



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

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 14th September 2025

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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

Today on 14th September the Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Cross. The power of the Lord's huge Sacrifice as the embodiment of Divine Love is a constant source of hope for each one of us on our life's journey. Jesus carried the Cross in obedience to the Father; he carries us. Though he was without sin, he took upon himself the sins of the world. He is Son of God and a human being like us; so he really suffered and that means that God *understands* what we experience. The Cross of Christ, whilst on the one hand is a symbol of violence and cruelty, is now because of Jesus a revelation of mercy and a path-way to the glory of heaven. How fortunate we are! Thanks be to God!

Today in this country we mark Education Sunday. Education offers young and old a wonderful opportunity to develop skills, learning, social interaction and discover their place in life. Staff give of themselves supported by governors. Children, young people and other students are nurtured and have their horizons extended. Our own Catholic schools are patterns of the Church as pupils come to know Jesus in a strong Christian environment and have their gaze fixed on God in heaven as well as being rooted in the reality of this earth. Sacrifices of love underpin everything as parents yearn for the best for their children and staff and governors work for the enrichment of every single person entrusted to them. Soon many of our young people will leave home for the first time heading to university. Let us keep them in our prayers and provide a warm welcome for them every time they return home. May happiness and fulfilment be theirs!

Finally, today is Pope Leo's birthday - he is 70! May the Spirit continue to fill him with wisdom and establish him always as a source of unity in the Church.

As we start another week, may the Cross be our inspiration and hope. God bless you.

With love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

SACRAMENTS 2025/26

BAPTISM Please contact Fr. Norbert or Fr. James to arrange the Baptism of your child.

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Registration for children for First Confession and First Holy Communion will be in Our Lady's Church on **Wednesday 15th October at 6pm**. Parents/carers are asked to come with the children (at least in Year 3). The meeting will last 45 minutes.

CONFIRMATION Young people (at least in Year 9) who wish to be confirmed are asked to come with their parents to an enrolment meeting on **Sunday 5th October at 7pm** in Holy Family Church. This will last 45 minutes. Course starts Sunday 19th Oct.

RCIA (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church, come to a meeting on **Monday 6th October at 7.30pm** in Our Lady's Sacristy. Perhaps you missed out on Confirmation as teenager, is now the right time? There will be a warm welcome! Come and see!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Couples planning to get married in 2026/27 should let Fr. Norbert know. Marriage Preparation Day will be in the Trinity Hall **Saturday 7th February, 2026** starting at 10.30am and concluding with the 6pm Mass.

FR. MARCO is grateful for the great celebration and generous gifts he received at his Farewell. The extra envelopes handed in will be sent on to him this week.

FOOD BANK New Zion Christian Fellowship Food Bank every Wednesday 9 - 11am. Items received from 8am Wednesdays at 140 Cole Green Lane AL7 3JE. Email food-bank@newzioncf.net if you wish to donate money. Please use the Food Bank Baskets.

TRANSPORT TO MASS GROUP is there for parishioners who need a lift to Mass. Call Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or macleaneltham@gmail.com

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL Start of Year Mass 2pm Monday 15th Sept. All welcome

LISTER HOSPITAL Non-urgent referrals to Chaplaincy Team 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net

OCTOBER ROSARY PROCESSION Saturday 4th Oct. after 10am Mass at Our Lady's. Light refreshments in Trinity Hall afterwards. All are welcome.

SPANISH PRIESTS will leave Monday 22nd Sept. That morning there will be tea/coffee/cake after 9.30 Mass and singing for an hour or so. Why not come?!

POLISH ENGLISH MASS The Polish Community invites you all on Saturday 28th September 6pm at Our Lady's followed by food, drinks, party and dancing in Trinity Hall. Serdecznie zapraszamy na coroczną Polsko-Angielską Mszę w kościele Our Lady w sobotę 28 września o 18:00. Po mszy zapraszamy na wspólne świętowanie przy polskim poczęstunku, z muzyką oraz tańcem. Jeśli ktoś chciałby pomóc w przygotowaniach to prosimy o kontakt: Anna Skiba, tel 07944728696

READERS' RETREAT on Sunday 12th October 3.30 - 5pm in Our Lady's Church.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' RETREAT Sunday 19th October 3.30 - 5pm Our Lady's

CATECHISTS RETREAT Saturday 15th November at Our Lady's.

OPEN PARISH MEETING Tuesday 14th October 7.45 - 9.30pm in Trinity Hall. Reports from parish groups and looking ahead to the coming year. Everyone is invited.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP Talk on The Naeem Foundation, a major Muslim charity Tuesday 23rd September at 7.30 pm at the Focolare Centre.

ELLEN DEVINE RIP Funeral Mass on Monday 15th September at 11am at Our Lady's.

NEIL McGREEVY RIP Funeral Mass on Thursday 18th September 10.30am Our Lady's.

CAFOD HARVEST QUIZ NIGHT in Trinity Hall Saturday 11th October 7pm for 7.30 start. Tables of 8. Bring own drinks + nibbles. Tickets £7 Caroline Sherar 07929709901

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS Sat. 18th Oct. 6pm Our Lady's followed by a Get-together. New Saturday Club for people with learning disabilities starts Sat. 11th Oct 2-4pm.

