



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

Holy Family
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

22nd 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

‘Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.’ These are such challenging words from Jesus to those who are trying to entrap him. For us as believers, *everything* belongs to God. We hold that God is the source of life, of love, of all that is. We see the majesty of God in the wonder of Creation, from the minutest of particles to the largest of stars, light-years away. We reflect on the timeless nature of God to whom seconds, minutes and days are insignificant because God has the ability to cross time and space. As followers of Jesus Christ, we try to fathom what it means for the Son of God to be revealed in human form bound by time and space. The more we ponder this mystery, the more mind-blowing is the result!

At the moment our minds and hearts are caught up with the suffering peoples of the Holy Land. There does not seem to be an obvious answer to the tragedy or a magic wand to make trauma disappear. Our prayers are offered with all our might. Our resolve to be people of peace and justice in our own lives is a sign of trust in God. Our decision never to give up on our yearning for reconciliation is crucial. In our Second Reading as we embark on St. Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle uses some pertinent language: ‘wishing you grace and peace’, ‘we always mention you in our prayers’, ‘you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.’ This Epistle is one of the ancient texts of the New Testament and highlights St. Paul’s love of this community which he founded and his desire for them to practise the quality of loving which radiates Christ. Let this be our aspiration in the coming days!

May God watch over you and our world with grace beyond measure. With love and prayers, Fr. Norbert

RCIA Next session Monday 30th October 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. Afterwards there will be a gathering in the Trinity Hall with bingo and a quiz. *All are welcome.*

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 There are 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.

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.

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 macleaneltham@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. *Fr. Norbert is up to date with all the requests he received. If any more come in, he will contact the families. Thank you.*

ENROLMENT FOR CONFIRMATION Young people need to be at least in Year 9. Come with your parents on Sunday 12th November 7pm in Holy Family Church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION If you missed last Tuesday's meeting, please contact Fr. Norbert as soon as possible. Thank you.

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 to all involved in Education!

FIRST FRIDAY Next early morning Mass at St. Bonaventure's on 3rd November at 6.30 followed by breakfast in the Hall. All welcome!

SUPPLY PRIESTS Our thanks to Monsignor Harry Turner and Fr. Frank Leonard who have helped us recently. Monsignor Harry will celebrate some of the weekday Masses in the next few days. We are so grateful for their support.

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

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

21st Saturday

6pm Our Lady Tracey Laycock RIP Anniv

22nd Sunday

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am St. Bonaventure

Brand Family Intentions

9.30am Holy Family

Mary & Derek Kelly's Intentions

10.30am St. Bonaventure

Dominic D'Souza RIP

11.30am Our Lady

Michael Maher RIP (birthday)

remembering also Denise Annette Poole RIP

6pm Holy Family

Roza Joan D'Cunha RIP

23rd Monday

9.30am Our Lady

24th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure

Peggy Moore RIP

7pm Our Lady

25th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family

26th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family

27th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure

Nelson D'Lima RIP

7pm Our Lady

Lara Ignatius (Birthday Intention)

28th Saturday ***St. Simon and St. Jude Apostles***

10am St. Bonaventure

6pm Our Lady

Jesus Muniz Castelo RIP Anniv

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 *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 Sunday's 11.30 Mass will be livestreamed.