



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

1st October, 2023

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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 contains terms and conditions of hire, as well as a live diary. General enquiries Please call 01707 537464

In our Second Reading from St. Paul to the Philippians, the Apostle writes about Community and he presents the essence of Jesus Christ as God and Man. We discover vocabulary to underpin our identity as Christians: love, tenderness, sympathy, unity, a willingness to be self-effacing (modest) and to think of others' interests. This is all prefaced by 'If our life in Christ means anything to you.' Paul then proceeds to outline how Christ Jesus from his place with God (the Father) let go of everything in order to become one of us. He came down to us and then was hung on a Cross. God however raised him high and has given him a name to be worshipped and adored. Paul wants us as Community, a fellowship of persons, to mirror the dynamic we discover in Jesus Christ so that one day we might live for ever in this beauty and majesty in God's presence - heaven!

This week the RCIA begins in our parish. Let us pray for all who feel called to join the Church or to find out more. Let us pray also for those who consider now the right time to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church through Confirmation. It is a big step to take and requires a new beginning and the feeling of the support of the Community. Our faith is in Jesus Christ, God and Human Being. Our belief is in a God who is a Trinity of Persons. At the heart of our worship as Catholic Christians is the reality of Bread and Wine becoming the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus who helps us to worship God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We must not forget that we are then sent out with a message and a way of life which should be in harmony with one another. That is what St. Paul exhorts the Church in Philippi to carry out. What a joy! What a challenge! For us too here in Welwyn Garden City and beyond! God bless you. With my love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

RCIA Any adults who wish to join the Catholic Church are invited to a first meeting on **Monday 2nd October** in the Sacristy of Our Lady's Church. We will start at **7.30pm** and finish by 8.30pm. It will be a chance to find out what is involved in the Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and to meet others who are similarly interested. Adults who were baptised as children and who missed out on the Sacrament of Confirmation are very welcome to come as well. Sometimes there are people waiting to be invited! So, why not think about a person you know and encourage them to come along. This is such an important part of the life of a parish - growth and development in faith are crucial.

POLISH MASS AND PARTY There will be a Polish-English Mass at Our Lady's Church this Saturday (30th) at 6pm followed by a party in the Trinity Hall. There will be food and drink and music. Everyone is invited! To help with the celebration, contact Anna on anna.skiba@gmail.com

Polska Msza odbędzie się w sobotę 30 września o 18.00 w kościele Our Lady. Po Mszy organizowane jest wspólne spotkanie przy polskim poczęstunku w Trinity Hall. Wszystkich serdecznie zapraszamy. Jeśli ktoś jest zainteresowany pomocą przy organizacji, proszę o kontakt na e-mail: anna.skiba1005@gmail.com

OPEN PARISH MEETING Fr. Norbert would like to invite parishioners to an Open Parish Meeting on Tuesday 7th November at 8pm in the Trinity Hall. We have not had an opportunity since lockdown to meet in this way. The accounts will be presented and hopefully every parish group will report on their activities. There will be time to plan for the coming year. Please put the date in your diary and come along. Everyone is welcome and needed!

BAPTISMS Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. Marco if you wish to arrange the Baptism of your child and they will organise all that is needed.

MARRIAGE Any couples who are planning on getting married in WGC or elsewhere next year or in 2025 should contact Fr. Norbert. **Saturday 10th February 2024** - the Marriage Preparation Day.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. If you are able to drop off non-perishable food, New Zion is happy to receive contributions from 8am on a Wednesday. The address is 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. To make a financial contribution to the Food Bank, email foodbank@newzioncf.net There are Food Bank Baskets at the back of our churches. Thank you.

HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES needs good quality second hand school uniforms or donations to buy new ones for the refugee children. Contact woodcraftvicky@gmail.com

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Next celebration on Saturday 4th November at 6pm at Our Lady's.

