



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

15th October 2023

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

Assistant Priest Fr. Marco Salvagnini 01707 327434 marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk

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

"Since he is not the God of disorder but of peace" (1 Cor. 14,33)

Dear brothers and sisters,

May the Lord indeed give us His peace! The pain and dismay at what is happening is great. Once again we find ourselves in the midst of a political and military crisis. We have suddenly been catapulted into a sea of unprecedented violence. The hatred, which we have unfortunately already been experiencing for too long, will increase even more, and the en-suing spiral of violence will create more destruction. Everything seems to speak of death. Yet, in this time of sorrow and dismay, we do not want to remain helpless. We cannot let death and its sting (1 Cor 15:55) be the only word we hear.

That is why we feel the need to pray, to turn our hearts to God the Father. Only in this way we can draw the strength and serenity needed to endure these hard times, by turning to Him, in prayer and intercession, to implore and cry out to God amidst this anguish. On behalf of all the Bishops of the Holy Land, I invite all parishes and religious communi-ties to a day of fasting and prayer for peace and reconciliation.

We ask that on Tuesday 17th October everyone hold a day of fasting, abstinence, and pray-er. Let us organise prayer and the recitation of the Rosary to Our Blessed Virgin Mary.

This is the way we all come together despite everything, and unite collectively in prayer, to deliver to God the Father our thirst for peace, justice, and reconciliation.

With sincere prayers for all, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

RCIA If you want to become a Catholic or if you are an adult Catholic who missed out on Confirmation, there is still time to join. Monday 16th Oct. 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

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. 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.

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 Couples planning on getting married in WGC or elsewhere 2024/2025 should contact Fr. Norbert. **Saturday 10th February 2024** - the Marriage Prep 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.

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

HCPT GROUP 183 will be having a Quiz Night on Friday 10th November. Teams of up to 8 people £5 per person at Trinity Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Please bring your own drinks. All money raised will be going help take children with disability on pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes. To book you table please call Barbara on [07789743703](tel:07789743703)

HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY SCHOOL Applications for Nursery and Reception places open on 1st November. Wrap around care also available. If you would like to visit and meet the Headteacher, call 01707 375518. Also visit www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk/

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

ALL SAINTS DAY (Wednesday 1st November) This is a Holy Day of Obligation when the Church asks Catholics to attend Mass. There will be a Vigil Mass on Tuesday 31st 7pm at Our Lady's, 9.30am at Holy Family on 1st, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

ALL SOULS DAY (Thursday 2nd November) We remember and pray for the dead. Masses at 9.30am at Holy Family, 12 noon at St. Bonaventure's and 7pm at Our Lady's.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST Soon there will be sheets at the back of our churches on which you can write the names of loved ones who have died. Please return them to the sacristies. There is no need to give any money.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Sunday 5th November 2pm at Hatfield Lawn Cemetery (Oakhill on Southway). Sunday 12th November 1.30pm at Hatfield Hyde Cemetery (Hollybush Lane). Sunday 19th November 2pm Welwyn New Cemetery (Fulling Mill Lane) *Please let family and friends know these dates!*

MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY OF DEANERY Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate Mass in Our Lady's Church with the Stevenage Deanery priests on Tuesday 7th November at 11am. *There will not be 9.30 Mass that day at St. Bonaventure's.* Afterwards there will be tea and coffee in the Trinity Hall to which everyone is invited.

CLOCKS will go back one hour in the early hours of Sunday 29th October. Enjoy the extra hour in bed!

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. 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 Saturday 21st October 11am - 1pm. *We will have to review whether this meeting takes place. Pilgrims will be alerted by All Saints Travel.*

TRANSPORT TO MASS If any parishioners need a lift to Mass, the Transport to Mass Group is there! Drivers are urgently needed. Health & Safety training and Safeguarding requirements will be arranged. Contact Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or macleanelthem@btinternet.com

PRIEST'S REFERENCE for Secondary School Transfer. Parents are asked to down-load 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. *Please make sure you contact Fr. Norbert BEFORE half-term. Thank you.*

ENROLMENT FOR THE SACRAMENTS 1st Confession & 1st Holy Communion (Year 3) Tuesday 17th October 6pm in Our Lady's Church. Parents and children are asked to come. Meeting will last 30 minutes.

Confirmation (Year 9+) Sunday 12th November 7pm in Holy Family Church.

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. Tea/coffee provided. Invite your friends!

CAFOD GROUP has a cake sale today (Sunday 15th) after Holy Family's 9.30 Mass.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP Rev. John Church, Chaplain to local British Legion will speak on Justice & Peace Thursday 19th October at Focolare Centre.

BECOME A DEMENTIA FRIEND! Friends of Welwyn Care Homes are hosting a Dementia Friends Information Evening on Tuesday 24th October at the Focolare Centre, 7.30-9.00pm. Contact anne.horsman@btinternet.com/07771931063 for more info.

SAMARITAN SHOE BOXES These will not be collected at church, but if you would like to donate one, you can drop it off at the Entertainers Shop in the Howard Centre.

HALF-TERM Happy holidays next week to all involved in Education

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

14th Saturday

6pm Our Lady Thomas Ryan RIP (month's mind)

15th Sunday **TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

8am St. Bonaventure In thanksgiving (ER)

9.30am Holy Family David Buxton RIP

10.30am St. Bonaventure Tereza D'Souza RIP

11.30am Our Lady Michael Caulfield RIP Anniv

6pm Holy Family

16th Monday

9.30am Our Lady

17th Tuesday *St. Ignatius of Antioch*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Peggy Moore RIP

7pm Our Lady

18th Wednesday **St. Luke**

9.30am Holy Family

19th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family

20th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure

7pm Our Lady

21st Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure

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 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. *Chapel will be closed during half-term holiday.*

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

STREAMED MASS on [youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches](https://www.youtube.com/c/WelwynGardenCityCatholicChurches) This Saturday's 6pm Mass will be recorded and streamed on Sunday from 10am.