

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*

Easter Sunday 9th April including 2nd and 3rd Sunday of Easter

THANK YOU are two words so important to me as we celebrate Easter! I am so grateful to those who prayed and reflected in Lent getting ready for the Sacred Triduum. The celebrations over Easter have renewed faith and reminded us of the One who is at the heart of all we do and who we are as Christians. The Altar Servers, Musicians and Singers, the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers, the Welcomers and Stewards, those involved in church cleaning, flower arranging and maintenance of the grounds, all who work so hard behind the scenes - how could we manage? I'd like to thank Fr. William and Kathryn Hubbard for their contributions. We have parishioners, visitors and friends - how lucky we are! Fr. William and I feel the generosity of your kindness expressed in cards, good wishes and gifts - so many of you are there for us when we need supportive presence.

At Easter we hear about absence - the Tomb is empty! However, the Lord has not left us abandoned; he is with us in a new way in his Risen Life. We read in the Scriptures about how he appears and transforms fear and doubt into joyful faith. He eats and drinks with his friends and reveals himself to them in so many different places. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead! Alleluia! What a marvellous message to hold onto, to love and to live out. No one is excluded. How can we radiate this message to those around us? The Church gives us Fifty Days to celebrate which will climax in the bestowing of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Let us not miss an opportunity to enjoy his company!

May God bless you and your loved ones. May this Easter remind us of much God loves us!
With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

ST. ALBANS. The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday in the Lady Chapel. All are welcome. Fr. Norbert will next celebrate this Mass on 19th May

CHAPEL at Our Lady's is closed at present and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd May.

STREAMED MASS [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches)

FINANCE IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY *Fr. Norbert writes:* With the merger of the three parishes into one on 1st January, 2023, we are now required by the Diocese to have only one bank account. This will be the one at St. Bonaventure's; so, in due course all standing orders and paying of bills will need to be moved into this account. This means we need ALL OF YOU to look again at your standing orders, please. If it was set up at St. Bonaventure's and you want to reassess it, giving more or less according to your circumstances, then please make out a new standing order through your bank and let us know through the Form attached to the newsletter. This will also give us your up-to-date contact details. For those of you who set up standing orders at Holy Family or Our Lady's, we ask you to make out a new standing order using the attached. You need to inform your bank of the ending of the previous standing order and then instruct them to set up the new standing order with the new bank details. It would help hugely if as many of you would use standing orders to make your regular gift to the church. Sometimes (or often) the machines at the back of the churches play up! Standing orders should be more straightforward. We also ask those of you who are tax-payers to allow the parish to claim back the tax you have paid - GiftAid. This results in an extra source of income which doesn't cost you anything as long as you are a tax-payer. The donation must come from a bank account in the name of the taxpayer who is claiming Gift Aid which can be a joint account. Thank you for your great generosity - it is much appreciated.

EASTER CONGRATULATIONS to our new members who completed their initiation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil!

LOURDES HCPT Our local Group 183 will be going on pilgrimage 'with Our Lady' to Lourdes on Monday morning, returning on Saturday night. The Group will pray for the parish and are so grateful to those who given support financially. If anyone wants petitions taken to the Grotto, please get them to Fr. Norbert by Easter Sunday evening! This is the first big pilgrimage since lockdown. Please keep all involved in your prayers.

FUNERALS

Zena Armstrong's Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 12th April at 2pm at Our Lady's.

Peter Conroy's Funeral Mass will be on Thursday 27th April at 12.30pm at St. Bonaventure'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!

DIVINE MERCY There will be devotions at Holy Family Church on Sunday 16th April to mark Divine Mercy Sunday. There will be the Rosary(2pm), Confessions & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (2.45pm), Benediction (3.45pm) and Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image.

VISITING PRIESTS Fr. Remy Pignal from the Diocese of St. Denis (Paris), Fr. Cedric de la Serre and Fr. Victor Vincelot both from the Diocese of Nanterre (Paris) will come for four days at the beginning of May and stay with Fr. Norbert. They came to WGC as seminarians/deacons and are now making a return visit - at the time of the Coronation! Fr. Julio Barcudi from the Diocese of Mallorca (Spain) and studying Scripture in Rome has asked to come to WGC at the end of August to improve his English. All the necessary paperwork will be in place regarding safeguarding and testimonials.

