



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

29th 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

'You must love God and your neighbour!' These words form the essence of today's Gospel passage from St. Matthew. I think that it is so important to see the context in which the Lord utters them. Firstly there are the groups trying to silence Jesus with a line of questioning to confound him. As we saw last week, the Lord has just the right way of responding to them! Now it is the case of the 'greatest commandment of the Law' and Jesus speaks of love of God with your whole being and love of neighbour; he adds that on these two 'hang the whole Law and the Prophets also'.

Another context I would like to reflect on is the positioning of this episode in the Gospel. We are coming to the end of St. Matthew with Jesus having already entered Jerusalem on a donkey. Soon he will be taken to the Cross and pour out his life in Sacrifice for humanity. As Jesus speaks today's words, he cannot have helped but pondered on what this *love* would be like in his own life. He definitely loves the Father with his whole being - he has experienced love from eternity and now it reaches its climax. This love is for the sake of the human race, to bring salvation and offer an alternative experience to us of what it means to be loved by our God-in-Jesus. How fortunate and blessed we are!

Finally, as we read today's passage, we think about the context of the Holy Land at the present moment. Love is needed for reconciliation. Love overcomes evil. Love heals the pain of bereavement. Love can overcome so much as is evidenced in Jesus' Life, Death and Resurrection. Let us, in love, pray so hard for the situation as it continues to unfold. May our hope be in the power of God to overcome the barriers which humanly speaking seem unsurmountable.

God bless each and every one of you. With much love, Fr. Norbert

RCIA Next session Monday 30th October 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

OPEN PARISH MEETING on Tuesday 7th November in the Trinity Hall 8pm until 9.30pm. All parish groups are invited to give a short presentation - please let Fr. Norbert know who will do so. The accounts will be presented. Importantly it will be an opportunity to think ahead and plan for the future. Your presence is 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 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

CWL On 17th November the Catholic Women's League will take part in the Peartree Christmas Fayre at the Woodhall Community Centre with tombola and raffle. Please look in your cupboards for unwanted gifts/toys/jewellery and contact Sally Rand on 01707 884492 or Sylvie Nichols on 01707 335358. All monies raised will support CWL charities. Thank you!

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.**

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND COLLECTION will be next weekend. This fund supports 82 retired priests of our Diocese at a cost of £850k. There are donation envelopes at the back of the church. You can donate online www.rcdow.org.uk/ donations. You may wish to become a *Patron* - there are leaflets with more information. *Please pray for the wellbeing of all our clergy - active, retired and ill.* 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 taxpayers 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 taxpayer. 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.enhtr@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 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. *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 the enrolment meeting, please contact Fr. Norbert as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

THOMAS CASEY RIP Thomas's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's on Friday 3rd November at 1pm.

AMAL YOUSEF RIP Amal's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's on Monday 6th November at 11am.

CHURCH CLEANING on Tuesday 31st October after 9.30 Mass at St. Bonaventure's, on Saturday 4th November 10am at Our Lady's as well as the maintenance of the grounds. Come and lend a hand if you are free. Thank you.

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

28th Saturday

6pm Our Lady Jesus Muniz Castelo RIP Anniv

29th Sunday **THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

8am St. Bonaventure Roger Shelford RIP Anniv

9.30am Holy Family Mary Tempany RIP Anniv

10.30am St. Bonaventure In thanksgiving for blessings (the Fishwick Family)

11.30am Our Lady Deceased members of the Hall & McManus families

6pm Holy Family Tom Casey RIP

30th Monday

9.30am Our Lady Vincent Mathew's Intentions

31st Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Augustus Joachim RIP 3rd Anniv

7pm **ALL SAINTS** Our Lady Tom Casey RIP

1st Wednesday **ALL SAINTS**

9.30am Holy Family Special Intention (CW)

12 noon St. Bonaventure Florencia & Guillermo Muceros RIP,
Arnold Muceros RIP Anna Liza Sabalvaro RIP

7pm Our Lady Brian Hall RIP

2nd Thursday **ALL SOULS**

9.30am Holy Family Holy Souls

12 noon St. Bonaventure Holy Souls

7pm Our Lady Holy Souls

3rd Friday

6.30am St. Bonaventure Holy Souls

9.30am St. Bonaventure Nelson D'Lima RIP

1pm Our Lady Thomas Casey RIP (Funeral Service)

7pm Our Lady Holy Souls

4th Saturday *St. Charles Borromeo*

10am St. Bonaventure

6pm Our Lady Derek Relph RIP & Deborah Martin RIP

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 *Near Trinity Hall open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm.*

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral 12 noon Fridays Lady Chapel.

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

Saturday's 6pm Mass will be recorded and streamed at 10am on Sunday.