St Bonaventure
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

Our Lady Queen of Apostles
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP
01707 323234

Holy Family
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ
01707 327434

WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT 16th March 2025

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Parish Administrator Mrs Jacqui Boon (Tuesday - Friday 9am until 12 noon)

Parish Email: wgc@rcdow.org.uk Website wgc-catholics.org.uk

TRINITY HALL Bookings + enquiries can be made through www.wgc-catholics.org.uk which has terms and conditions of hire, as well as a live diary. General enquiries please call 01707 537464

I thought spring had come as I felt the warm rays of the sun over a week ago! In these last days it has been icy and winter coats brought out again. Life can be very strange as nature is. There are times when all is going well and we sit back and relax; in a moment everything turns around. There is the experience, on the other hand, of circumstances tripping us up, being in a state of chaos when, all of a sudden, light shines out and we bask in wellbeing which is pure gift. Where are you at this time? Where is God in your life? How is Lent helping you to seize opportunities for life, growth - springtime?
In our First Reading today from Genesis, Abram is asked to look at the stars of heaven and picture them as his descendants. He had wondered how all this would be possible at his age, with Sarah old as well. Now we hear that Abram believes the Lord and this is counted to him as *righteousness.* Belief is a central element of our Lenten journey. There are members of our community heading towards the Sacraments at Easter and beyond. For the rest of us, there is the call to prepare ourselves for the solemn renewal of our Baptismal Promises at Easter. We are to recommit our lives to the Event of the Lord's Death and Resurrection which will unfold at the end of our Forty Days of prayer, fasting and penance.
The Gospel passage dazzles us with the radiance of the Lord at his Transfiguration. His human body reveals the glory of God and gives us a glimpse of what the fullness of the Resurrection will be for us as outlined by St. Paul writing to the Philippians. This *Transfiguration* is part of the road the Lord takes to Calvary - dying and rising, suffering and glory, rejection and acceptance are all woven into this rich tapestry. Let us be prepared to follow the Lord Jesus Christ with faith, hope and love!

May God bless and support you. With love and prayers, ***Fr. Norbert***

BAPTISMS *Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. Marco to arrange the Baptism of your child.*
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION *The final session for parents and children will be next Sunday 23rd March at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church.*
RCIA *Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm on Monday 17th March at 7.30pm.*
CONFIRMATION *Group A meets today (Sunday 16th) at 7.15pm in Holy Family's Parish Room. Group B on Sunday 23rd March.*

FOOD BANK *New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. Items received from 8am on a Wednesday at 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. Email foodbank@newzioncf.net if you wish to donate money. Please use the Food Bank Baskets at the back of our churches if you wish to give items: tins, pasta, rice & toiletries.*
TRANSPORT TO MASS GROUP *is there for parishioners who need a lift to Mass. Drivers are needed. Health & Safety training and Safeguarding requirements will be arranged. Call Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or macleaneltham@gmail.com*
LISTER HOSPITAL *Non-urgent referrals to Chaplaincy Team 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net*

JOSIE TREACY RIP *Josie's Funeral Mass will be at St. Bonaventure's on Monday 24th March at 12.30pm.*
ELIZABETH KING RIP *Liz's Funeral Mass will be at Holy Family Church on Friday 4th April at 12.30pm.*
LIZ DAVIN RIP *Liz's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 11th April at 10am.*

MEDJUGORJE *Fr. Norbert will lead a group to this Shrine of Our Lady in Croatia from Tuesday 21st - Tuesday 28th October 2025. The apparitions are still happening and Pope Francis has given permission for official pilgrimages to take place.* 31 have signed up. There's still room for more! All Saints Travel is organising everything and brochures are at the back of our churches. Online link: https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/MJ1035/
ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 17th May 2025 at 2.30pm for couples celebrating in 2025 their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and any year over 60) Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage. Please give Fr. Norbert these details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email (or phone number, if no email).
CHURCH CLEANING Our thanks to all who helped with church cleaning at Holy Family. There'll be a big spring clean at HF on Saturday 12th April at 11am.
ST. PATRICK'S DAY will be marked on Monday 17th March at 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's followed by refreshments in the Sacristy. A Happy Feast to our parishioners who hail from Ireland and to anyone named Patrick or Patricia. *Come and celebrate!*
MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday **5th** April at 2pm. A chance for family and friends to be together, remember and pray for comfort.
MOTHERING SUNDAY this year will be on Sunday 30th March. *That is also the week-end the clocks will go forward one hour!*
NURSERY Our Lady Catholic Primary School have a few places available in their Nursery for September 2025 entry. If your child was born between 1/9/21 and 31/8/21 please contact the school for an application form. Phone number: 01707 324408

CAPTAIN DIANE WATSON from the Salvation Army in Woodhall will soon be leaving. She will be taking up a new appointment after a few months of sabbatical. *We wish her every blessing.*
TUESDAY On Tuesday 1st April there will not be 7pm Mass at Our Lady's. *This is not an April Fool!*
SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Our next celebration will not be in April but on Saturday 17th May at 6pm at Our Lady's - a date for your diaries!

LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS on Wednesdays after 9.30am Mass at Holy Family, on Fridays after 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's & Fridays after 7pm Mass at Our Lady's.
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT for half an hour on Mondays at Our Lady's after 9.30 Mass, on Thursdays at Holy Family after 9.30 Mass and on Saturdays at St. Bonaventure's after 10am Mass. *Come and enjoy peace and serenity in the Lord's Presence!*

FIRST FRIDAY There will be the early morning Mass at St. Bonaventure's at 6.30 followed by a simple breakfast in the hall on 4th April. Also, the Rosary is usually prayed on First Fridays after 9.30 Mass (and the Stations of the Cross) and on First Saturdays before 10am Mass.
RESTORATION HOLY HOUR on Friday 4th April after 7pm Mass at Our Lady's - music, prayer and silence with the Stations of the Cross.
SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION before Easter will be on Tuesday 15th April at 8pm at Our Lady's with visiting priests helping with Confessions.

CAFOD FAST DAY COLLECTION here in Welwyn Garden City will be transferred to 5th/6th April. *You can start now saving to support people in developing countries!* There are Jubilee Year resources available for downloading cafod.org.uk/jubilee-guide

CARDINAL'S APPEAL supporting Youth & Evangelisation, Social Action, Marriage & Family Life and Catholic Education Initiatives. *Take one of the special envelopes!*

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE The Lent Appeal is to support those in detention. More info www.jrsuk.net/lent
LENTEN LUNCHES hosted by the Catholic Women's League every Saturday until 12th April 12.30 until 1.30pm. £5 per person with soup, roll, cake and a hot drink in the Trinity Hall. *Enjoy a simple lunch in good company!*
PALM SUNDAY Children are invited to take part in the acting of the Passion at Our Lady's Church on Sunday 13th April 12 noon. There will be practices on Sunday 6th April at 11am and on Sunday 13th April at 11.15am. *All are welcome!*

JUBILEE YEAR *Pilgrims of Hope*

In our Diocese a number of churches have been designated as Jubilee Churches. Our Lady's WGC is the church for Hertfordshire. This means that by receiving Holy Communion, going to Confession, saying the Creed and praying for the Pope's Intention, you can receive a Plenary Indulgence for yourself or for someone who has died - helping you or the deceased towards eternity. In addition to Mass and devotions, works of charity or mercy are possible elements. On **Sunday 6th July**, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions at 3pm. The Cardinal will offer catechesis at 4pm. He will celebrate Mass at 5pm. This will be a very special time for us as we host this great gathering for the Jubilee Year in Hertfordshire.

DARE WE HOPE? Focolare Open Afternoon, Sunday 16 March, 3-5pm at Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. Parking via The Cloisters AL8 6DU. Time together to contemplate the reality of hope in our lives. Two life experiences will be shared and we will look at art showing episodes of the Christ's journey towards his death and resurrection, helping us to refocus on our Lenten journey. All welcome! There will be a pro-gramme for children. Refreshments provided.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Fr. William Johnstone will lead the devotions at Holy Family Church on Sunday 27th April at 2pm. Please join us for the Rosary, an hour of Divine Mercy, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet and veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. *All are welcome!*

MASS INTENTIONS

15th March Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Josie Treacy RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Margaret Caulfield RIP Anniv *remembering Nancy Attwood RIP Anniv*

16th Sunday *SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT*

9am	St. Bonaventure	John and Teresa O'Sullivan
10.30am	Holy Family	Alexandra D'Costa RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	John Davin RIP Anniv
6pm	Holy Family	Bridie Frost RIP and Carol Organ RIP

17th Monday *ST. PATRICK*

9.30am	Our Lady	Shelley and Neil Carmon's Intentions

18th Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Joseph Fernandez (Birthday Intention)
7pm	Our Lady	Daisy Thaliath RIP Anniv

19th Wednesday *ST. JOSEPH*

9.30am	Holy Family	Mario Mariosa RIP Anniv

20th Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	Lucy Dias RIP Birthday

21st Friday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Annette Gurjao (Birthday Intention)
7pm	Our Lady	Nicholas Kilhams RIP

22nd Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Mavis Cleasby RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Ken Shaw RIP

23rd Sunday *THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Roy D'Cunha RIP
10.30am	Holy Family	Josie Rodger RIP Anniv
12 noon	Our Lady	Rose's Intentions
6pm	Holy Family	Elizabeth Geehan RIP Anniv

CONFESSIONS (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30am

St. Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11am Our Lady's Saturday 5.00 - 5.30pm

CHAPEL near the Trinity Hall is open 8.30am - 4pm Monday to Friday.

ST. ALBANS There is a Catholic Mass every Friday in the Lady Chapel in St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon. *Fr. Norbert celebrating this Mass on 21st March.*

STREAMED MASS on youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches