



St Bonaventure
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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

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 16th November, 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

It is hard to believe that we have almost arrived at the end of Ordinary Time. With the last two Sundays superseded by All Saints Day and then the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, we now stand waiting for Advent in no time! Here in Welwyn Garden City we have had the Blessing of Graves in two of our cemeteries with one more this Sunday. We have joined in the commemorations for Remembrance Sunday. I attended for the first time the Service in the town centre at Howardsgate; there were around 800 people of every age and background present - absolutely amazing! The two minutes' silence was powerful as was the presence of so many young people in uniform paying homage to those who had given their lives in sacrifice for peace, justice and their country. November has not ended and we continue to remember and pray for our loved ones who have died, together with our intercession for all the Holy Souls. Next Sunday will be the Solemnity of Christ the King and then the springboard into a new Liturgical Year.

What does the Church say to us today through the Scriptures? In the short First Reading from Malachi, we are told that 'the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings' for those who fear God's name. Just think about all the rain in recent days! We long for the sun to return, to warm our hearts and our lives. How do you need God's healing? Will you allow God to plant righteousness within you? Who knows how this will sprout and bear fruit in the new Church's Year? In our Second Reading, St. Paul wants to encourage the Thessalonians to work quietly and earn their own living. What does that mean for you in the circumstances of your life? St. Paul is so aware of the example he gives. How does that resonate for you? Finally, in the Gospel from St. Luke, Jesus, speaking about the last things, tells his disciples that their endurance will win them their lives - that's our responsibility as his followers! God bless you.

With much love, **Fr. Norbert**

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

FIRST CONFESSION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The first joint Parents and Children's workshop will be on Sunday 23rd November in Our Lady's Church 3.30 - 5pm. If you missed registration, please see Fr. Norbert.

CONFIRMATION Young people have their next session at the Youth Summit on Saturday 22nd November at 1pm in the Trinity Hall.

RCIA (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) Next session on Monday 17th November 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. *If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church and have not yet contacted Fr. Norbert, give him a call as soon as possible!*

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.

PARISH MEETING MINUTES are at the back of each church. In terms of receiving the Precious Blood of the Lord in Holy Communion, there still is worry and so we will wait before restoring the Chalice for all at 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. *With it soon being Christmas, please think about those who need the basics even for Christmas. Your generosity towards the Food Bank makes a huge difference. Thank you!*

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

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST There are sheets at the back of the church on which you can write the names of loved ones who have died. Please return them and they will be remembered at Masses in November. *There is no need to give any money.*

BLESSING OF GRAVES at Sunday 16th November Welwyn New Cemetery, Fulling Mill Lane at 2pm.

MARITE MIN RIP The Funeral Mass for Marite from the Focolare Community will be at Our Lady's on Monday 17th November at 12 noon.

NO MASS at 7pm at Our Lady's on Tuesday 18th November.

STREAMED MASS If anyone would like to help with streaming Mass, please contact Fr. Norbert. One volunteer has made contact. It would be good to have a team of people!

CWL is organising a Christmas Raffle to support their charities. They are looking for donations of Christmas food, drink and toiletries (in date for Christmas). These may be left in the CWL basket at the back of Our Lady's Church until 22nd/23rd November.

CAKE SALE after 9am Mass at St. Bonaventure's on Sunday 23rd November to raise funds for a Christmas Coffee Morning on Sunday 14th December after 9am Mass.

SVP There is a single mother who needs items for an unfurnished flat: chairs and table, cupboards, wardrobe, 2 single beds, pillows and rugs/mats. Please contact Janet Lewis on 01707 326456. Thank you.

PEACE VIGIL Focolare is hosting a Peace Vigil at the Centre for Unity, Parkway, on Saturday 29th November at 3pm. All welcome.

CHILDREN'S MASS at Our Lady's on Sunday 23rd November at 12 noon.

FIRST FRIDAY 6.30am Mass at St. Bonaventure's followed by breakfast in the Hall. Come and celebrate Mass and enjoy coffee/tea croissants and pains au chocolat. *Come!*

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.

