



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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 27TH 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, 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

Bishop Paul McAleenan writes: The last Sunday of September is the **World Day of Migrants and Refugees**. Pope Leo says there are many different aspects to migration, many causes and consequently many effects. You may be familiar with some of the reasons that lead people to leave their own country for another – conflict, climate change, poverty and persecution. This year the Pope asks us to think about children who are migrants and refugees. Children rarely feature in our minds when we think of migrants and refugees. They seem to be invisible and voiceless. Yet we know they are among us. As is so often the case those children whose vulnerability is increased due to their lack of years and experience of life are forgotten or over-looked when we speak of migration. Yet they are among us, some with their parents and others who are termed unaccompanied minors. It is well documented that to flourish, children need stability, understanding, reassurance and love. When it is known that a child is denied those things, our society instinctively wishes to reach out to protect them. Clearly, when parents who are migrants or refugees are rejected or treated unjustly, their children who are with them suffer too. As for those who are known as unaccompanied minors, they now reside in a strange land and among strangers. Whenever we form our opinion towards migrants and refugees, remember that as Catholics we must take account of the full Gospel, including the time Jesus placed a child before him and said, to the disciples ‘Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me’. You may not personally know any of these migrant or refugee children who are among us. But do remember their presence and their deprivation when you speak with your friends or when the topic of migration arises in conversations. This year we must pay tribute to our schools who welcome all children. Some of our schools are certified, ‘Schools of Sanctuary’. This title is acquired because they purposely set out to help newly arrived migrant children feel acknowledged, supported and included. Remember these children and pray for them. Thank you.

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. Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 6th February.

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 took place last week. Any parents who missed this meeting are asked to see Fr. Norbert at Mass or make an appointment to see him *soon*. 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 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

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 in October: St. Bonaventure's on Tuesday 6th after 9.30am Mass, at Our Lady's on Saturday 10th at 10am plus maintenance of the grounds, Holy Family Wednesday 14th after 9.30am Mass. *Thank you.*

ROSARY PROCESSION on Saturday 3rd October starting with 10am Mass at Our Lady's Church. The procession will be along Woodhall Lane, Beechfield Road, Holwell Road and Mill Green Road. There will be refreshments in the Trinity Hall after-wards. Come and join everyone, bearing witness to Christ and his Mother Mary.

POLISH-ENGLISH MASS The Polish Community invites everyone to join the annual Polish-English Mass on Saturday 3rd October at 6pm at Our Lady's. After Mass, every-one is welcome in the Trinity Hall for food, drinks and party with music and dancing. Serdecznie zapraszamy na coroczną Polsko-Angielską Mszę w kościele Our Lady w sobotę 3 października o 18:00. Po mszy zapraszamy na wspólne świętowanie przy pol-skim poczęstunku, z muzyką oraz tańcem. Jeśli ktoś chciałby pomóc w przygotowaniach to prosimy o kontakt: Anna Skiba, tel 07944728696.

ITALIAN MASS Friday 16th October 7pm Our Lady's with gathering in the Sacristy afterwards. *Planning meeting at Our Lady's at 7.30pm on Friday 2nd October.*

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 28th September 4.00 - 6.30pm, Monday 5th October 4.00 - 6.30pm + Monday 19th October 4.00 - 6.30pm. There is a green parish form at the back of each church. This should be filled in and brought to the meeting. Please wait in church until called. Please ring Jacqui, our Parish Administrator, on 01707 323234 to book a time. 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.

MORE MONEY NEEDED! *It would be gratefully received in paying off the remaining loan on the Trinity Hall (£99k) and works which have been undertaken.*

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's paperwork or an email to stipulate how money is to be spent and name of donor.

CAFOD GROUP has a cake sale at Holy Family after the 10.30 am Mass today (Sunday 27th). Cash only.

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.

PARISH WEBSITE is being updated. Many groups in the parish need a fresh description of their work/ministry and an updated contact name and number or email. *So far no groups have responded!!* Please send information to Fr. Norbert as soon as possible.

DANIEL KELLY RIP Funeral Mass at Our Lady's on Thursday 1st October 9.30am.

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS Loreto College Tuesday 29th Sept. 4 - 6pm, Nicholas Breakspear School Thursday 1st October 5 - 8pm

BLESSING OF GRAVES Oakhill (Southway) Sunday 1st November. Welwyn Hatfield Council will open the Chapel at 1.30pm and serve tea/coffee + biscuits. The Service will begin in the Chapel at 2pm. Priests will bless individual graves as requested. Hatfield Hyde Sunday 8th 1.30pm and Welwyn New Cemetery Sunday 22nd 2pm.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO leaves on Tuesday 6th October and returns on Wednesday 14th. Please pray for Fr. Norbert and the 42 pilgrims who are going to Guadalupe; they will pray for you all at Our Lady's Shrine. If you would like petitions to be taken, put them in envelopes and return to Fr. Norbert by 4th October.

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE For more information email uk.outreach@jrs.net

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY is on Friday 2nd October. This Harvest season, we have the opportunity to thank God for all we have received and share those blessings with others. Please take a CAFOD envelope today and return it next weekend. If you are able to Gift Aid your contribution, fill out the declaration on the envelope. Thank you!

FAITH AND REASON - the great debate Fr. James will lead this evening for the Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Group on Thursday 29th October 7.15pm for 7.30pm start to 9.00pm at Focolare Centre for Unity -69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6JG

MASS INTENTIONS

26th Saturday

10am	St. Bonaventure	Marion and James Brogan's Intentions
6pm	Our Lady	Chizite and Anyina Osefo's Intention

27th *TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Robert + Val Callingham and families' Intention
10.30am	Holy Family	Crux Family (In thanksgiving)
12 noon	Our Lady	Brunno Gabriel Rodrigues de Souza (Intention)
6pm	Holy Family	Carmen Araujo RIP + Moacyr Americot RIP

28th Monday

9.30am	Our Lady	Holy Souls in honour of St. Michael Archangel
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29th Tuesday *ST. MICHAEL, ST. GABRIEL AND ST. RAPHAEL*

9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Mary McManus RIP
7pm	Our Lady	For the People

30th Wednesday *St. Jerome*

9.30am	Holy Family	The Cade Family Intention
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1st October Thursday *St. Therese of the Child Jesus*

9.30am	Holy Family	For the People
9.30am	Our Lady	Funeral Mass for Daniel Kelly

2nd Friday *The Holy Guardian Angels*

6.30am	St. Bonaventure	Angelo + Elizabeth Lauria RIP and families
9.30am	St. Bonaventure	Fr. Dimitri Bregant (90th Birthday)
7pm	Our Lady	Tony Wilson RIP

3rd Saturday

10am	Our Lady	Mass and Rosary Procession
6pm	Our Lady	Chizite and Anyina Osefo's Intention

4th *TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*

9am	St. Bonaventure	Donald + Evelyn Shewring RIP and families
10.30am	Holy Family	Anita and Michael Cade and family (Intention)
12 noon	Our Lady	Brunno Gabriel Rodrigues de Souza (Intention)
6pm	Holy Family	Sophie Constable (36th Birthday)

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 at St. Albans Cathedral on Fridays at 12 noon in the Lady Chapel *Fr. Norbert will next celebrate this Mass on 6th November*

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

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