

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*

2nd Sunday of Lent 5th March

Every Second Sunday of Lent, the Church takes us up a high mountain with Jesus and a few of his disciples to be alone. We are given the vision of Jesus in glory flanked by Elijah and Moses who also appear. A voice is heard and Jesus is designated as the Father's Beloved who enjoys his favour. All are asked to listen to him. Suddenly they are on their own again and come back down the mountain. Jesus orders them not to tell anyone about the event until he has risen from the dead. This is the Transfiguration!

Lent is our time to be spent with the Lord. At times we experience special moments when we feel the intimacy and power of divine presence. Perhaps also we can find ourselves in the shadow of a cloud, not knowing what to think or what to say. During Lent through the sacred works we undertake, we can feel God's Spirit working in and through us in ways we never thought possible. In addition, Lent prompts us to consider when it all goes horribly wrong and we need to confess our weakness and throw ourselves into God's arms of mercy. The Transfiguration points towards the glory Jesus will win through his Cross and gives us a glimpse of the glory God has in store for us.

These same disciples will be close to Jesus in the Garden on the night before he dies. The Lord will ask them to pray with him. They will fall asleep! We have this 40-day period to prepare ourselves for Gethsemane, to pray for the energy to stay with Jesus every step of the way. Let us ask the Lord to consecrate what we have begun and to let it bear fruit for his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Have a good week and God bless you!

With much love, *Fr. Norbert*

LENTEN COURSE with Fr. William on Wednesdays at 7.15pm in the Parish Room of Holy Family. There will be refreshments beforehand.

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 FAMILY FAST DAY was last Friday. There will be a retiring collection in our churches to support CAFOD's work in developing countries, in fighting the climate crisis and ensuring that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. You can use one of the special envelopes to donate or at [cafod.org.uk/give](https://www.cafod.org.uk/give) 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.

FUNERALS

Mavis Cleasby's Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 14th March at 1.40pm at St. Bonaventure's. Ron Fisher's Funeral Service will be Friday 17th March at Harwood Park Crematorium at 1.15pm. Joe Galloway's Funeral Mass will be on Monday 20th March at 11.30am at Holy Family Church. James Nodwell's Funeral Service will be on Friday 24th March at 12.45pm at St. Bonaventure's. Gerard Connolly's Funeral will be on Thursday 30th March at 10am at Our Lady's.

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 The Mayor, Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon, has written to express her thanks to everyone involved in last Sunday's Civic Service and the reception which followed. She said it was truly a memorable occasion!

FOCOLARE OPEN EVENING: THE EARTH BENEATH OUR FEET - Experiences of the Focolare community in Syria and Turkey. Friday 17th March, 7.30-9pm. Tea/coffee provided. Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. Everyone welcome.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Sunday 12th March at 11.30am at Our Lady's. Our Lourdes HCPT Group 183 will join us. There will be another Special Needs Mass on Saturday 13th May at 6pm at Our Lady's followed by a gathering in the Trinity Hall.

LOOKING AHEAD On Saturday 20th May, we will be going to Walsingham and will join the National Pilgrimage of the Deaf (as we used to do before the pandemic). More details soon. 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. There will be a Signed Mass on Sunday 25th June at 11.30am at Our Lady's. 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!

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.

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.

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.

RCIA The next meeting will be in the sacristy at Our Lady's Church on Monday 6th March at 7.30pm.

MARRIAGE Any couples planning on getting married this year or next should speak to Fr. Norbert to arrange the necessary preparations.

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.

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

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.

BBC THREE COUNTIES RADIO Fr. Norbert is going to be interviewed live today (Sunday 5th March) at around 8.45am. They want to know more about him being a canon!

CHURCH CLEANING at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday after Mass. Why not come and help?

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 9.30am from Holy Family.

MASS INTENTIONS

04 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Ellen Castelo (R.I.P. anniversary)
05 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Deirdre Davis (R.I.P. 3r anniversary)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Special intention (CW.)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Paddy Cockley (R.I.P. anniversary)
	6pm	Holy Family	Ellen Castelo (R.I.P. anniversary)
06 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Monica Friel (intentions)
07 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwu (R.I.P. 2 nd anniversary)
08 Wednesday	7pm	Our Lady	John Mullane (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Helen Hall's intentions (also remembering Anthony Ayke (anniversary))
09 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Michael Ready
10 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Private intention
	7pm	Our Lady	Pat Frost (R.I.P.)
11 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	
	6pm	Our Lady	Maurice Gauchard (R.I.P. anniversary) and Benoît Gauchard (R.I.P. anniversary)