



St Bonaventure
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Our Lady Queen of Apostles
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Holy Family
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

19th November 2023 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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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

The Church's Year is coming to an end and we hear in our passage today from St. Matthew's Gospel about the generosity of a God who lavishes so much on each person in accordance with their abilities. We are so used to reading league tables and discerning who comes higher in the pecking order and who should be disregarded. Judgements are made and decisions ensue - sometimes with unfair labels and leaving a horrible legacy.

Jesus challenges those who do *nothing* in their lives to take stock. Fear, inertia and a destructive nothingness do not lead to growth - rather apathy. When entrusted with a treasure way beyond anything we can imagine, our responsibility and joy is to let these blossom into something so great that we cannot imagine the extravagance of a God who loves us so much. The gift is a relationship, the end is eternal life; the in-between is the living out of our trust in this communion of love inaugurated by Jesus Christ, sealed in the Spirit and taking us into the Father's arms.

November is racing by and leaving us with that feeling of impending winter as we witness the horror of suffering in the Holy Land and experience the powerlessness of not being able to change events ourselves. All we can do is PRAY! What we should strive for is being peace-makers in our daily living. Our eyes and ears, our hearts and souls should be as open as possible to God's voice, grace and love. Let this be our prayer.

God bless you and your loved ones. With prayers and much love, **Fr. Norbert**

RCIA Next session Friday 1st December 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy.

OPEN PARISH MEETING Minutes are available at the back of church. *Please take one*

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 - 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.

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. There is no need to give any money.

BLESSING OF GRAVES Sunday 19th November 2pm Welwyn New Cemetery (Fulling Mill Lane) *Gather at the entrance of the cemetery; graves will then be blessed.*

RED BOXES/MISSIO This is a reminder that it is time for the MISSIO Red Boxes to be emptied and the monies to be sent on to the Missions. Please do leave your box with us in church as soon as possible if you would like us to count and bank the contents and return the box to you in due course. Otherwise:

- Sent cheque Missio-Mill Hill to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU
- Online missio.org.uk/redbox
- By Bank Transfer: Account Name Missio, Sort Code 16-00-16, Account number 10824230 (Reference RB+ your postcode)

Your generosity makes such a difference and supports the work of the Missions. Thanks!

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE has been cancelled. Let us continue to pray for peace.

SIGNED MASS The next celebration will be the 11.30 Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 17th December. Sarah Metcalfe from the Deaf Service will come to be with us.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS The next early morning Mass will be on Friday 1st December at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the Hall at St. Bonaventure's. All welcome!

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS The next celebration will be on Saturday 2nd March at 6pm in Our Lady's followed by a gathering in the Trinity Hall.

WGC CHRISTIAN CHURCHES will sing carols in Howard Centre on Saturday 9th December 2 - 4pm. Money raised will support Food Bank at New Zion. Come + sing!

FINANCE & STANDING ORDERS Please would those who have not moved their standing orders to the new one-parish account, please contact Jacqui Boon in the Parish Office as soon as possible so that new standing orders can be created. The Diocese will be closing the accounts (originally at Holy Family and Our Lady's) at the end of the year. Jacqui has tried to contact via email all whose addresses she has. PLEASE make contact! *We really would appreciate this. Thank you.*

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 Many young people came to last Sundays' meeting. Not all the forms have been returned to Fr. Marco. Please do so as soon as possible. If you missed the enrolment please email Fr. Marco at marcosalvagnini@rcdow.org.uk *Thank you!*

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 on Sunday 10th December at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Church.

OUR LADY SCHOOL Years 3 & 4 will attend 9.30 Mass on Monday 27th November. The whole school will attend 9.30am Mass on Monday 4th December to mark the beginning of Advent.

OPUS DEI Evening of Recollection for men at Holy Family Church on Thursday 23rd November at 7pm. More information from Ed Newman-Sanders 07984149320.

SANTA MARTA GROUP was established in 2014 by Pope Francis to combat human trafficking and modern slavery. SMG is now delivering 'Awareness and Guidance for Communities' to encourage local action and prevent human trafficking and modern slavery taking place in our midst. On **Thursday 30th November** there will be an information meeting in the Hall at Our Lady Immaculate and St. Andrew Church in Hitchin (SG5 1QS) 7pm until 9pm. Kevin Hyland, the UK's first independent anti-slavery Commissioner and currently chief advisor to the Santa Marta Group will lead the meeting. Come and learn about the situation with human trafficking and modern slavery in our communities and the steps we can take to prevent it. All are welcome.

OUTDOOR CRIB at Our Lady's will go up on Saturday 2nd December at 10am. Come and lend a hand. Muscle is needed

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

18th Saturday

6pm Our Lady James Bonass RIP Anniv

19th Sunday **THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

8am St. Bonaventure Holy Souls

9.30am Holy Family

10.30am St. Bonaventure Helen Gallagher RIP

11.30am Our Lady Paul O'Toole RIP 1st Anniv

6pm Holy Family Holy Souls

20th Monday

9.30am Our Lady Holy Souls

21st Tuesday *Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Holy Souls

7pm Our Lady

22nd Wednesday *St. Cecilia*

9.30am Holy Family David Lloyd RIP Anniv

23rd Thursday

9.30am Holy Family Nora Bennett RIP

24th Friday *St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions (Vietnamese Martyrs)*

9.30am St. Bonaventure

7pm Our Lady

25th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Joan Conway RIP

6pm Our Lady James Bonass RIP Birthday

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) 11.30 Mass will be livestreamed from Our Lady's.