

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*

3rd Sunday of Lent 12th March

Today we put St. Matthew's Gospel to one side and begin three weeks with long sections of St. John's Gospel. The Fourth Evangelist has a way of writing which helps us engage with the message of the Good News at many challenging levels. We ponder a statement, phrase or word and think we have grasped the meaning; then...a further way of comprehending it emerges! The process continues until we are caught up in the mystery of heaven! John plays with words and so we can never be fully sure we are on track! This weekend we are in Samaria where the people have a foreign religion and have ways alien to the people of Israel. Through his encounter with the Samaritan woman, Jesus leads her to an understanding of 'Living water' - namely, this is not stagnant, it gives life and comes from him. The woman asks about a bucket and how the water might be drawn. The woman tells her townsfolk that she has met a man who told her everything she ever did and wonders whether he might be the Christ. The people, having spent time with the Lord, are quite clear that they do not need her witness anymore because they have experienced first-hand this amazing man. The passage ends with their proclamation 'Now we know that he really is the Saviour of the world.' So many bridges are crossed and barriers torn down; even Samaritans come to faith in Jesus and realise they can put their trust in him.

By giving us this passage today, our hearts turn to the adults who will join the Church at this year's Easter Vigil, many of whom will be baptised. Their journey of faith has been strengthened and they have come to know the Lord better. For a huge number of us, our Lenten journey is preparing us to renew our Baptismal Promises at Easter and to be sprinkled with the Easter Water. This water brings life and love and quenches our thirst for eternity; it puts us in touch with our Saviour, Christ Jesus.

This week I was at Westminster Cathedral for my first Chapter Meeting as a canon, followed by Vespers and Mass. It brought back so many happy memories of 7th February and the presence of the multitude which gathered; also, of the joy of the parish celebration on 11th February. THANK YOU so much for your kindness and generosity with cards, gifts and gracious words. I feel so lucky to have your support and to know I am not alone in my service here in the Garden City. Of course, there is Jesus Christ; however, in addition, he sends all of you too!

God bless you and have good Lenten week! With love and prayers, *Fr. Norbert*

LENTEN SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION This Tuesday evening 4 priests will join Fr. William and Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's Church at 8pm. There will be a short reflection with Scripture and then a chance to go individually to Confession. After that you are free to go home. It is a great opportunity at this stage in Lent to take stock of our lives and have time to consider God's gracious mercy and compassion. We then celebrate this in a sacramental way. Why not come? Bring your children too!

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 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 cafod.org.uk/give There are special envelopes also available at the back of our churches.

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. Thank you.

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 on 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 Service will be on Thursday 30th March at 10am at Our Lady's.
Nancy Attwood's Funeral Mass will be on Friday 31st March at 12.30pm at Our Lady's.
Carol Organ's Funeral arrangements have yet to be made.

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!*

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 Today (Sunday 12th) 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.

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches This Sunday, Mass will be livestreamed at 11.30am from Our Lady's. Next Sunday (19th) Mass will be livestreamed at 10.30am from St. Bonaventure's.

DON'T FORGET that next Sunday is Mothering Sunday!

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

PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN'S MASS Children are invited to help with acting out the Passion on Palm Sunday (2nd April) at Our Lady's 11.30am Mass. There will be a practice on Saturday 1st in Our Lady's Church at 11am. The rehearsal will last roughly one hour. Parents are asked to stay with their children.

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. During Lent, the Chapel will be open also on Saturday's 9.30am until 4.30pm. 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.

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 today (Sunday 12th) at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

RCIA The next meeting will be in the sacristy at Our Lady's Church on Monday 13th 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 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.

OUR LADY'S BOUNDARY WALL A huge amount of work last Saturday resulted in half being demolished! There will be another session on Saturday 25th March 10am until 4pm to remove the remaining part which has become very unsafe. (This will replace the maintenance group for 1st April.) We are grateful to all who helped in this major work.

CHURCH CLEANING Our thanks to all who keep our churches so clean and beautiful. Your work is much appreciated!

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81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Assistant Priest
Fr. William Johnstone 01707 327434
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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

OPUS DEI EVENING OF RECOLLECTION at Holy Family Church on Thursday 23rd March at 7pm: An Evening of Recollection is a couple of hours when you can reflect on how you live your faith in your everyday work and with your family, friends and colleagues. One or two meditations will be given by a priest, along with a talk and Benediction at the end of the evening. A priest will also be available for confession throughout the evening. This recollection is intended for men, however, there are also recollections for women at St. Peter's Church, Hatfield. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. William or Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

11 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Maurice Gauchard (R.I.P. anniversary) and Benoît Gauchard (R.I.P. anniversary)
12 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Anthony Ayke Okechukwu (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Muriel Horgan (R.I.P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Fr. Michael Winstanley SDB Golden Jubilee
	11.30am	Our Lady	Ron Davin (R.I.P. anniversary)
	6pm	Holy Family	Pat Frost (R.I.P.)
13 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Nellie O'Shea (R.I.P.)
14 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	1.40pm	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Mass Mavis Cleasby R.I.P.
	7pm	Our Lady	Canon Norbert Fernandes
15 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Anne Simpson Jacobs
16 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Pat Frost (R.I.P.)
17 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Josie Brogan (R.I.P.)
	7pm	Our Lady	Ron Davin (R.I.P. anniversary)
18 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	Catherine Dalarnno (R.I.P. anniversary)
	6pm	Our Lady	Margaret Caulfield (R.I.P. anniversary)