Monsignor Harry Turner will be helping us with Masses in the coming weeks. We are grateful to him for his willingness to help.

MISSION APPEAL The Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver will be here the weekend of 15th/16th April to appeal on behalf of the Sisters Missions Committee of England and Wales. They will tell us about their missionary Work and would be grateful for your support. There will be a retiring collection at the end of each Mass.

NEWSLETTER The next newsletter will be published the weekend of 29th /30th April.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE On Saturday 20th May, we will be going by coach to Walsingham and will join the National Pilgrimage of the Deaf. Walsingham is a Shrine of Our Lady dating back to 1061. A lady called Richeldis had a vision and was asked to build a copy of the Holy House of Nazareth. It became a pre-eminent place of pilgrimage until the Reformation. It has now become once more the National Shrine of Our Lady in this country. 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

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.

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.

FOCOLARE OPEN EVENING: Where were you when? Where are you now...? An evening sharing our first ever meeting with the Focolare Movement and its impact on our lives today. Friday 21st April, 7.30-9pm. Tea/coffee provided. Focolare Centre for Unity 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG.

ANNA WHITE who is in Year 9 at Loreto College, St. Albans, recently raised £466 for the charity International Justice Mission which was set up to help those affected by human trafficking and modern slavery. She is grateful for the generosity of parishioners. Well done, Anna!

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

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

OPUS DEI Evening of Recollection at Holy Family Church on Thursday 27th April 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 is also a recollection for women at St. Peter's Church, Hatfield on 19th April at 7pm. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. William or Ed Newman-Sanders (07984149320).

CAFOD have written to offer their thanks for the generous response to their Lenten Appeal on Family Fast Day. They also ask us to keep in mind people we have helped. An example follows: Shukla is a mum in Bangladesh who has been very worried about her children's nutrition. After joining a community project in Bangladesh, which is supported by CAFOD, Shukla has a productive garden and can grow food for her son. Shukla says, "worry has completely disappeared now." People support us in so many ways – giving in church, giving to us by direct debit, or leaving us a gift in their will. This generosity and compassion reaches hard-working mothers like Shukla. Thank you. To read Shukla's story, go to cafod.org.uk/GiftInWill

THE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL Are you looking for a way to live out your faith and serve your local community at the same time? If so, becoming a Foundation Governor would be an excellent way to do this. Foundation Governors play an important role in maintaining and developing the Catholic Life and Mission of Catholic schools. School governors also play a vital role in the strategic development of a school in areas such as finance, curriculum and site management. Generally the role of Foundation Governor will take up around 10 hours of your time each month, there is a minimum requirement of attending three full governing body meetings per year and serving on a committee. Free training will always be provided for new governors and this continues throughout all governors' terms of office. Foundation Governors must be practising Catholics. If you are able to consider this role, please contact Fr Norbert Fernandes or Katie Linnane, Head teacher of Holy Family on 01707375518 to find out more information about this role. **INSPECTION** Catholic schools receive a separate inspection on behalf of the Bishops, now called a Catholic Schools Inspection (previously section 48.) A new inspection framework has been introduced and Holy Family was one of the first schools in the Diocese of Westminster to be inspected under this revised and more rigorous framework on 8th and 9th February 2023. Governors, senior leaders and staff are very pleased with the outcome of our recent inspection. Catholic Life and Mission - 'Outstanding' Religious Education - 'Good' Collective Worship - 'Outstanding' Overall Outcome - 'Good' Here are some highlights from the report. 'The visitor is left in no doubt that this is a loving Catholic school that prides itself on a genuine, warm welcome.' 'Pupils, including disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND, achieve well.' 'Worship is thoughtfully planned, and music chosen enhances the experience for all. Prayer spaces are carefully prepared so pupils are left in no doubt about the importance of worship in the daily life of this school.'