



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

26th November 2023 - Christ the King

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

It's the last Sunday of the Church's Year and we proclaim Jesus Christ to be our Universal King. Green vestments last weekend, white today; soon the purple of Advent preparation will be worn. This year the Church presents us with the imagery of Jesus Christ as Shepherd-King. He looks out for us and protects us. He guides us to green pastures. There is a banquet awaiting us. Through our Gospel passage from St. Matthew, he identifies himself with the lowly and those in need in such an intimate way, that when we care for the stranger who comes to us, we are serving Christ and, through the encounter, eternal life breaks in.

This weekend many of us would have been in the Holy Land, walking in the footsteps of Christ. Sadly this was not to be with the terrible strife. There is a brief respite these days as many are set free and others wait their moment. The images of sadness and the anguished cries of the suffering opening up to the light of joyful reunion and the realisation of what has happened. There is the acknowledgement that still more has to be done to achieve peace and that leaders have to find those ways forward which will bring reconciliation and justice. What we can do is put our trust in our Shepherd-King *and pray!* We must never underestimate the power of our intercession and the grace of God which transforms. Let hope radiate as Christ's Kingdom comes!

May God bless us and our world. With love and prayers, **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. Marriage Preparation Day on **Saturday 10th February 2024.**

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship continues its Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. New Zion is happy to receive contributions from 8am on a Wednesday at 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. Email foodbank@newzioncf.net to make a donation. There are Food Bank Baskets at the back of our churches. Thank you.

HCPT GROUP 183 A big thank you to everyone who attended the quiz night on Friday 10th; £500 was raised for HCPT Group 183. The Group is still looking for 2 helpers to join them on Easter 2024 pilgrimage to Lourdes to help look after children with additional needs. If you are interested and are over 18, please contact Emma on 07740858313.

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP on Monday 4th Dec. 11am, 2pm and 6.30pm and Saturday 9th Dec. 11.30am at St. Bonaventure's. £25 per wreath and all proceeds to HCPT. To express an interest or to find out more, text Rachel on 07793 651834.

HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES For an update on all that is happening in Welwyn Hatfield and in the County, please go to <http://www.hwsf.org.uk>

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 on Saturday 2nd March at 6pm in Our Lady's.

WGC CHRISTIAN CHURCHES On Saturday 9th December 2-4pm, we will sing Christmas carols in The Howard Centre in WGC with other Christian Churches. In the past people have commented on how special it has been to hear carols while shopping; others have stopped and joined in. Last year we raised over £2k for the Food Bank based at New Zion Christian Fellowship; we'll do that again this time. So, come and sing along!

SCHOOLS CAROL SERVICES Sherrards Wood School in Our Lady's Church on Monday 4th December at 6.30pm. Commonswood Primary School in Our Lady's on Monday 11th December at 6pm. Our Lady Primary School on Wednesday 13th December at 5pm in Our Lady's Church. Holy Family Primary School in Holy Family Church on Monday 18th December at 5.30pm.

CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS Friday 15th December 7 - 9pm. All welcome!

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 Chap-laincy 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 the recent 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 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.

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 slav-ery 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! There will also be **CHURCH CLEANING** at Our Lady's at 10am on Saturday.

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP meets on the First Friday of the month after St. Bonaventure's 9.30 Mass and on the First Saturday at 9.30 before 10am Mass. *All welcome!*

SHIMMY DANCE have started Ballroom and Latin classes in Trinity Hall on Wednesday evenings. For more information, contact info@shimmydance.co.uk

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

25th Saturday

6pm Our Lady James Bonass RIP (birthday)

26th Sunday **CHRIST THE KING**

8am St. Bonaventure Margaret Bird RIP Anniv
9.30am Holy Family Holy Souls
10.30am St. Bonaventure Tim Gallagher RIP
11.30am Our Lady Mary Donoghue RIP (1st Anniv)
6pm Holy Family Dr. Eseroghena Elizabeth Ikhenia RIP

27th Monday

9.30am Our Lady Holy Souls

28th Tuesday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Holy Souls
7pm Our Lady Holy Souls

29th Wednesday

9.30am Holy Family Lin Thomas (intention)

30th Thursday **St. Andrew**

9.30am Holy Family Holy Souls

1st Friday

6.30am St. Bonaventure Joe Doherty RIP
9.30am St. Bonaventure
7pm Our Lady Patrick O'Reilly RIP Anniv

2nd Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure Lamberto Mendoza RIP
6pm Our Lady Eithne McShane 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 *Near Trinity Hall open Monday to Friday 7.30am until 6pm.*

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass at St. Albans Cathedral at 12 noon every Friday.

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