



St Bonaventure
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Our Lady Queen of Apostles
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP
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Holy Family
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 3rd November 2024

Parish Priest Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234 norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk

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

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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

We have now entered the month of November. Launched with All Saints Day, we now spend time considering eternity and praying for those who have died. Our Christian hope is that they will share in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We never take this for granted but trust in the grace of God revealed in the Cross of his Son. This gift from the Father makes up for whatever the departed still need as they await eternal life; we have confidence that the power of prayer supports them on their final journey. For those gathering on Saturday night, this will be a Mass of All Souls Day; for those on Sunday, the readings will be from the Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time. Whichever, let our focus be on powerful intercession for the dead and our hearts open to the comfort and healing the Lord wants to bring us.

In the Sunday Gospel, Jesus is questioned about the *first of all the commandments*. The scribe recognises the excellent answer the Lord has given in response about loving God and neighbour. 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God' is Christ's comment. What a wonderful way of things being put! Obviously we are so aware of other times when scribes are trying to catch Jesus out. Today in this passage there is a really positive engagement resulting in no more questions! As we journey through life, our gaze is fixed on our destiny; our experience and hope is to have a taste of it in the here and now. When heaven and life everlasting touch us, we are not far from the Kingdom. As we put our efforts into building up this Kingdom, we take steps in the right direction.

May this important month bring light into your hearts and peace to the departed. As the seasons take a new course, so may we be renewed in faith in the Resurrection. God bless you!

With love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

BAPTISMS Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. Marco to arrange the Baptism of your child.

CONFIRMATION COURSE 2024/25 The Enrolment Evening with Presentation for parents and young people (at least in Year 9 at school) will be this evening (Sunday 3rd) at Holy Family Church 7.15 - 8.30pm. *Forms at back of church or on parish website*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION If you missed the meeting, please speak to Fr. Norbert.

RCIA There's still time to join if you are interested in becoming a Catholic or if you are a Catholic who missed out on Confirmation as a child. Next session in Our Lady's Sacristy at 7.30pm on Monday 4th November. The meeting lasts an hour.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY will be on Saturday 22nd February in the Trinity Hall 10.30am until 5pm with the Blessing of Engaged Couples at the 6pm Mass. Let Fr. Norbert know if you would like to attend. In this Diocese, 6 months' notice is required to prepare all that is needed for Marriage. Couples getting married in 2025/26 are invited.

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 to donate. Use Food Bank Baskets at the back of church.

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

NEW BOOKS If anyone would like to contribute towards new Mass books (with the new Scripture translation) for use in our 3 churches, let Fr. Norbert know. Thank you to those who have contributed. There's still time before the order is placed.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM Our new digital system still has teething problems, including the voice messaging service. Apologies. Email if necessary.

CHURCH CLEANING St. Bonaventure's Tuesday 5th November after 9.30am Mass. Holy Family on Wednesday 6th November after 9.30am Mass. *Thank you to all who help.*

FOCOLARE COMMUNITY MEETING 3 - 5 pm Sunday 17th November at Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. Everyone welcome! Includes programmes for children in 2 age groups (4-8 and 9-13), supervised by adults with safeguarding training. Refreshments provided.

'COME & CELEBRATE' - an opportunity to hear about Winter Festivals in the different faiths, and to taste traditional food on Thursday 14th November at 7.30pm at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, AL8 6JG. All welcome

OPEN PARISH MEETING The Minutes from last Sunday's meeting are available at the back of our churches. Please take a copy and find out what was discussed and shared. Most importantly, the **Masses for Christmas Eve** will be reduced. So, 5pm Our Lady's, 6pm St. Bonaventure's, 8pm Holy Family and 9pm Our Lady's. Christmas Day continues with 9am St. Bonaventure's, 10am Holy Family and 11am Our Lady's. The usual **Sunday morning schedule of Masses** was discussed especially thinking about the possibility of there only being one priest in WGC or the need of our helping another parish in the event of illness. It was agreed to alter the schedule - initially from the summer. However, given that clergy time away will start in early January, Fr. Norbert has decided to make the change from the beginning of January 2025. The new Sunday morning schedule will be 9am St. Bonaventure's, 10.30am Holy Family and 12 noon Our Lady's. There will be Saturday 10am Mass at St. Bonaventure's, Saturday 6pm at Our Lady's and Sunday 6pm at Holy Family. *Tea/coffee still after St. Bonaventure's and Holy Family's Masses. Organisers of the Readers' and Eucharistic Ministers' Rotas, please amend lists for 2025.* Fr. Norbert is grateful for the understanding shown.

