

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*

1st Sunday of Lent 26th February

Lent has begun! Are you excited by it? Terrified? Or just not sure? Lent impinges on different people in a variety of ways. For adults preparing to join the Church at Easter it is their final period of preparation for Baptism (or Reception), Confirmation and Eucharist. As I write, it is Friday evening and I am looking forward to the Rite of Election. Our catechumens (those getting ready for Baptism) and candidates (those who will be confirmed) are full of apprehension and thrilled! The Cardinal formally accepts them and chooses them to be the Elect who are on their way to the Easter Sacraments. This journey is a crucial pathway in faith and they feel OUR prayerful support. At Easter there will be 21 adults and 1 child taking this decisive step.

For some of us Lent is long struggle when the forty days seem to last for ever! Can I keep up the fast? When will I taste chocolate again? Another good deed to carry out? More prayer?! In today's Gospel reading from St. Matthew, the Devil knows exactly when to torment Jesus during his time in the desert. The Lord stands firm and carries out his Father's will. He is our model; he is our tower of strength on the long Lenten trek. With Jesus Christ we can resist temptation; with him we can confidently face the testing.

Perhaps you think of Lent as a habit or ritual? You do it and keep at it but it doesn't impact deeply. Maybe it gives us something to talk about with others but we unsure as to its real purpose? Lent is about springtime in our lives, renewal in our discipleship and a fresh start. We are getting ready to carry the Cross with Jesus and share in his Risen Life this year 2023! Dream about God's hopes for you and be open to his grace. Be prepared for an amazing experience. Start again each day.

So, let us pray for each other and give huge encouragement. God bless you all!

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

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.

Early morning Mass 6.30am at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 3rd March followed by breakfast in the hall. *The following First Friday will be Good Friday so there won't be an early Mass that day.* **LENTEN CHARITIES**

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY Friday 3rd March This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give next weekend using the envelope or at [cafod.org.uk/give](https://www.cafod.org.uk/give) and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world. There is a video with more information (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULTqHsawCZU&t=34s>)

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](https://www.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. Thank you.

FUNERALS

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

Mavis Cleasby's Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 14th March at 1.40pm at St. Bonaventure's.

Joe Galloway's Funeral Mass will be on Monday 20th March at 11.30am at Holy Family Church.

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!*

CIVIC SERVICE Today (Sunday) we welcome the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon, the High Sheriff, the Deputy Lieutenant and 12 Mayors of Hertfordshire to the Civic Service which is being held at Our Lady's at 3pm. The Royal British Legion, cadets and parishioners will be there too.

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

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. Please pray for the children making their First Confession this week.

RCIA The next meeting will be in the sacristy at Our Lady's Church on Monday 27th February at 7.30pm. The Group was presented to the Cardinal at the Rite of Election on Saturday (25th) at Westminster Cathedral.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Our thanks to those who helped with last Saturday's Marriage Preparation Day. The engaged couples all felt at home and entered deeply into the various moments of reflection. Married couples (1, 25 and 53 years married) shared experiences. The day ended with a Blessing of Engaged Couples. There'll be another day next year!

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

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. Come for silence in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Light a candle. Feel the Lord's presence!

ST. ALBANS The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday in the Lady Chapel, All are welcome.

THANK YOU Marian, John and Sophie Constable would like to thank the priests and people of the Parish for all their support throughout Pat's life, long illness and death. Mass will be offered for your intentions.

HCPT Big thank you from HCPT group 183 and CWL for the great turn out for the quiz night, making £500.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY or False Alarm? A public meeting on the subject being organised by the inter faith group will be held at the United Reformed Church AL8 6PR opposite Sainsbury's on Sunday 5th March from 2.30 - 4.15pm. Bookings can be made through Eventbrite <https://WHI.climate.eventbrite.co.uk>. Knowledgeable speakers, afternoon tea followed by question time. Leaflets at the back of the church or contact Valerie on 01707 324828.

HAPPY ST. DAVID'S DAY on Wednesday 1st March to all who come from Wales and to those called David!

CHURCH CLEANING at Our Lady's on Saturday 4th March at 10am. Come for an hour and lend a hand. THANK YOU.

EXTRA HELP needed at Our Lady's on Saturday 4th March between 10am and 4pm when the boundary wall with the street will need to be taken down because it is unsafe. Anyone coming should bring gloves, safety goggles and ideally a hammer and stone chisel/bolster. Thank you!

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.

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.

Parish Priest
Canon 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

CONFESSIONS

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

Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

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 This 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

25 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Christina Bonass (R.I.P. birthday)
26 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Mary Hyland (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Anne McCann (R.I.P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	John Joe Donoghue (R.I.P.)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Mary O'Driscoll (R.I.P. anniversary)
27 Monday	6pm	Holy Family	People of the parish
	9.30am	Our Lady	Mavis Cleasby (R.I.P.)
28 Tuesday	11.45am	Our Lady	Funeral Service for Anne Carton R.I.P.
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
01 Wednesday	7pm	Our Lady	John Walsh (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Helen Margaret Bates (R.I.P.)
02 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Patrick McEvoy (R.I.P.)
03 Friday	6.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Celina Bailey (intentions)
	7pm	Our Lady	Pat O'Driscoll (R.I.P.)
04 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	
	6pm	Our Lady	Ellen Castelo (R.I.P. anniversary)