



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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2026

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 Tues/Wed/Fri 9am -12 noon,Thurs1 - 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

A new year begins! I hope each one of you has enjoyed refreshment this summer and an opportunity to have a slightly different routine. The sun has blazed for such a long time! In our Gospel reading today from St. Matthew, Jesus says: 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.' As a community we have many moments to let this be a reality, especially in the intimacy of the Eucharist as we are touched by the power of Christ's love revealed in his Cross and Resurrection. We have celebrations which bring us together and give us a chance to appreciate one another's backgrounds, traditions and history. May the year which unfolds brings us closer to each other and to the Lord. May all our endeavours help his Kingdom come. With love, **Fr. Norbert**

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH CENTENARY on **Sunday 13th September with Mass at 3pm** and a High Tea. Bishop Paul McAleenan will be Celebrant and all are welcome. The Reception will be in the Focolare Centre - so we won't have to worry about the weather! We will need sandwiches and sausage rolls in plenty. If you can help, please contact Helen Meyer on 07973 363214 or helenannstoy@hotmail.com. St. Bonaventure's was the very first church to be built in Welwyn Garden City, with the First Mass celebrated on 14th September 1926—the Exaltation of the Cross. We will welcome visitors and dignitaries. Most important is our present community giving thanks for 100 years, praying for those who have gone before us and looking forward to a continued growth in God's grace shining forth through those still to come. ***Come and celebrate!***

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

MARRIAGE Any couples planning to get married this year or next should let Fr. Norbert know so that all the necessary preparations can be made. The Marriage Preparation Day for 2027 will be on Saturday 6th February 10.30am until 5pm followed by 6pm Mass.

RCIA for adults who wish to join the Catholic Church starts on Monday 5th October at 7.30pm in the Sacristy of Our Lady's. This is also for Catholic adults who missed out on Confirmation when younger. Come and find out more!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION for children at least in Year 3 at Primary School will take place on Tuesday 22nd September at 6pm in Our Lady's Church. The meeting is for parents and children. The first workshop for parents and children will be in Our Lady's Church on Sunday 18th October 3.30 - 5pm. For children baptised outside of WGC, we will need to see their Baptismal Certificates.

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION will take place on Sunday 4th October at 7pm in Holy Family Church. The meeting will last for one hour and is for parents and young people who are at least in Year 9 at Secondary School. We will need to know the Baptismal date of the young people; for young people baptised outside of WGC, we will need to see the Baptismal Certificate. First session for young people 7pm on Sunday 18th October.

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 to donate money. Please use Food Bank Baskets.

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

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

SATURDAY CLUB Next gathering on Saturday 12th September 2 - 4pm in Trinity Hall. Adults, young people and children with learning disabilities together with their carers are invited to come and enjoy time together supported by a team of volunteers who have been trained. It is a great experience and a chance to make new friends.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS & BREAKFAST Next celebration at St. Bonaventure's on Friday 2nd October 6.30am. It's an early start but sets you up for the day!

CHURCH CLEANING Thank you to all who have helped with keeping our churches clean and tidy, as well as looking after the grounds.

ROSARY PROCESSION on Saturday 3rd October starting with 10am Mass at Our Lady's Church. There will be refreshments in the Trinity Hall afterwards.

POLISH-ENGLISH MASS on Saturday 3rd October 6pm at Our lady's followed by a party in the Trinity Hall. All welcome.

ITALIAN MASS Friday 16th October 7pm Our Lady's with gathering in Sacristy. If you would like to be involved, please let Fr. Norbert know.

LOOKING AHEAD: South Asian Mass Sat. 27th February 6pm. **African Mass** Sunday 27th June 12 noon. **Filipino Mass** Sat. 3rd July 6pm. **Polish Mass** Sat. 2nd Oct. '27 6pm. **Special Needs**

Masses: Saturdays 6pm 21st Nov, 16th Jan, 20th March, 19th June

Retreat Day in Aylesford (Kent) Fr. Norbert will lead the day in Lent on Sat. 13th March.

Blessing of Graves in November: Oakhill (Southway) Sunday 1st 2pm. Hatfield Hyde Sunday 8th 1.30pm and Welwyn New Cemetery Sunday 22nd 2pm.

