

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*

Palm Sunday 2nd April

It's Holy Week! There has been a deluge of rain at so many moments of almost every day. What will it be like this week? The Church furnishes us with Liturgies varied and challenging! What difference will a downpour make?

Today we carry palms and recall the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. 'Hosanna!' is the song we cry out. On Maundy Thursday water is used to wash feet in remembrance of what Jesus did in loving service to his disciples. Bread broken and wine poured out put us in touch with Christ's loving Sacrifice. On Good Friday our focus is on the wood of the Cross which became an instrument of Jesus' death and the vehicle for his glorification. On Holy Saturday there is stillness and waiting for the Night of all Nights when we will proclaim that the Son of God who experienced death has risen to New Life. At the Easter Vigil, we will be with the Israelites keeping watch as the waters of the Red Sea part and they cross from suffering and slavery, making their way to the Promised Land. Water is poured upon the newly baptised and Sacred Chrism brings the wonderful, powerful scent of Christ to the newly initiated. Baptismal Promises are renewed and the Easter Water splashed in every direction! By this time next week, it will all have happened and there will be total exhaustion, having journeyed through so many emotions. Then the FIFTY DAYS of Easter!

Every year is slightly (or hugely) different. As we contemplate St. Matthew's Passion today, the evangelist has Jesus say 'It is at your house that I am keeping Passover with my disciples.' Let us prepare ourselves to have the Lord with us. Let us offer him our prayerful support. Let us feel the intimate love he is bringing to us and our world. Let us take the road to Calvary together and carry the Cross with him. If you are going away, let the holiness of these days make an impact on yourselves. If you are remaining here, enjoy being with the community. For those who are new or are visitors, it is a joy to welcome you!

May God's blessing come down upon every household.

With love and prayers, *Fr. Norbert*

HOLY WEEK NOTES: CHRISM MASS This Mass will be at Westminster Cathedral (near Victoria SW1P 1QJ) on Tuesday 4th. The Cardinal, Bishops and clergy of the Diocese will renew their priestly promises. The Holy Oils will be blessed: Oil of Catechumens which prepares a person for Baptism, the Oil of the Sick used to give strength to those who are seriously ill or infirm and Sacred Chrism used after the Baptism of a child, for Confirmation, Ordination and to consecrate churches and altars. There is a great sense of the Diocese coming together and everyone is welcome. If you've never been to this Mass, why not think about it?

MAUNDY THURSDAY This year at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, there will be the Washing of Feet. The Bishops' Conference has given permission for people to receive the Precious Blood from the chalice once again. However, Fr. Norbert feels that with so many worries about contamination and Covid, it is best not to reinstate Holy Communion under both kinds just yet. There will be watching at the Altars of Repose after the Mass of the Lord's Supper (until midnight) at Holy Family in the church and at Our Lady's in the Chapel. It is possible to pop in at various times during the evening. Come and spend time with the Lord in preparation for his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

GOOD FRIDAY This year people will be able to approach the Cross individually in each church during the Solemn Passion. You may wish to kiss the Cross, touch it or make a gesture of reverence (for example a bow or genuflection). The altar servers will wipe the area where the Cross is touched. The Evening Service at 8pm is a time of reflection with Scripture, music and silence - a chance to reflect back over the day's events.

HOLY SATURDAY Many countries have a tradition of the Blessing of Food. At 4pm at Our Lady's, baskets with hams, bread and painted eggs will be laid at the foot of the altar and blessed. There will be hymn-singing in Polish but everyone is most welcome. This Service lasts 30 minutes.

EASTER VIGIL This is the most important celebration of the year which should start after sunset - hence 8.30pm. There will be a huge fire outside Our Lady's Church. The Easter Candles for our three churches will be lit from the fire and carried into the darkened building. Scripture in abundance and then water to be blessed with the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). This year there will be 21 adults and two children. Finally, we will have our Easter Eucharist. The Service should take around two-and-a-half hours. Afterwards we will gather in the Trinity Hall to celebrate Easter with our new members. If you've never attended the Easter Vigil, why not come this year?

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

LENT Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Monday at Our Lady's 10.00 -10.30am. 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 Wednesday.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Thursday at Holy Family 10.00 - 10.30am, Saturday at St. Bonaventure's 10.00 - 11.00am. 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.

FUNERALS Carol Organ's Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 5th April at 2pm at Holy Family. Zena Armstrong's Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 12th April at 2pm 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!

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE On Saturday 20th May, we will be going by coach to Walsingham and will join 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!

LOOKING AHEAD Our next next Special Needs Mass will be on Saturday 13th May at 6pm at Our Lady's. 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 in Holy Week (Monday until Wednesday) 7.30am until 6pm.

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

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CLEANING - will take place on Thursday 6th April from 9.30am. Volunteers urgently required please.

CAFOD Holy Family tea /coffee and cake in parish room after 9.30am Mass on Easter Sunday. The next CAFOD meeting will be on Tuesday 11th April at 2pm in parish room at Holy Family.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES 30th April 11.30 at Our Lady's, 21st May 9.30 at Holy Family, 28th May 10.30 at St. Bonaventure's and 11th June 11.30 at Our Lady's.

CONFIRMATION The young people have a couple more sessions after Easter. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the Confirmation Mass on Friday 9th June at 7.30pm at Our Lady's.

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

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

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.

STREAMED MASS youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches This Sunday (2nd) and next Sunday (9th) Mass will be livestreamed at 11.30am from Our Lady's.

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

SERVICES AND MASS TIMES FOR THE WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

01 Saturday	6pm	Our Lady	Jane Flood
02 Sunday	8am	St. Bonaventure	Mavis Cleasby (R.I.P.)
	9.30am	Holy Family	Eileen Houlihan (R.I.P.)
	10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Ellen Brophy (R.I.P. anniversary)
	11.30am	Our Lady (<i>live streamed</i>)	Brian Davidson (R.I.P. anniversary)
	6pm	Holy Family	
03 Monday	9.30am	Our Lady	Lillie Gilligan (R.I.P.)
04 Tuesday	9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Lucy Diaz (R.I.P. anniversary)
	7pm	Our Lady	
05 Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Family	Intentions of Crabtree family
	2pm	Holy Family Funeral Mass	Carol Organ (R.I.P.)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

06 Thursday	6pm	St. Bonaventure	People of the parish
	7pm	Holy Family	People of the Parish
	8pm	Our Lady's (<i>live streamed</i>)	People of the Parish

GOOD FRIDAY

07 Friday	10am	Traditional Stations of the Cross	St. Bonaventure
	12noon	Children's Stations of the Cross	Our Lady's
	Solemn Liturgy	3pm	St. Bonaventure
		3pm	Holy Family
		5pm	Our Lady's (<i>live streamed</i>)
	8pm	Good Friday Evening Service	Our Lady's

HOLY SATURDAY 10am - 11am Confessions St. Bonaventure
4pm Polish blessing of food Our Lady's

EASTER VIGIL

8.30pm Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter Our Lady's People of the Parish

EASTER SUNDAY

8am	St. Bonaventure	People of the Parish
9.30am	Holy Family	People of the Parish
10.30am	St. Bonaventure	Edmond Devine (R.I.P. birthday)
11.30am	Our Lady's (<i>live streamed</i>)	People of the parish