



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

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 5th October, 2025

Parish Priest Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234

norbertfernandes@rcdow.org.uk

Assistant Priest Fr. James Boyle 01707 327434

jamesboyle@rcdow.org.uk

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

What a week this has been! The sadness of the tragedy in Manchester, the election of a woman as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, the possibility of a secure peace in Gaza and this Sunday is the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. We cannot escape from the reality of what is happening but we must pray for God's Spirit to work everywhere bringing hope. We should reflect on our attitudes and seek to break down barriers of prejudice, ourselves reaching out to God's Creation, to humanity created in God's image and likeness. Many of us have come to this land from other countries and have made our home here. We have brought a variety of languages, customs, food and traditions; we have also been enriched by one another. In the Catholic Church our celebrations radiate the beauty and wonder of a multitude of nations, highlighting how universal - catholic - we are. Let us pray for peace, reconciliation and justice.

Today St. Paul writes to Timothy, urging him *to fan into a flame the gift of God*. In the Gospel passage from St. Luke, the Apostles say to Jesus: *Increase our faith!* As we celebrate our Mass today, what do you regard as the *gift* you have received from God? How did/does it come to you? What place does it have in your life? Is it still the same as when first received or is it being *fanned* into something greater? As you reflect on *faith*, who handed it on to you? How has it inspired your life and decisions? Can those around you sense this faith-in action being revealed? Do you see faith as merely knowledge or is it relationship? Is your faith in the Lord developing and your love of him deepening? Or are you still searching for more through him who is the source of all? As we look around us at Mass today, let us rejoice in the diversity and the vibrancy we witness! Let us support one another in prayer! May our example reach out to others!

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 today (**Sunday 5th**) at **7pm** in Holy Family Church. This will last 45 minutes. *Course starts Sunday 19th October.*

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.

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 Sat. 4th October after 10am Mass at Our Lady's.

CHURCH CLEANING Our Lady's: Saturday 11th October and maintenance of the grounds at 10am. *Thank you to all who help in our churches.*

POLISH ENGLISH MASS What a wonderful celebration last weekend. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make the Mass so prayerful and the party joyful as ever.

READERS' RETREAT on Sunday 12th October 3.30 - 5pm in Our Lady's Church. There will be the opportunity to reflect on the new translation and the ministry of Reader.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' RETREAT Sunday 19th October 3.30 - 5pm Our Lady's *Come and take time to ponder this great ministry in the Church!*

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. What do you want to do to conclude the Jubilee Year at Our Lady's? How should St. Bonaventure's Centenary be marked in 2026? Also, do you think now is the right time in WGC to restore Holy Communion under both kinds - receiving the Precious Blood from the Chalice as well as the Sacred Host? *Come to the meeting!*

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 Sat. 11th October Trinity Hall 2 - 4pm. The Club will meet the second Saturday of the month. *All are welcome!*

CEMETERY MASSES Oakhill (Southway) Sunday 2nd November 2pm, meeting in the Chapel. The Council is providing tea/coffee and cakes. Sunday 9th November 1.30pm Hatfield Hyde. Sunday 16th November Welwyn New Cemetery Fulling Mill Lane at 2pm.

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. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH Decoration in readiness for the Centenary next year has started. 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!*

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 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.

SCHOOLS Year 6 from Our Lady School in Hitchin will join us for 9.30am Mass on Monday (6th) 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 Friday (10th) The children will reflect on their roles as the senior members of their school communities and look ahead to transition to Secondary School. *Let's pray for them!*

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMS meet in the Trinity Hall 11am - 12.30pm on Sat. (11th).

RED BOXES 2024 Thank you! In 2024, Welwyn Garden City parishioners raised **£2007.82** through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Our missionary community here in Welwyn Garden City is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance improving the lives of whole communities.

RED BOXES/MISSIO 2025 It is that time of year 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 in the next couple of weeks if you would like us to count and bank the contents and return the box to you in due course. Alternatively you can count the money yourself and donate by one of the ways listed below: Sent by cheque payable to Missio-Mill Hill to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU Online missio.org.uk/redbox By text REDBOX 5 (to donate £5) or REDBOX 10 (to donate £10) to 70085 Or by phone 020 7821 9755 (office hours) By Bank Transfer: Account Name Missio, Sort Code 16-00-16, Account number 10824230 (Reference RB+ your postcode)

Your generosity makes such a difference + supports the work of the Missions. Thank you

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

RESTORATION HOLY HOUR at Our Lady's Church on Friday 10th October, following 7pm Mass. Come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

FOR ALL WHO ARE WIDOWED, men + women, you are invited to Afternoon Tea 'chat time' - a chance to share with others. Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway, WGC Sunday 12th Oct. 3pm Contact Mary Gateshill 07860577782 marygateshill@hotmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

4th Saturday *St. Francis of Assisi*

10am Our Lady Mass+ Rosary Procession Edwin Rodrigues (70th birthday)
6pm Our Lady Fr. Tim O'Connor RIP

5th **TWENTY-SEVENTH 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

6th Monday

9.30am Our Lady

7th Tuesday *Our Lady of the Rosary*

9.30am Our Lady
7pm Our Lady Stanislav Gasidlo RIP 1st Anniv

8th Wednesday *St. Therese of Lisieux*

9.30am Holy Family Sophie Constable Birthday Intention

9th Thursday *St. John Henry Newman*

9.30am Holy Family

10th Friday

9.30am Holy Family
7pm Our Lady

11th Saturday

10am St. Bonaventure *Eda Sarah Catherine Donnelly RIP month's mind*
6pm Our Lady Florence O'Brien RIP Birthday

12th **TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

9am St. Bonaventure Mucero Family Intentions
10.30am Holy Family Mike Morgan RIP
12 noon Our Lady Michael Noonan RIP
6pm Holy Family Janecka Family 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. Children's Mass on Sunday 19th October at Our Lady's at 12 noon.