



**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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**30th November, 2025**

**Parish Priest** Canon Norbert Fernandes 01707 323234

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**Assistant Priest** Fr. James Boyle 01707 327434

[jamesboyle@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jamesboyle@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Administrator** Mrs Jacqui Boon 01707 323234 (Tuesday to Friday 9am until 12 noon)

Parish Email: [wgc@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:wgc@rcdow.org.uk)

Website [wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://wgc-catholics.org.uk)

**TRINITY HALL** Bookings + enquiries can be made through [www.wgc-catholics.org.uk](http://www.wgc-catholics.org.uk) which has terms and conditions of hire, as well as a live diary. General enquiries please call 01707 537464

Welcome to Advent! A New Year in the Church's life and a fresh start. Our Sundays will principally be following St. Matthew's Gospel in which the emphasis is strongly on the Lord's Name - JESUS...the One who saves, and on EMMANUEL - God is with us. As we journey and reflect, keep thinking about the *salvation* he wants to bring you and the *presence* which is that of Divine, Perfect Love. As he has already come and since he is with us, why do we take these four Sundays *to prepare*? This is a huge question! The Church is so aware of the Lord's promise to return in glory - he will come back when the Father says so! This means we live *in anticipation* of his coming, we get our *lives in order*, we allow our *hearts to rejoice* that he is only round the corner and we *celebrate the Gift of God's Son* in our midst.

There are many traditions which unfold in the Season of Advent and various explanations of them. There a huge amount to be done and the expectations are high - we don't want to let anyone down. Perhaps this Advent as the Jubilee Year of Hope draws to a close, you might give yourself time for stillness, recharging and gathering your thoughts about life. How has the year gone? Who are the people who you support or who bring you life and love? What has gone wrong and how can you learn from mistakes? What helps you to pray and deepen your relationship with God? How can you give of yourself in such a way as to bring someone else the wonder of the Lord's Coming? Time, material support, gifts, expressions of gratitude? It is a challenge to do everything but fidelity to Christ and an awareness of what Advent 2025 requires of you, might lead to a more focused and fruitful Season culminating in a wonderful and blessed Christmas! God bless you and all you hold dear in your hearts. With love and prayers, **Fr. Norbert**

**ADVENT Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** for 30 minutes after Our Lady's 9.30 Mass on Monday, after Holy Family's 9.30 Mass on Thursday and after St. Bonaventure's 9.30 Mass on Friday. *Come and enjoy peace and serenity in the Lord's Presence.*

**Advent Reconciliation Service** will be on Tuesday 16th December at 8pm at Our Lady's Church. There are 4 priests who will join Fr. Norbert and Fr. James.

**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!

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS PRACTICE** Sunday 21st 11am at Our Lady's.

**CAROLS IN THE CLOISTERS** Friday 12th December 7 - 9pm. All are invited to sing for those who live in the Cloisters and then continue in the Focolare Centre, 69 Parkway AL8 6DU where there will be refreshments.

**SCHOOL CAROL SERVICES** Sherrardswood 6pm at Our Lady's on 8th. Commonswood 6pm at Our Lady's on 15th. Our Lady at Our Lady's 3.30pm on 17th. Holy Family at Holy Family 5.30pm on 17th.

**SALVATION ARMY APPEAL** for Christmas presents for children and young people. The local Salvation Army in Cole Green Lane WGC AL7 3TN will receive them Mon-days: 9am - 1pm, Tuesdays: 9am - 7pm and Thursdays: 9am - 4.30pm. Thank you.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY** on Mon 8th Dec. It is not a Holy Day of Obligation in this country. Masses 9.30am Our Lady's & 6pm Holy Family.

**CAROL SINGING IN THE HOWARD CENTRE** on Saturday 13th December 2 - 4pm. Join the Christian Churches in supporting the Food Bank and cheering shoppers!

**FIRST FRIDAY** 6.30am Mass and breakfast at St. Bonaventure's on 5th December.

**RESTORATION HOLY HOUR** will not take place in December.

**POLISH-ENGLISH CAROLS** in Trinity Hall, on Sunday 14th December. 4pm for 4.30 start. Cakes, tea, coffee and mulled wine. Everyone is welcome.

**SATURDAY CLUB** for adults and children with learning disabilities, their families and friends. 2 - 4pm in the Trinity Hall on 13th December. There'll be a Christmas flavour! One of our parishioners has made toys/artefacts to raise funds for the Saturday Club. They will be on sale the weekend 13th/14th December after each Mass.

**CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING** on Sunday 14th December after 9am Mass. There'll be presents for children, mulled wine, mince pies and carol singing. *Thank you to everyone who supported the cake sale last Sunday.*

**SIGNED MASS** on Sunday 14th December 12 noon at Our Lady's. Please tell others!

**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](mailto:food-bank@newzioncf.net) if you wish to donate money. Please use the Food Bank Baskets. *Christmas will soon be here! Your generosity towards the Food Bank really helps!*

**TRANSPORT TO MASS GROUP** is there for parishioners who need a lift to Mass. Call Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or [macleaneltham@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net)

**CWL** will be selling raffle tickets (£1 a strip) this weekend (29th/30th) to raise money for the charities they support. Prizes are Christmas hampers. Draw on 11th Dec. *Good luck!*

**SVP** Thank you for generous response to support the single mother. Carpets and rugs are still required. Please call Janet Lewis on 01707 326456. Thank you.