CATECHISTS RETREAT '*Reawakening blessed hope*' on Saturday 15th November at Our Lady's Jubilee Church led by the Diocese for Hertfordshire. 10am - 4pm in Trinity Hall, WGC. *Welcome to our visitors! We hope you have a fruitful day.*

SCHOOLS' CHAPLAINCY TEAMS The Chaplaincy Teams from Our Lady and Holy Family Schools will join the community at 9.30am Mass on Monday 17th November and then have a time of reflection on the Jubilee of Hope.

YOUTH SUMMIT at Our Lady's on Saturday 22nd November to be led by the Diocesan Youth Service. This will conclude with 6pm Mass and a Reception in the Trinity Hall to which everyone is invited.

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND The annual collection will take place this week-end. In 2024 the Diocese of Westminster provided care to 73 retired priests at a cost of £1,270,000. It is so important to look after our priests in their senior years. Please use one of the special envelopes if you are able to GiftAid your contribution. *Thank you!*

DECEASED CLERGY DEANERY MASS On Tuesday 25th November, Bishop Paul McAleenan and the priests of Stevenage Deanery will celebrate Mass at 11am in Our Lady's. *There will not be 9.30am Mass that day.* Afterwards there will be tea and coffee in the Trinity Hall. *Everyone is welcome!*

HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES needs men's winter clothing, especially water-proofs, for refugees living in WGC not allowed to work. Call Vicky 07905454150.

JOHN PRIDMORE a one-time gangster, who had a conversion experience some years ago, will be with us in December. John will speak at the end of each Mass that weekend (6th/7th) and then speak at length at 7.15pm at Our Lady's to which everyone is welcome. On Monday 8th December there will be Mass for the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady at 6pm at Holy Family Church followed by another input from John. Again everyone is welcome.

RESPOSITORY Christmas cards, calendars, candles and gifts are now available in the repository at Our Lady's and at Holy Family. Why not have a look!

CHRISTMAS PARTIES FOR SENIORS!

St. John Henry Newman School in Stevenage on Friday 5th December 10 – 11.30am. Cakes, seasonal music & entertainment! RSVP 01438 314 643 events@jhn.herts.sch.uk

Nicholas Breakspear School in St. Albans on Friday 5th December 12.15 - 2.30pm. Festive activities and entertainment. RSVP 01727 860079 admin@nbs.herts.sch.uk *A whole day of partying!!*

PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2026 TO GUADALUPE, MEXICO After our recent successful pilgrimage to Medjugorje, All Saints Travel have put together a good package for next year. Travelling 6th - 14th October 2026. Flying with British Airways from London Heathrow, direct non-stop. £1947 per person + £40 tips for guide etc. 5 nights in Mexico City at the Casa Blanca Hotel **** half board. 2 nights in Puebla at the San Pedro Hotel **** half board. Guided throughout, touring coach, entrance fees included as usual. Full day in Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and revisit on last day before flying home. One day includes Mass at Church of the Holy Family and visit to the Blessed Miguel Pro museum next door. Visits to anthropology museum, canal boat ride in Xochimilco and pyramids in Teotihuacan. Brochures should be in each church

MASS INTENTIONS

15th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Special Intention (George Family)
6pm	Our Lady	James Bonass RIP Anniv

16th *THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Holy Souls
10.30am	Holy Family	Ray Maciocia RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Kathleen Crowley RIP (2nd Anniv)
6pm	Holy Family	Robi Brand Intention

17th Monday

9.30am	Our Lady	Special Intention (George Family)
12 noon	Our Lady	Funeral Mass for Marite Min

18th Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Holy Souls
7pm	Our Lady	NO MASS

19th Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	Emil Vrabel (sick)
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20th Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	Deirdre Harrell RIP
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21st Friday *The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Holy Souls
7pm	Our Lady	Maurice Scally RIP

22nd Saturday *St. Cecilia*

10am	St. Bonaventure	Special Intention (George Family)
6pm	Our Lady	James Bonass RIP Birthday

23rd *CHRIST THE KING*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Holy Souls
10.30am	Holy Family	Michael Cole RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Mary Donoghue RIP Anniv
6pm	Holy Family	David Brand 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 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.