MEXICO MEETING in Our Lady's Church after 7pm Mass on Friday 11th September. We should be finished by 8.30pm at the latest.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER Fr. Norbert will soon advertise in the newsletter the process for the Certificate of Catholic Practice. He reminds parents and children that this requires them attending Mass every Saturday/Sunday

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM on Saturday 19th September. Stevenage Parish has kindly agreed to book a coach which will cost approx. £25 per seat. To reserve a seat on the coach, please give your name (and the name of each person travelling with you), contact number and £25 to Fr. James who will lead the group; we also need an emergency number with the name of that person. The coach will leave from Our Lady's at 8am and return by 7.30pm. Booking in advance is essential. Please bring a packed lunch and drinks for the day. There are cafes but there will be many people in Walsingham that day! *There are places left on the coach, so sign up!*

MORE MONEY NEEDED! If anyone has money to spare, it would be gratefully received in paying off the remaining loan on the Trinity Hall (£99k) and the works which have been undertaken in our three churches.

BANK DETAILS To pay parish by bank transfer, HSBC account WRCDD Welwyn Garden City, Sort code 400520 No. 51094459. *It is essential that there's paperwork or an email to stipulate how money is to be spent and name of donor.*

CAFOD GROUP will be holding a cake sale at Holy Family after the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday 27th September. Donations of home baked cakes would be most welcome and can be delivered on the morning of the sale. We operate on a cash only basis so please remember to bring cash.

CAFOD QUIZ in the Trinity Hall on Saturday 17th October starting at 7.30pm. 10 tables of 8. Ticket prices £10 per person. Please telephone Caroline Sherar to reserve a table on 07929709901. Please bring your own food and drink. There will be a raffle.

SVP REPORT (The Society of St. Vincent de Paul) During the 12 months ending March 2026, 971 calls/visits were made to approx. 80 Clients. The purpose of this contact is to provide assistance in the form of transport, financial help, shopping, keeping medical appointments, hospital visits and general face-to-face meetings. Our financial commitment includes: giving supermarket vouchers at Christmas 2025 to 20 families and similarly 17 families at Easter 2026, amounting to £3000.00, supplying furniture and purchasing school uniforms and white goods for three Clients amounting to £350.00, continuing support of our twinnage scheme with India at £150.00 per annum, a one-off payment of £1000.00 to the South Sudan appeal, organising the annual Mass With The Anointing of the Sick followed by refreshments at the Focolare Centre. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our parishioners who give of their time with practical assistance when requested. We are indebted to the financial contributions made throughout the year and at the SVP annual church collection. £2200.00 was raised following the 2025 collection. The **2026 annual collection** will take place the weekend of **19th/20th September**. Should you like further details on the work of SVP, kindly contact us on 07715 5799319. Thank you and God bless you.

WELWYN HATFIELD INTERFAITH GROUP Learning about Humanism. Speaker: Panos Fellas. Thursday 10th September 7.30pm for 7.45pm start to 9.00pm Focolare Centre for Unity 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6JG.

MASS INTENTIONS

5th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Emma Jane Mehler RIP
6pm	Our Lady	Phyllis Roberts RIP

6th Sunday *TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Mary Kitchen RIP
10.30am	Holy Family	Neville Davis (Special Intention)
12 noon	Our Lady	Canon Nicholas Kelly RIP Anniv
6pm	Holy Family	Anne, Sylvie and Tom Nichols and family

7th Monday

9.30am	Our Lady	Alexandra D'Costa RIP
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8th Tuesday *OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY*

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
7pm	Our Lady	Dominic D'Souza RIP

9th Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Family	
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10th Thursday

9.30am	Holy Family	
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11th Friday

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	
7pm	Our Lady	Jon Rissik (sick)

12th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	
6pm	Our Lady	

13th *TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Roy D'Cunha RIP
10.30am	Holy Family	
12 noon	Our Lady	Andrew Scally RIP Birthday
3pm	St. Bonaventure	CENTENARY MASS with Bishop Paul McAleenan
6pm	Holy Family	Rebecca Brown RIP (2nd Anniv)

CONFESSIONS *Sacrament of Reconciliation* Holy Family Thursday 10.00 - 10.30 (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament also) St. Bonaventure Saturday 10.30 - 11am Our Lady Saturday 5 - 5.30pm

CHAPEL (near Trinity Hall entrance) Open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm

ST. ALBANS Catholic Mass St. Albans Cathedral on Fridays 12 noon Lady Chapel *Fr. Norbert will next celebrate this Mass on 25th September*

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at Our Lady's 12 noon Mass starts again today (6th)