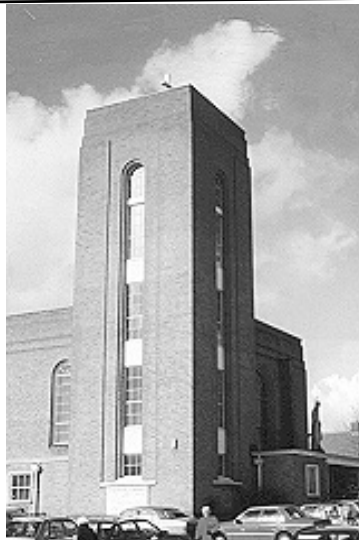


# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

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

## ***5th Sunday of Lent 26th March***

Today we are taken to a tomb in Bethany, just outside Jerusalem, where amazing things happen. Jesus has lost his friend Lazarus. Martha and then later Mary speak to Jesus and include the poignant words 'If only you had been here...' Imagine how Jesus feels with his own personal grief as well as facing the sadness of his friends. St. John tells us that Jesus weeps - he is human! He is also divine and the power of his word crying 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' results in the extraordinary 'sign' of the Lord's friend emerging from the tomb, still wrapped in the linen cloths. People believe in Jesus as they witness what God is doing through him; others will seek to destroy Lazarus because he becomes a reason for many to follow Jesus. The crowds have to make a decision!

In two weeks' time we will be at a different tomb; this time the Lord himself is inside. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the dead body of Jesus is raised to the glory of Resurrection. He is not brought back to the former life he lived - as happened to Lazarus. Jesus Christ emerges with a 'new' body - similar and yet different, recognisable yet elusive. This is a really challenging dimension of Christian Faith! Principally this is due to our conviction that the Resurrection of the Body is something that we hold will happen to us when the Lord is ready on the Last Day. Our bodies are precious, temples of the Holy Spirit and bear the stamp of the Creator. Our identity comes from our souls/spirits AND bodies. When the Last Day comes, God will find a way of uniting our souls/spirits with 'risen' glorified bodies. In the Book of the Apocalypse, we read about a New Heaven and a New Earth; we will be a part of this New Creation! Wow! What do you think you will look like? feel like? How will your love for God and others be echoed for eternity in the Presence of the Trinity of Love? Very hard to explain but crucial in the articulation of faith expressed in the hope of eternal love. When we encounter death in the person of a loved one, let us reflect on, and consider, the enormity of what it means to pray that they too with Christ will rise from the dead with a glorified body through the grace of the Lord's Death and Resurrection. As Jesus says to Martha: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life', he asks her as he asks us 'Do you believe this?' What is your response?

Let us pray for one another as Lent proceeds to its culmination in Holy Week and especially in the Sacred Triduum. 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** 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

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.

Zena Armstrong's funeral has not yet been arranged.

**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!*

**WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE** On Saturday 20th May, we will be going by coach to Walsingham and joining the National Pilgrimage of the Deaf. The coach will leave from Our Lady's at 8am and depart from Walsingham around 4.30pm (arriving back around 7pm). There will be Mass and we will walk the Holy Mile. Please bring a picnic lunch hopefully to be enjoyed in good weather! Then there will be time to visit the Slipper Chapel and have personal prayer. The cost is £20 per seat. Please fill in one of the forms at the back of the church and return it with your money to Fr. Norbert.

**ELY** The Christian Churches in WGC have arranged a day out in Ely on Saturday 10th June. Fr. Norbert who chairs the group has booked three coaches for this trip, which will give local Christians the opportunity to spend a day together. It includes our own special pilgrim service in the Cathedral, a tour of the Cathedral, and free time in Ely. We conclude our time in Ely with Evensong. The coaches will leave from outside Our Lady's at 8.15am and depart from Ely at 6.15pm. Tickets can be bought using the QR code or via the link on the 'Churches in WGC ' website <https://churchesinwgc.org.uk/ely-pilgrimage-2023/> *The booking system for this trip is more technologically devised as will be the boarding of the coaches!!* Tickets are £20. The closing date is 1st May, so book soon!

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

**PALM SUNDAY** Palms will be blessed and distributed at all Masses next weekend. The 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's will begin outside the Trinity Hall.

**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.

**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

**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** 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.

**FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** The final session for parents and their children is this Sunday 26th March at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

**RCIA** The final meeting will be in the sacristy at Our Lady's Church on Monday 27th 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.

**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!

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

**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)**

**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.

**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

25 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Marjorie Nichols
26 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	People of the Parish
	9.30am	Holy Family	Special intention (cw) also remembering Martina Jones (R.I.P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Corrado Scarso (R.I.P.)
	11.30am	Our Lady	Noel Faughnan (R.I.P.)
	6pm	Holy Family	Geraldine Wallace (R.I.P.)
27 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Joseph O'Brien (R.I.P. Anniversary)
28 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
	7pm	Our Lady	People of the parish
29 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Colin Conboy (R.I.P.)
30 Thursday	9.30am	Holy Family	Alda Steele (R.I.P.)
	10am	Our Lady	Funeral Service
31 Friday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Jimmy Nodwell (R.I.P.)
	12.30pm	Our Lady	Funeral Mass
	7pm	Our Lady	Paul Carter (R.I.P. Birthday)
01 Saturday	10am	St. Bonaventure	
	6pm	Our Lady	Jane Flood