



St Bonaventure
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Our Lady Queen of Apostles
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP
01707 323234

Holy Family
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ
01707 327434

WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 21st September, 2025

Parish Priest Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234

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Assistant Priest Fr. James Boyle 01707 327434

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Parish Administrator Mrs Jacqui Boon 01707 323234 (Tuesday to 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

The days are speeding by! School life has been well-established and many young people are packing and moving to university or college. Still others have used this period as an opportunity to take a holiday. The Lord never takes a break - he continues to share with us teaching to help us on our journey towards eternity. Jesus speaks about possessions and how they can take us over. Christ implores us to use our wits to make the correct choices for the Kingdom - no-one and nothing should get in the way. The Lord urges us to reflect on the use of what has been *entrusted* to us. As you read this newsletter piece, what do you consider God has placed in your hands? How has faith come to you? What keeps it alive, spurring you into action? What undermines your trust in the Lord? The Lord really wants us to be faithful disciples! How true is that of each of us?

Today is designated as *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday*. The Church in this land ponders the Creed proclaimed at Nicaea in AD 325 which is the essence of what we profess every Sunday at Mass. This faith is celebrated in the Eucharist and lived out in our daily lives. Our calling is to draw more and more into the joy of the Gospel lived out in the Church and to give them a wonderful and beautiful experience of encounter with God - in and through his Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. We cannot tell ourselves that this is someone else's job nor run away from the responsibility to share faith with another. This can be done in word, through actions but especially by radiating joy in belief and a perseverance with things no matter what. Countless people are searching for meaning in life. Have you ever thought of inviting someone to Church and accompanying them? The RCIA will be starting soon; do you know of a person who would like to come? Do something about it!

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.

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

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.

CHURCH CLEANING and maintenance of the grounds at Our Lady's on 11th October.

SPANISH PRIESTS Fr. Jose Antonio and Fr. Javier will leave us on Monday 22nd September. They are delighted with the welcome they have received and the variety of experiences. We have been blessed with their vibrant presence and wish them well as they return to their families in Spain and then head to Rome for the new academic year. On Monday there will be tea/coffee/cake after 9.30 Mass and singing for an hour or so. *Come!*

POLISH ENGLISH MASS The Polish Community invites you all on Saturday **27th** 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 **27** 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.

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

CAKE SALE The CAFOD group will be holding a cake sale at Holy Family on Sunday 28th September after the 10.30am Mass. Donations of cakes for sale will be gratefully received on the morning before Mass. *Thank you for your support.*

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 have received messages from St. Albans to say how much they enjoyed their pilgrimage to Our Lady's on 13th September. The warmth of welcome and tremendous hospitality made a big impact! *Thank you to all who helped in any way.*

WALSINGHAM JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE Saturday 20th September. You are in the prayers of Fr. Norbert and the pilgrims going by coach.

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 visits 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 this weekend. GiftAid envelopes are available. *Thank you in advance for your generosity.*

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH Decoration in readiness for the Centenary next year will start the week commencing 6th October. Tuesday's 9.30 Mass will be at Our Lady's and Friday's 9.30 Mass will be at Holy Family. The works will take 4 - 6 weeks.

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.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Parents/carers together with their child are asked to make an appointment to meet Fr. Norbert at Our Lady's Church for him to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice for Secondary School transfer. He will be available: Monday 29th September 5.00 - 6.30pm, Tuesday 30th September 4.00 - 6.00pm, Monday 13th October 4.00 - 6.00pm, Tuesday 14th October 4.00 - 6.00pm and Monday 20th October 4.00 - 6.00pm. There is a blue parish form at the back of each church. This should be filled in and brought to the meeting. Please wait in church until called. To make an appointment, please ring Jacqui, our Parish Administrator, on 01707 323234. If you do not understand the system or if English is not your first language, Fr. Norbert is happy to help. However, he will not be able to sign the certificates before/after Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

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 In thanksgiving for Lorena's Birthday

10.30am Holy Family Tommy Hasson RIP

12 noon Our Lady Michael Noonan RIP

6pm Holy Family Angelo & Elizabeth Lauria & Family Intentions

22nd Monday

9.30am Our Lady Ruth Hayes (100th Birthday)

23rd Tuesday *St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)*

9.30am St. Bonaventure Michael Sullivan RIP

7pm Our Lady

24th Wednesday *Our Lady of Walsingham*

9.30am Holy Family Jen Hoy's Intention

25th Thursday

9.30am Holy Family

26th Friday

9.30am St. Bonaventure Michael Noonan RIP

7pm Our Lady Gordon and Kathleen Kerr's Intentions

27th Saturday *St. Vincent de Paul*

10am St. Bonaventure Felicidad Ventura RIP Anniv & Eligio Ventura RIP Anniv

6pm Our Lady Con Gilhooly RIP Anniv

28th TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9am St. Bonaventure Kathleen McCarthy RIP

10.30am Holy Family Crux Family (In thanksgiving)

12 noon Our Lady Michael Noonan RIP

6pm Holy Family Donald and Evelyn Shrewring Intention

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. *Fr. Norbert will be celebrant on 17th October.*

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

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