



St Bonaventure
81 Parkway AL8 6JF

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

Holy Family
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY PARISH

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 28th 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

Today the Cardinal writes to alert us of an important birthday. Tomorrow, 29th September, marks 175 years since Nicholas Wiseman was appointed Archbishop of Westminster, becoming a Cardinal the next day. Thus Westminster Diocese was born! The Cardinal asks us to reflect on changes in society and how Catholics were treated *then* and how they are regarded *now*. Did you know that Nicholas Wiseman was born in Seville, Spain? I have seen the plaque marking the place of his birth! Our Diocese is large and plays an important role in the National Church. Our Diocese has people from so many diverse places with a variety of languages, cultures and traditions enriching our lives. Our Diocese is coming to a significant moment in its history this November when Cardinal Nichols will reach 80 years of age. Let us thank God for Westminster, for its being a home to the multitude and a beacon of hope to the Nation. Let us pray that God's Spirit may be a constant source of inspiration for our future.

Today's Gospel passage from St. Luke presents us with the scene of Lazarus - a poor beggar covered in sores - and the rich man who dines lavishly *every day!* The Lord speaks of the tables being turned, access for Lazarus to heaven and the rich man in torment. Our hearts *must be open* to the person in need and we *should reach out* to them from the resources we have. Some of you have heard me say that my Mum always found herself wearing purple on this particular Sunday! She would plead with me to warn her the Sunday before *not to wear purple!* These things happen! Finally, I just wanted to say that this Wednesday, 1st October, I start my 18th year in Welwyn Garden City as your Parish Priest. Please pray for me as I pray for you. You all have a special place in my heart. 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 next **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.

JOHN REA RIP John's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's this Friday (3rd) at 10.30am.

SEAN BROPHY RIP Sean's Funeral Mass at Holy Family Wed. 15th Oct. at 9.30am.

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 on Saturday 4th October after 10am Mass at Our Lady's. The Procession will be on the level and there will be stewards to ensure every-one's safety on the walk around the streets near Our Lady's Church. Light refreshments in Trinity Hall afterwards. All are welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING Holy Family: Wednesday 1st October after 9.30 Mass and coffee/tea. **St. Bonaventure's:** *No date set yet because of church painting!* **Our Lady's:** Saturday 11th October and maintenance of the grounds at 10am. New Volunteers needed!

POLISH ENGLISH MASS on Saturday 27th September, 6pm at Our Lady's. Everyone is welcome to attend and to come to the celebration afterwards which will include food and drink, song and dance. We are pleased that the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield and other councillors will attend.

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

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

CATECHISTS RETREAT 'Reawakening blessed hope' on Saturday 15th November at Our Lady's led by the Diocese for Hertfordshire. 10am - 4pm in Trinity Hall, WGC. To book a place, please give your name and email to Fr. Norbert who will send names to the Diocese. It's a free event but bring a packed lunch.

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.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS on Saturday 18th October at 6pm in Our Lady's followed by a Get-together in the Trinity Hall with food to share, a quiz and bingo.

SATURDAY CLUB for people with learning disabilities starts on Saturday 11th October in the Trinity Hall 2 - 4pm. The Club will meet the second Saturday of each month at this time. *All are welcome!*

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.

WALSINGHAM JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE 31 pilgrims from our parish joined the 2000 group on the Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage to Walsingham last weekend. The sun shone eventually and we had a brilliant time, remembering to pray for you at Our Lady's Shrine in Norfolk.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH Decoration in readiness for the Centenary next year starts *this* week! 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. *Thanks for your patience!*

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, Mon-day 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.

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

CAKE SALE The CAFOD group will be holding a cake sale at Holy Family today (28th) after the 10.30am Mass. *Thank you for your support.*

FIRST FRIDAY Early morning Mass on 3rd October will be at Our Lady's at 6.30am followed by breakfast in the Sacristy. All are welcome.

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR at Our Lady's Church on Friday 10th October, following 7pm Mass. Come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. There will be prayer, Scripture, song and silence. Let your *presence* be united with the *Real Presence* of Jesus in the Eucharist!

SCHOOLS Year 6 from Our Lady School in Hitchin will join us for 9.30am Mass on Monday 6th October and will then have a Retreat Morning. The Year 6 Classes from Holy Family and Our Lady WGC Schools will have a Retreat Day in Aylesford on Fri-day 10th October. The children will reflect on their responsibilities as the senior members of their school communities and look ahead to transition to Secondary School. *Let us pray for them!*

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMS will meet in the Trinity Hall 11am - 12.30pm on Saturday 11th October.

MASS 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

29th Monday *ST. MICHAEL, ST. GABRIEL AND ST RAPHAEL*

9.30am	Our Lady	Brian Haughton RIP
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30th Tuesday *St. Jerome*

9.30am	Our Lady	Ruth Hayes Intention
7pm	Our Lady	John Maloney Senior & John Maloney Junior Int.

1st October Wednesday *St. Therese of Lisieux*

9.30am	Holy Family	Charlyne Pereira Birthday Intention
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2nd Thursday *Guardian Angels*

9.30am	Holy Family	
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3rd Friday

6.30am	Our Lady	Brand Families Intention
9.30am	Holy Family	Sean Brophy RIP
10.30am	Our Lady	Funeral Mass for John Rea
7pm	Our Lady	John Maloney Senior & John Maloney Junior Int

4th Saturday *St. Francis of Assisi*

10am	Our Lady	Mass and Rosary Procession
6pm	Our Lady	Fr. Tim O'Connor RIP

28th TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9am	St. Bonaventure	
10.30am	Holy Family	Michael Cole RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Andrew Scally RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Richard and Laura Brand & Children 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.