JOHANNA NEALL RIP Johanna's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Monday 11th November at 9.30am.

VERA CHASE RIP Vera's Funeral Service will be at Harwood Park Crematorium on Monday 11th November at 2pm.

MARY FELICIEN RIP (Lorina's Mother) died in St. Lucia in the Caribbean. Her Funeral will be there on 20th November.

BLESSING OF GRAVES

Oakhill Cemetery, Southway, (formerly Hatfield Lawn) AL10 8HS Sunday 3rd November at **2pm**. *The Council would like to take the opportunity to open up the Chapel for people to see. There will be tea, coffee and cakes available and the use of the toilets.*

Hatfield Hyde Cemetery, Hollybush Lane AL7 4JU Sunday 10th November 2pm

Welwyn New Cemetery, Fulling Mill Lane AL6 9NJ Sunday 17th November 2pm

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST Lists for you to write the names of loved ones who have died are at the back of the churches. Please return to the Presbytery. And they will be remembered throughout November. *There is no need to give money!*

COFFEE/TEA Wednesdays after 9.30am Mass at Holy Family Church and Thursdays 10.30am - 12 noon in Our Lady's Sacristy. Come and meet fellow parishioners!

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR will take place on Friday 8th November after 7pm Mass at Our Lady's. It is a great opportunity to rest in the Lord's presence with music and silence. Everyone is welcome!

FIRST FRIDAY The next early morning Mass for First Friday will be on 6th December at 6.30 at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the hall. All are welcome!

OUR LADY SCHOOL KS2 will join the 9.30am Mass on Monday 4th November.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE The annual Regional Mass will be held at Our Lady's on Saturday 9th November at 11am. Members from across the Diocese will gather with Fr. Norbert celebrating the Mass. *There will not be 10.30am Confessions at St. Bonaventure's on the 9th.*

MASS INTENTIONS

2nd November Saturday *ALL SOULS DAY*

10am St. Bonaventure Holy Souls
6pm Our Lady Holy Souls

3rd Sunday *THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

8am St. Bonaventure Holy Souls
9.30am Holy Family Noemi + Elias Gonsalves RIP
10.30am St. Bonaventure Jane D'Souza (Special Intention)
11.30am Our Lady Tina Kilkenny RIP Anniv
6pm Holy Family Holy Souls

4th Monday *St. Charles Borromeo*

9.30am Our Lady Eileen Coyle's Intentions

5th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Sonia Ducos RIP
7pm Our Lady + Novena to Our Lady Jacqueline Gauchard RIP

6th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Maria Fatima Velho Pereira (75th Birthday) and Rafael Antonio Velho Pereira RIP (Wedding Anniversary)

7th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Holy Souls

8th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Rachel Scanlon's Intentions
7pm Our Lady Tracey Laycock RIP Anniv

9th Saturday *DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA*

10am St. Bonaventure Holy Souls
11am Our Lady Catholic Women's League Diocesan Mass
6pm Our Lady James Bonass RIP Anniv

CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Thursdays 10.00 - 10.30am Holy Family with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturdays 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure (*Not on 9th November*)

5pm - 5.30pm Our Lady

CHAPEL open Monday to Friday 7.30am - 6pm. (*Near the Trinity Hall*)

ST. ALBANS There is a Catholic Mass every Friday in the Lady Chapel in St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon. *Fr. Norbert celebrating next on 20th December*

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