

# 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*

***4th Sunday of Lent 19th March***

Today we reach the half-way point of our Lenten journey and the Church says 'Laetare! Rejoice!' The penitential purple is relaxed to give us a breather and we enjoy pink/rose vestments. In this country we celebrate Mothering Sunday which historically was aligned with a visit to one's 'mother' church and was connected also to meeting up with one's mother. So, rejoice!

'You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord.' These are St. Paul's amazing words to the people of Ephesus in our Second Reading today! How did they apply to that congregation? What do they mean to you personally? St. Paul writes to a community which has come to faith in Jesus Christ. They have left behind a way of living which entailed worshipping the Roman idols and have embraced the Son of God, Jesus Christ, through Baptism. Ephesus was a major city in Paul's time as is evidenced by the excavations to be seen there. Its magnificence and its presence as a powerhouse of commerce would have left a mark on any visitor. Now an extra light is shining out, the Apostle says - and it comes from the people who form this new fellowship of faith. As you ponder your own life, where are there areas of darkness or shadows that hide the light? Which obstacles have got in the way to prevent you moving on? Faith in Jesus Christ gives hope! His Resurrection creates an incandescence overcoming death; through the centuries this radiance transforms and encourages us on the path towards eternity. We are heading towards the highpoint of our faith at Easter and we need to feel that we are light in the Lord! We are not on our own - we have one another. This was crucial for the young Christian communities which faced persecution. We also should share this message with others so that they too can enjoy the grace of Christ. We will return to purple next Sunday and red on Palm Sunday will remind us of the Passion. Finally, the Paschal Mystery will be sealed with dazzling gold!

God bless you. Be assured of my prayers. With much love, ***Fr. Norbert.***

**MOTHERING SUNDAY** A happy Mother's Day to each and every mother and honorary mum - God bless you!

**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](http://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](http://marysmeals.org.uk)

## **FUNERALS**

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 Mass will be on Wednesday 5th April at 2pm at Holy Family.

**ST. JOSEPH** The Solemnity of St. Joseph is transferred to Monday 20th March. It is 10 years since the inauguration of the pontificate of Pope Francis. Let us ask God's blessing upon him.

**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](mailto: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!*

**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!*

**TRINITY HALL** The Hall is now available for general hire. Bookings and enquiries can be made through the [www.wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://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

**DON'T FORGET** that British Summer Time begins next weekend. The clocks will go FORWARD one hour!

**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.

**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.

**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).

**FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** The final session for parents and their children is on Sunday 26th 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 20th March at 7.30pm.

**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.

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

**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](mailto:norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk)

**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!

**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](mailto: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.

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

**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.

**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](http://wgc-catholics.org.uk)**

**OUR LADY'S BOUNDARY WALL** There will be a session on Saturday 25th March 10am until 4pm to remove the remaining part of Our Lady's boundary wall 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. Please come prepared with goggles and correct clothing for this major job. Thank you.

**STREAMED MASS** [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) This Sunday (19th) Mass will be livestreamed at 10.30am from St. Bonaventure's. Next Sunday (26th) Mass will be livestreamed at 10.30am from St. Bonaventure's.

**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.

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

18 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Margaret Caulfield (R.I.P. anniversary)
19 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Holy Family	Josie Rodger (R.I.P. anniversary)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Intentions of the McCrave family
	11.30am	Our Lady	John Davin (R.I.P. 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary)
	6pm	Holy Family	Joe Galloway (R.I.P.)
20 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Special intention
	11.30am	Holy Family	Funeral Mass
21 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Private intention
	7pm	Our Lady	Canon Norbert Fernandes
22 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Elizabeth Swift R.I.P.
23 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Lizzie McGeehan (R.I.P. anniversary)
24 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	12.45pm	St. Bonaventure	Funeral Service
	7pm	Our Lady	Pavel Rudnytski R.I.P. Elena Rudnytska R.I.P. and Dmytro Rudnytski R.I.P.
25 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	
	6pm	Our Lady	Marjorie Nichols (R.I.P. Anniversary)