



St Bonaventure
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Our Lady Queen of Apostles
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

5th November 2023

Parish Priest Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234

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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

In today's Gospel from St. Matthew, Jesus is so critical of those in authority! He speaks about titles and clothing, places of honour and an inability to practise what is being preached. When the Evangelist amassed these texts to form the Gospel, there must have been a realisation that it is especially difficult to be a leader and that Jesus' words are as important for the preacher as for the listener. So, the Lord puts me on the spot! Titles - I'm now a canon. Clothing - I can wear purple at certain ceremonies. As the one presiding at the Liturgy, I have a prominent place. The Word of God must be preached - and yet so often it is as challenging to me as to others. What a conundrum! As your Parish Priest, I need your prayers, your support, your patience and your encouragement. It isn't always easy to get everything right all the time. Many years ago before I became a first-time Parish Priest, a friend said: 'Norbert, you have to think much further ahead and in a wider way.' Being a priest is a real joy but it requires dependence on God and his People.

St. Paul in a wonderful and intimate way, speaks of his connection with the Thessalonians: he is like a mother feeding and protecting her children. St. Paul loves his people. He is convinced that the message from God is a living power among them. I value hugely this imagery used by the Apostle. With various communities he had his moments with major challenge where he had to pull them up for their behaviour and attitudes. Here, however, he reveals a communion of grace founded on the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray for one another! God bless you. With much love, **Fr. Norbert**

RCIA Next session Monday 6th November 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

OPEN PARISH MEETING on Tuesday 7th November in the Trinity Hall 8pm until 9.30pm. There will be tea and coffee available from 7.45pm. All parish groups are invited to give a short presentation - please let Fr. Norbert know who will do so. The accounts will be presented. It is a chance for us after the pandemic to reflect and plan ahead. Please come. Your voice 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. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on **Saturday 10th February 2024** ...in readiness for Valentine's Day!

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9-11 am. 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

HCPT GROUP 183 will be having a Quiz Night this Friday (10th). 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 17th November Peartree Christmas Fayre has been cancelled.

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. They will be prayed for throughout November. 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 Southway. Sunday 12th November 1.30pm at Hatfield Hyde Cemetery (Hollybush Lane). Sunday 19th November 2pm Welwyn New Cemetery (Fulling Mill Lane) *You are invited to gather near the entrance of the cemetery for initial prayers and then each individual grave will be blessed. Obviously if pouring with rain, it might require adaptation!*

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 11 am. *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. The Chaplaincy Team from Holy Family School and Years 5 + 6 from Our Lady School together with staff will be present.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP invite you to a shared supper at the Focolare Centre Thursday 16th November at 7pm. All welcome

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND COLLECTION will be this 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 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

ENROLMENT FOR CONFIRMATION takes place next Sunday 12th November at 7pm in Holy Family Church. Young people who wish to be confirmed should be at least in Year 9. Parents are asked to come to this first meeting at which all dates of preparation will be outlined and the date of Confirmation itself.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION If you missed the enrolment meeting, please contact Fr. Norbert as soon as possible. The first parents and children's workshop is next month.

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

CHURCH CLEANING Our thanks to everyone who helped with the cleaning at St. Bonaventure's and Our Lady's; also, to those who looked after the maintenance of the grounds at Our Lady's. Holy Family Church needs volunteers for church cleaning on Wednesday 15th November after 9.30 Mass and coffee.

OUR LADY SCHOOL Years 1 and 2 will join the congregation at 9.30 Mass on Monday 6th November. Years 3 and 4 will attend 9.30 Mass on Monday 27th November.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY is next weekend when we pray for all who have given their lives in service of country in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts. Fr. Norbert will give the Address at Hatfield Hyde War Memorial at 3pm.

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

4th Saturday

6pm Our Lady Derek Relph RIP & Deborah Martin RIP

5th Sunday ***THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME***

8am St. Bonaventure Colette Evans Intention (90th Birthday)

9.30am Holy Family Noemi and Elias Gonsalves RIP

10.30am St. Bonaventure Roy D'Cunha RIP

11.30am Our Lady Departed members of Joachim, Simon & Theopillai families

6pm Holy Family Tom Casey RIP

6th Monday

9.30am Our Lady Holy Souls

11am Our Lady Funeral Service Amal Yousef RIP

7th Tuesday

11am Our Lady Deceased Clergy of Stevenage Deanery

7pm Our Lady Augustus Joachim RIP

8th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Amelia and Jonathan Joachim's Intentions

9th Thursday ***DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA***

9.30am Holy Family Ruperto Nicolas Cruz Senior RIP Anniv

10th Friday *St. Leo the Great*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Nelson D'Lima RIP

7pm Our Lady Mary Davin RIP

11th Saturday *St. Martin of Tours*

10am St. Bonaventure Holy Souls

6pm Our Lady Tom and Nancy Hogan 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 is celebrated at St. Albans Cathedral 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) 10.30 Mass will be livestreamed from St. Bonaventure's.