church. I ask every parishioner to take time to add their names and congratulations. Again, thanks to everyone who contributed to this spectacular celebration! **Obviously, Fr. Norbert echoes all these sentiments. It truly was a memorable day!**

CIVIC SERVICE The Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon, has asked that her Civic Service should be held at Our Lady's with a Reception in the Trinity Hall. This will take place on Sunday 26th February at 3pm. The High Sheriff, the Deputy Lieutenant and 12 Mayors of Hertfordshire will be present with the Royal British Legion and cadets. Parishioners are invited but should let Fr. Norbert know if they plan on coming. There's still time to let Fr. Norbert know! Altar servers are invited to take part and should let Fr. Norbert know. This not a Mass but a Service lasting around 45 minutes. It is the first time in decades that it will be in a Catholic Church in the Borough.

LOOKING AHEAD There will be a Day Out to Ely organised by the Christian Churches on Saturday 10th June. There will be a Polish-English Mass at 6pm on Saturday 17th June with a reception afterwards. The Filipino Community will lead 6pm Mass on Saturday 24th June with a party afterwards. The annual African Mass will be on Sunday 2nd July at 11.30 with a celebration afterwards. Please put these dates in your diaries and come!

TRINITY HALL We are pleased to announce that our initial 'test runs' for hirers have been successfully completed. The Hall is now available for general hire. Bookings and enquiries can be made through the www.wgc-catholics.org.uk website, which contains the terms and conditions of hire, as well as a live diary showing bookings and time available for hire. Please enjoy this wonderful resource and spread the word amongst friends and family who may be looking for a Hall to hire. General enquiries please call 01707 537464

THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY A Mass for couples celebrating 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th, and 60+ Wedding Anniversaries on Saturday 13th May 2023 at 2.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. 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). norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk

HOLY FAMILY Church cleaning will take place after the 9.30 am mass on Ash Wednesday 22 February at Holy Family. We need as many volunteers as possible as our team has shrunk in recent years. Why not give it a go as part of your Lenten sacrifice.

RCIA The next meeting will be in the sacristy at Our Lady's Church on Monday 20th February at 7.30pm. The Group will be presented to the Cardinal at the Rite of Election on Saturday 25th February at 2.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. Today (Sunday 19th) the Group will be presented at 11.30am Mass at Our Lady's. We have 20 adults preparing for the Sacraments at Easter! They need your prayers too.

ACCOMMODATION A Ukrainian, his wife and their 2 boys (10 and 5 years old) came to Hertfordshire from Kyiv 8 months ago. As the home that hosted them can no longer do so, they are looking for a 2-bedroom home as soon as possible. Rent will be paid. If anyone can help, please contact Fr. Norbert for more details. Thank you.

ST. ALBANS The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday in the Lady Chapel, All are welcome. Fr. Norbert will next celebrate the Mass this Friday (24th).

Parish Priest
Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234
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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

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 5pm-5.30pm Our Lady
Thursdays 10am - 10.30am Holy Family
Saturdays 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure

Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

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. The Food Bank Baskets will be at the back of our churches and so items may be left in them. Thank you.

STREAMED MASS [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) This Sunday Mass will be streamed at 10am (recorded from Saturday's 6pm Mass at Our Lady's. Next Sunday Mass will be livestreamed at 10.30am from St. Bonaventure's.

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

18 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Valerie Grice (R.I.P. 8 th anniversary))
19 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Nancy Hyland (R.I.P. Months mind)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Margaret Miles (R.I.P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	William Joseph Ryan (R.I.P. anniversary)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Michael Caulfield (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Holy Family	People of the parish
20 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Holy Souls
	21 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure
1pm		Our Lady	Funeral for Kathleen Coughlan R.I.P.
7pm		Our Lady	Diza Goncalves
22 Ash Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Julian Fitzwillaim (R.I.P.)
	12noon	St. Bonaventure	People of the Parish
	7pm	Our Lady	Farrugia family (deceased members)
23 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Olive Hilliard;s intentions
24 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	Ed Annis (R.I.P.)
25 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Ann Gassa (intentions)
	6pm	Our Lady	Christina Bonass (R.I.P. birthday)