



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 14th December FOURTH SUNDAY 21st December

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 (Tues. Wed. Fri. 9am - 12 noon,
Thurs. 1 - 4pm)

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

‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’ is John the Baptist’s question to Jesus from his prison cell. Obviously he himself cannot ask but his disciples are the ones who communicate the message. The Lord’s response is: ‘Go and tell John what you *hear* and *see*.’ Jesus is the one who sets people free! There is a new beginning for the needy and an understanding shown them which puts them in touch with their worth in God’s eyes - Jesus embodies God’s compassion.

In preparing for this weekend, I am so aware of the Church’s cry of ‘**Rejoice! Gaudete!**’ because we are over half-way through Advent. The closeness of the Lord stirs up our spirits and the splendour of his presence gives us a radiance which can reflect upon others the grace we ourselves are receiving. Wow! Just think of Jesus’ ministry. He spoke many words and in St. Matthew’s Gospel there are big blocks of teaching, for example the Sermon on the Mount where he is a figure like Moses. However, and more importantly, he put into action the powerful message he proclaimed. Tender love was revealed as he brought healing into people’s lives: he touched the lepers, he embraced the sick, he sat at table with many - all of these found a welcome and a worth in Jesus’ eyes and so acceptable to God. This is the Gospel!

The Lord needs his disciples to be like John’s...by asking questions, by being attentive to the answers and by being living examples of the Lord’s wonderful, tender love. Can you do this as Advent reaches its completion? If he chose to return in glory *this week*, would you be ready?

The holidays will break in soon; may God enrich us. There will be visitors in our midst in church and at home; may they find a welcome. There will be so much to do; may God give us energy and an openness to his Son. With much love and prayer, **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. You are invited to share in the joy of God's forgiving love revealed in Jesus in this beautiful Sacrament. Talk about what weighs on your conscience. Experience reconciling grace through the Absolution. Make a fresh start as Christmas approaches. Parents, why not bring your children to this Service? 4 priests will join Fr. Norbert and Fr. James.

NEXT NEWSLETTER will be for Christmas and New Year. Please let Fr. Norbert have any information for the first half of January by Friday 19th December. *Thank you.*

CHRISTMAS ITEMS still available in repository of Holy Family and of Our Lady's.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS PRACTICE Sunday 21st 11am Our Lady's. All children are invited to take part. Parents should stay with their children for the rehearsal.

SCHOOL CAROL SERVICES Commonswood Primary School at 6pm at Our Lady's on 15th. Our Lady Primary School at Our Lady's Church at 3.30pm on 17th. Holy Family Primary School at Holy Family Church 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.

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!

SALE OF TOYS/ARTEFACTS One of our parishioners has made toys/artefacts to raise funds for the Saturday Club. They will be on sale this weekend (13th/14th) after each Mass. *Thank you in advance for your generosity.*

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING on Sunday 14th December after 9am Mass. There'll be presents for children, mulled wine, mince pies and carol-singing. All welcome.

SIGNED MASS today (Sunday 14th) 12 noon at Our Lady's. We welcome Sarah Metcalfe from the Diocesan Deaf Service who will lead us in sign!

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. *Christmas will soon be here! Your generosity towards the Food Bank really helps!*

CHILTERN WEST GALLERY QUIRE invites you to learn and sing some of the joyful old Christmas carols from Cornwall and Dorset. URC Church Road AL8 6PR 2 - 4pm Sunday 14th December. It's free, including the music, tea/coffee and mince pies.

LISTER HOSPITAL Non-urgent referrals to Chaplaincy Team 01438 285519, Urgent referrals 01438 314333 (and ask for duty chaplain), emailspiritualcare.enh-tr@nhs.net **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.

TRANSPORT TO MASS GROUP is there for parishioners who need a lift to Mass. Call Anne Maclean-Eltham on 07811926002 or macleaneltham@gmail.com

HCPT GROUP 183 is still 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

CHURCH CLEANING at St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 16th after 9.30 Mass and at Holy Family on Wednesday 17th after 9.30am Mass and tea/coffee. *Come if free!*

CAFOD Christmas Raffle will take place after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 21st December.

JUBILEE YEAR *Pilgrims of Hope*

Our Lady's WGC is still the Jubilee Church for Hertfordshire. 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 on Sunday 28th December.*

JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us
in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
In the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

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!**

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

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO GUADALUPE, MEXICO 6th - 14th Oct 2026. BA from Heathrow. £1947 per person + £40 tips for guide. Brochures are in each church. Link is www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/mx1128/ There already 10 signed up!

MARGARET O'NEILL RIP Margaret's Funeral Mass will be in Our Lady's Church on Monday 12th January at 12.30pm. Margaret's daughter Anne asks you to contact her via email if you intend to join the family after for the reception ap_oneill@hotmail.com

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

FIRST COMMUNION The next Workshop for parents and children will be on Sunday 18th January Our Lady's Church 3.30 - 5pm.

CONFIRMATION Young people's next session will be at 7.15pm on Sunday 18th January in the Trinity Hall.

RCIA (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults) Final session before Christmas Monday 15th December 7.30pm in Our Lady's Sacristy. Next session Mon. 12th Jan. at 7.30pm.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION Couples planning to get married in 2026/27 should let Fr. Norbert know. The Catholic Church in this country usually requires 6 months' notice so that the paperwork can be sorted out. There is also a civil dimension which must be followed. Many places need to a certificate of preparation. Hence our Marriage Preparation Day which will be in the Trinity Hall on **Saturday 7th February, 2026** starting at 10.30am and concluding with the 6pm Mass.

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!*

MASS INTENTIONS

13th Saturday *St. Lucy*

10am	St. Bonaventure	Tommy Haugh RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Miroslav Vajdik and all his family

14th *THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Tommy Harrell RIP Anniv
10.30am	Holy Family	Private Petition to St. Rita
12 noon	Our Lady	Tom and Nancy Hogan RIP
6pm	Holy Family	Enzo Antoniazzi RIP

15th Monday

9.30am	Our Lady	Olinda Dias RIP
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16th Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Zenon Lawniczak RIP Anniv & Anna Lawniczak RIP
7pm	Our Lady	Frank Cafferty RIP

17th Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	In thanksgiving to St. Jude
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18th Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	Harry Coyle RIP Anniv
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19th Friday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Elizabeth Jane Carroll RIP Anniv
7pm	Our Lady	Mary Kate O'Brien RIP Anniv

20th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Nora O'Loughlin RIP (10th Anniv)
6pm	Our Lady	Deborah Martin RIP and Derek Relph RIP

21st *FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Tereza D'Souza RIP
10.30am	Holy Family	Ann Kiernan RIP
12 noon	Our Lady	David Coates RIP & deceased members of family
6pm	Holy Family	Justin Gill and Aaron Dowell

22nd Monday

9.30am	Our Lady	Edmond and Ellen Devine RIP
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23rd Tuesday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Pauline O'Tooole (sick)
7pm	Our Lady	Paddy O'Reilly RIP Anniv

24th Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	Josie Ashwell RIP
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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. *Closed from 22nd December.*

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass in St. Albans Cathedral on Fridays at 12 noon in the Lady Chapel. *Fr. Norbert will celebrate Mass on 19th December.*

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Our Lady's 12 noon Mass 14.12/ 21.12 and 11.01.2026.