JUBILEE YEAR *Pilgrims of Hope*

Our Lady's WGC has been designated as the Jubilee Church for Hertfordshire. This means that by receiving Holy Communion, going to Confession, saying the Creed and praying for the Pope's Intention, you can receive a Plenary Indulgence for yourself or for someone who has died - helping you or the deceased towards eternity. In addition to Mass and devotions, works of charity or mercy are possible elements.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S & ST. ALBAN + ST. STEPHEN'S We welcome Fr. Michael and Fr. John from St. Albans together with many of their people coming as Pilgrims of Hope Saturday 13th September. We pray that it will be a day of grace and blessing for them and for us. Our thanks to all helping with the day.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Fr. Norbert urges families to think about their weekly church-going as this is the main criterion for him issuing the Certificate of Catholic Practice. *Fr. Norbert will arrange meetings at the end of September/early October.*

WALSINGHAM JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE Saturday 20th September. The 49-seater coach will leave from Our Lady's Church at 8am *sharp*. The programme is as follows:

11.30am Welcoming of parish and other pilgrim groups and banners

12 noon Pilgrim Mass

1.30pm Picnic lunch

2.15pm Gather for the procession along the Holy Mile

3.45pm Prayers, Benediction and final prayers in the Abbey Grounds

4.30pm Departures

We should arrive back in WGC by 7.30pm. If you wish to go, please fill out one of the forms at the back of the church and return to Fr. Norbert by Monday evening with £25 (which includes the coach and Walsingham pilgrim levy). Come with clothing for all weathers and bring sufficient food and drinks.

SVP ANNUAL REPORT 24/25 'During the 12 months ending March 25, 576 calls/visits were made to 73 Clients. The purpose of this contact is to provide assistance in the form of transport, financial help, shopping, keeping medical appointments, hospital vis-its and general face-to-face meetings. Our financial commitment includes: 21 families were given supermarket vouchers at Christmas 2024 and Easter 2025 amounting to £3000. Furniture, school uniforms and white goods were purchased for three Clients amounting to £350. We are supporting the South Sudan Appeal at £1000. Our SVP is assisting a student in India at a cost of £1000 (spread over 5 years). SVP was instrumental in organising the annual Mass With The Anointing of the Sick followed by refreshments at the Focolare Centre. Always such a joyous occasion! We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our parishioners who contribute financially throughout the year and at the SVP annual church collection as well as with giving of their time with practical assistance when requested. £1732 was raised following the 2024 collection. We welcome new members and should you like further details on the work of SVP, kindly contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456. Thank you + God bless you.' *This year's annual collection will take place next weekend. GiftAid envelopes will be available.*

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH Decoration in readiness for the Centenary next year will soon begin. This will mean Tuesday and Friday Masses will be celebrated in the other churches so that the work can be speedily be completed. The whole interior will be repainted keeping existing colours. We will keep you posted!

PARKING For those who go to Holy Family Church, The Hedgehog Pub has started clamping those who park there and are not customers! For those who go to Our Lady's, we remind you that it is an offence to park on the grass verges in WGC. Please give enough time to park and avoid a fine!

HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES needs men's winter clothing, especially water-proofs, for refugees living in WGC not allowed to work. Call Vicky 01707 326109

MASS INTENTIONS

13th Saturday *St. John Chrysostom*

10am	St. Bonaventure	NO MASS
11am	Our Lady	Jubilee Year Mass
6pm	Our Lady	Con Gilhooly RIP Anniv <i>Remembering Michael Lovett RIP Birthday</i>

14th THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

9am	St. Bonaventure	Private Intentions (JA)
10.30am	Holy Family	Rebecca Brown RIP (1st Anniv)
12 noon	Our Lady	Michael Noonan RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Robert & Val Cunningham and family Intentions

15th Monday *Our Lady of Sorrows*

9.30am	Our Lady	For the people of Gaza
11am	Our Lady	Ellen Devine Funeral Mass

16th Tuesday *St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian*

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	In thanksgiving to St. Jude
7pm	Our Lady	

17th Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	Liam Corey's Intention
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18th Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	
10.30am	Our Lady	Neil McGreevy Funeral Mass

19th Friday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Romualdo Gurjao RIP Anniv
7pm	Our Lady	Deceased members of the Mulvany Family

20th Saturday *St. Andrew Kim Taegon and Korean Martyrs*

10am	St. Bonaventure	
6pm	Our Lady	Fr. John Miller RIP

21st TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9am	St. Bonaventure	
10.30am	Holy Family	Tommy Hasson RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Michael Noonan RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Angelo & Elizabeth Lauria & Family Intentions

CONFESSIONS *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30
St. Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11am
Our Lady Saturday 5 - 5.30pm

CHAPEL *Near entrance to Trinity Hall. Open Monday to Friday 8.30am until 4pm*

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass in St. Albans Cathedral on Fridays at 12 noon in the Lady Chapel. All are welcome.

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at Our Lady's at 12 noon Mass.