**CAREERS FAIR** at Nicholas Breakspear School Tues 10th March 9am - 3.15pm. The aim is to expose students to multiple professions, to inform and inspire students, and demonstrate how they could contribute and help 'Build a Better World' through their future career. More info from Elizabeth Obada: [obadae@nbs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:obadae@nbs.herts.sch.uk)

### **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. In addition to Mass and devotions, works of charity or mercy are possible elements. *Bishop Paul McAleenan will close the Jubilee Year with 12 noon Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday 28th December.*

**YOUTH SUMMIT** A wonderful encounter with the Lord was had by the 150 or so young people from Hertfordshire. Our thanks to all who helped in any way.

**HOSPITALITY THANKS** There have been - and are - many events in our churches which require a huge amount of work, preparing, serving and clearing up. *THANK YOU!*

**CRIB BUILDING** Thank you to all who helped!

**HERTS WELCOMES REFUGEES** needs men's winter clothing, especially waterproofs, 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 speak at the end of each Mass next weekend (6th/7th) and then speak at length at 7.15pm at Our Lady's. On Mon 8th Dec there will be Mass at 6pm at Holy Family Church followed by another input from John. *All are welcome.*

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO GUADALUPE, MEXICO** 6th - 14th Oct 2026. BA from Heathrow. £1947 per person + £40 tips for guide. Brochures are in each church.

**MARGARET O'NEILL RIP** Margaret's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's Church on Monday 12th January at 12.30pm.

**CHURCH CLEANING** St. Bonaventure's will be cleaned on Tuesday 2nd December after 9.30 Mass. Our Lady's cleaning will be on Saturday 6th December. The help offered by volunteers makes such a difference. Thank you!

**CAFOD GROUP** will have a cake sale at Holy Family today (30th) after 10.30 Mass.

**CARITAS ADVENT GIVING CALENDARS** See posters in each church.

**BANK DETAILS** To pay parish by bank transfer, HSBC account WRC DT Welwyn Garden City, Sort code 400520 No. 51094459. *It is essential that there is paperwork or an email to stipulate how money is to be spent and who has made the payment. Thanks!*

**HCPT GROUP 183** is looking for a nurse to join the Easter Pilgrimage (6th - 11th April) which supports children and young people with additional needs. Contact Emma Moore, Group Leader, on group183@hcpt.org.uk or 07740858313

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE WIDOWED** men and women, you are invited to Afternoon Tea 'chat time' 2 Kingsley Court, WGC AL7 4HZ on Tuesday 9th Dec. 1.30 - 3pm. Contact Mary Gateshill on 07860577782 or marygateshill@hotmail.com

**SAINT ANDREW'S DAY** has been superseded by the First Sunday of Advent! Happy Feast Day and God's blessing on the many Andrews in our midst and to those who come from Scotland, Greece and Russia.

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

**FIRST COMMUNION** Workshop Sun 18th January Our Lady's Church 3.30 - 5pm.

**CONFIRMATION** Young people's next session 7.15pm on Sun 7th Dec Our Lady's.

**RCIA** (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) Mon 1st Dec 7.30pm in Our Lady's.

**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.

**MARRIAGE MATTERS** is a delightful resource to feed and promote the vocation of matrimony. <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/how-we-help/two-in-one-flesh>

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

### **29th Saturday**

10am	St. Bonaventure	Holy Souls
6pm	Our Lady	Fr. Michael Moriarty RIP

### **30th FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9am	St. Bonaventure	Eithne McShane RIP Anniv
10.30am	Holy Family	Sean Brophy RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	Maurice Scally RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Jirka Cherny Intention

### **1st December Monday**

9.30am	Our Lady	Special Intention (CW)
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### **2nd Tuesday**

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Joe Leech RIP Anniv
7pm	Our Lady	Hildegard Rump RIP (1st Anniv)

### **3rd Wednesday St. Francis Xavier**

9.30am	Holy Family	John O'Donnell RIP Anniv
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### **4th Thursday**

9.30am	Holy Family	T.P. Hyland RIP
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### **5th Friday**

6.30am	St. Bonaventure	Zenon Lawniczak RIP Anniv & Anna Lawniczak RIP
9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Alastair and Rosemary Livingstone RIP
7pm	Our Lady	Tracey Laycock RIP Anniv

### **6th Saturday**

10am	St. Bonaventure	John Ling RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Arthur Rangel RIP

### **7th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9am	St. Bonaventure	Michael D'Souza (Special Intention)
10.30am	Holy Family	Raphael Attard (Birthday Intention)
12 noon	Our Lady	Chris and Mary Doocey RIP
6pm	Holy Family	All Souls in Purgatory

## **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. The Jubilee Icon will be at St. Albans on 12th December. After 12 noon Mass there will be an explanation and a time of guided prayer until 1.30pm. All are welcome. *Fr. Norbert will celebrate Mass on 19th December.*

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

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