SECOND-HAND BICYCLE needed for a 13-yearold refugee from Ukraine. If you can help, contact Janet Lewis from SVP on 01707 326456.Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING St. Bonaventure's Tuesday after 9.30 Mass. Our Lady's Saturday at 10am; maintenance of grounds also. Thank you.

FINANCE IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY Standing order forms are available at the back of church. Consider setting up a standing order to make your regular gift to the church. Standing orders give us a steady income. *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. Thanks!

LISTER HOSPITAL If someone you know 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 want a priest's visit.

HOLY LAND MEETING All pilgrims are invited to a gathering in the Trinity Hall on Saturday 21st October starting at 11am and ending with a shared lunch (finishing around 1pm).

TRANSPORT TO MASS If any parishioners need a lift to Mass, the Transport to Mass Group is there! Drivers are desperately needed too. Health and safety training and safeguarding requirements will be arranged. Contact Anne Maclean-Eltham 07811926002 or email macleaneltham@btinternet.com

OPEN EVENING

Nicholas Breakspear School Thursday 5th October 5.30 - 8.30pm

PRIEST'S REFERENCE for Secondary School Transfer. Parents are asked to download from parish website a form requesting a Certificate of Catholicity. These should either be sent to Our Lady's Church (141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP) or emailed to Fr. Norbert and he will make contact with each family. *For a Certificate to be issued, families should be attending Mass regularly.*

ENROLMENT FOR THE SACRAMENTS

1st Confession & 1st Holy Communion (Year 3) Tuesday 17th October 6pm in Our Lady's Church.

Confirmation (for teenagers at least in Year 9) Sunday 12th November 7pm Holy Family Church.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY on Friday 6th October. Special envelopes will be given out today. For more information or to donate online cafod.org.uk Retiring collection next weekend.

FOCOLARE OPEN EVENING on Friday 20th October 7.30 to 9pm - Jim McManus, Director of Public Health for Herts County Council: "The Importance of Faith Communities to the Health of the Surrounding Neighbourhood." Focolare Centre for Unity 69 Parkway, WGC AL8 6JG.

OUR LADY'S SCHOOL, HITCHIN Year 6 will have a Retreat Day in WGC with Fr. Norbert and will attend 9.30 Mass on Monday 2nd October at Our Lady's Church.

MASS INTENTIONS *These can be booked through Fr. Norbert*

30 Saturday

6pm Our Lady Con Gilhooly RIP (25th Anniversary)

1 Sunday **TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

8am St. Bonaventure Souls in Purgatory

9.30am Holy Family Special Intention (CW)

10.30am St. Bonaventure Roy D’Cunha (RIP)

11.30am Our Lady Breda Joyce RIP

6pm Holy Family Bernardita Legaspi RIP

2 Monday *Guardian Angels*

9.30am Our Lady

3 Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Jane D’Souza (Special Intention)

7pm Our Lady

4 Wednesday *St Francis of Assisi*

9.30am Holy Family Sophie Constable 33rd Birthday

5 Thursday

9.30am Holy Family

6 Friday

6.30am St. Bonaventure Ruby Brand’s Intention (3rd Birthday) *Livestreamed*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Charles D’Costa (Special Intention)

7pm Our Lady

30 Saturday *Our Lady of the Rosary*

10am St. Bonaventure Johanna D’Costa RIP

6pm Our Lady

CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Saturdays 5pm-5.30pm Our Lady

Thursdays 10am - 10.30am Holy Family

Saturdays 10.30am - 11am St. Bonaventure

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT 10am - 10.30am HOLY FAMILY

CHAPEL at Our Lady's (near entrance to the Trinity Hall) is open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm. Pop in for a moment of silence, to light a candle, to say a prayer.

ST. ALBANS The Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral takes place at 12 noon every Friday in the Lady Chapel. All are welcome. *13th October will mark the 40th Anniversary of Catholic Mass being celebrated in the Cathedral. Fr. Norbert and other priests will be there!*

STREAMED MASS on [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) Saturday’s 6pm Mass will be streamed at 10am on Sunday 1st.